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COLOR

The early 19th-century Arts and Crafts dining table evokes the original period of Lori and David Wellinghoff's home. "Red Scarf," a 1930s painting by Kenneth Ozier, hangs in the window.



MAKING COLOR COME ALIVE

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An Ohio couple's love of bold color and sense of daring enliven their 1915 Craftsman bungalow, now a showplace that's filled with fun and good cheer.

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W

hen Lori and David Wellinghoff purchased their small Craftsman bungalow, there was no doubt in Lori's mind what color she would choose for the kitchen cabinets: bright chartreuse. "It was never a question," says Lori, an interior designer and owner of DIGS, a Cincinnati-based design, real estate, and construction firm.

Such daring decisions come easily for a woman who has a long-established love affair with color—the stronger, the better. From her vivid green cabinets to her extensive collections of pottery and playful art, Lori has no fear when it comes to splashing color around her home. As she planned the palette, though, she also wanted to be sure the bold hues wouldn't overshadow her favorite pieces of art. Her solution: Balance the bright hues with well-chosen neutrals on furnishings and surfaces.

For example, in the living room, a basic >> on 52



The chalkboard mural in Lori and David Wellinghoff's kitchen replicates a painting by artist Daniel Kohn. Lori, who owns one of Kohn's works, had an artist create the mural after she saw a card with an image of this piece.



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ivory sofa and simple tray table create a subtle backdrop for rich scarlet-and-cream chairs. A neutral area rug, chocolate-brown walls, and white shutters ground the room.

The brown walls also set the stage for Lori's pottery collection—a medley of vases and bowls in shades of her favorite color, green. Ranging from lime to chartreuse, citron to mint, the pottery pieces create a focal point on the mantel above the hearth.

Lori infused touches of green into nearly every nook and cranny, underscoring her passion for the soothing

hue. “Everything is rooted in green,” she says of her color scheme. “It’s the most tranquil color I know.”

“Tranquil” might not be the first word that springs to mind upon glimpsing those chartreuse cabinets in the galley kitchen, but there’s no denying the drama they bring to this small space. The apothecary-style units reach all the way to the ceiling. Finding a wood that >> on 54

Framed pages from one of Lori's favorite children's books hang above the sofa in the den (above), a perfect spot for pup Stoli to curl up for naps.



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would hold the stain wasn't easy, but they finally settled on maple. After the cabinetmakers mixed the stain, they mailed Lori a piece of the wood and had her sign it to verify she'd accept it. "They didn't believe I'd take delivery on cabinets stained that color," she says. Slate flooring and stainless-steel countertops and appliances boost the modern flair.

Another free-spirited touch: a chalkboard mural above the sink, made of two pieces of drywall covered with chalkboard paint. The mural's red frame offers a rich contrast to the chartreuse cabinets, energizing the small space. The mural acts as a rotating piece of art; Lori commissions a local artist to change it every year or so. "I fall in love with what's up here every time," she says. "I make the artist erase it; I can't watch."

In the small hexagonal dining room—where despite multiple windows, light is scarce—Lori brightened the walls with a warm terra-cotta color and created the illusion of height by keeping the coffered ceiling pure white. Amber glass pendant lights and floor-to-ceiling squash-color draperies also help draw the eye upward.

From the day they bought the bungalow, Lori and David had >> on 56

The earthy landscape over the living room mantel, by Edward Gay, was painted in 1915, the same year the house was built. Its green tones create a nice anchor for Lori's collection of green pottery.

Everything [in the color scheme] is rooted in green. It's the most tranquil color I know. LORI WELLINGHOFF



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planned to change the exterior from dull brown to vibrant green. But choosing the final shade—a soft juniper hue—wasn't as easy as they had anticipated. "We painted a half-dozen shades of green on sections of the house to see what grew on us," Lori says. "One day, someone asked me if we were painting the home camouflage."

Instead of being offended, the Wellinghoffs were amused. "We just don't take anything too seriously," says Lori—a guiding design philosophy that yields a rich and colorful home. 🏡

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A pair of 200-year-old Chinese door panels, found at a local boutique, enliven the dining area on the back patio (top). The juniper color on the home's exterior (left) blends with the surrounding trees and shrubbery.