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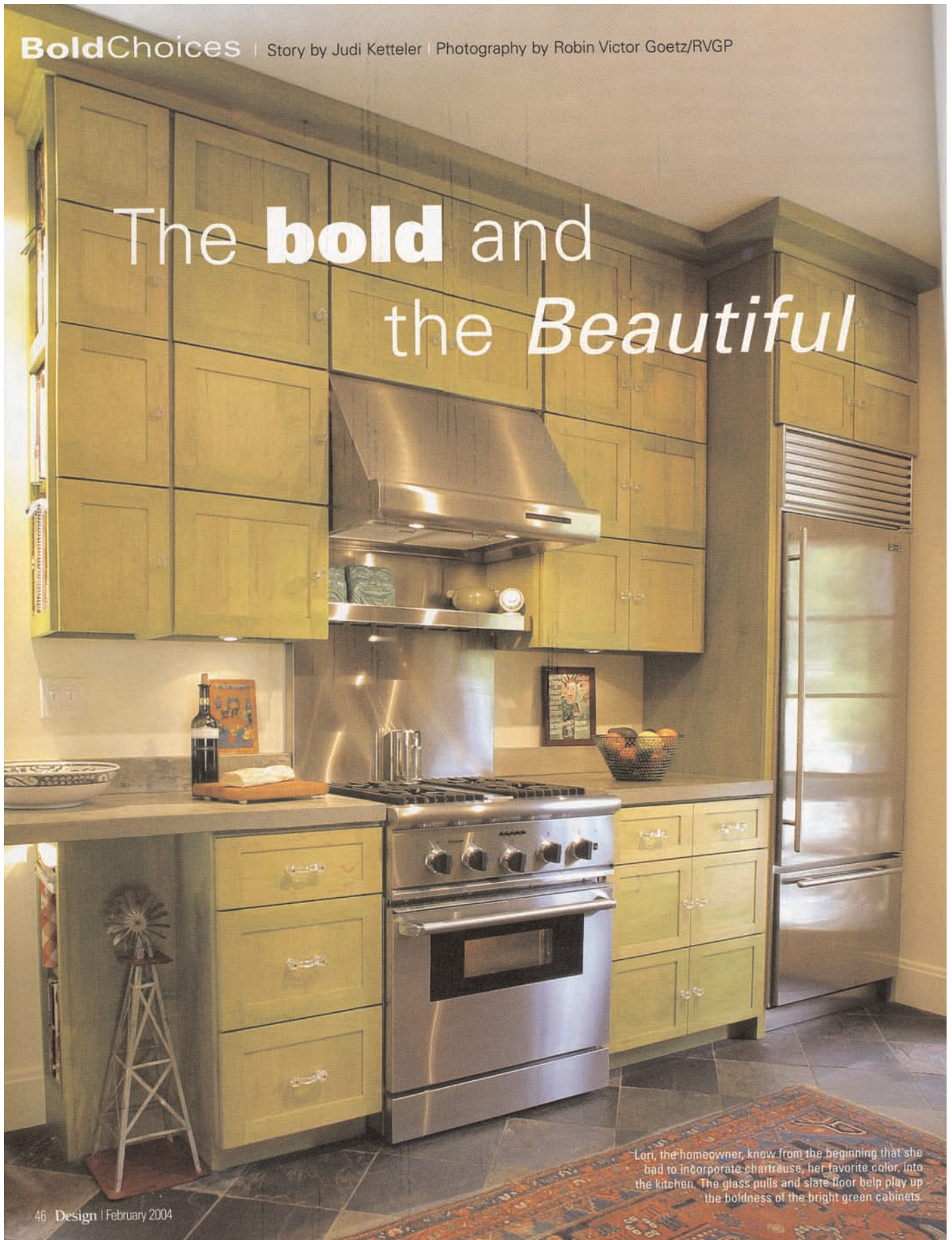
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The **bold** and the *Beautiful*



Lori, the homeowner, knew from the beginning that she had to incorporate chartreuse, her favorite color, into the kitchen. The glass pulls and slate floor help play up the boldness of the bright green cabinets.

Some people are just audacious. A rich orange sofa. Purple accents with red faux-painted walls. Bold moves for bold people. Being daring when it comes to color can be a lot of fun—it's just a matter of unleashing your inner boldness.

Using bold colors in the home comes easy to some people—their vision guides them, so that when they see that beautiful red velvet sofa or glowing gold paint, they know immediately that it will look perfect in their home. For some of us, however, using color takes a little more prodding.

"Color is personality-driven," says designer Kathryn Meckler. It's all about allowing your personality to come through, while maintaining a sense of balance. That might mean a lot of the same hues or tones of different colors, or just a very few accent colors, tactfully placed. Whatever your style, there are plenty of ways to incorporate bright, bold colors in your favorite spaces.

Lori and David commission artist Christy Minor to change the chalk mural in the kitchen every year and a half or so. The current mural is based on Irma Stern's painting, *Still Life Bowl of Peaches*.



Love Affair With Chartreuse

For many homeowners, color can be a guiding force. That's certainly true for Hyde Park homeowners Lori and David.

Lori absolutely adores shades of chartreuse—in her wardrobe and in her home. It started with a pottery collection: chartreuses, of course, but also limes, mints and soft yellow-greens in all shapes and sizes. Her love affair with green found its way into just about every room in the home. And eventually, she had to bring it into the kitchen too.

"I had a vision," Lori says. Her and David's 1915 Sears Craftsman Bungalow home (for which they were only the third owner) was in need of a remodel, and an odd-sized broken refrigerator became the impetus for reconfiguring the entire kitchen space. They knew they wanted a mix of concrete countertops (and this was in 1999, before they were all the rage) and stainless countertops, as well as a slate floor. But Lori also knew that the kitchen needed a real touch of daring, and it came in the form of apothecary-style chartreuse cabinets that reach all the way up to the ceiling with glass hardware.

Finding a wood that would hold the stain wasn't easy, but they finally settled on maple. After the cabinet makers mixed the stain to Lori's preference, they actually sent her a piece of the wood and made her sign it because they didn't believe that she would really go through with that color.

But go through with it she did, and the result is beautiful. "People are really afraid to go beyond neutral colors," says David. Lori shakes her head in agreement. "And they worry about resale. But life is just too short."

Soaking up every minute of life is what Lori and David are all about. And other touches in their kitchen reflect it too, like the rotating chalk mural that Lori commissions artist Cristy Minor to do every year and a half or so. The couple is on their fifth chalk mural. "I fall in love with what's up here every time and have such a hard time changing it," Lori says. "I make the artist ►

Bold Choices

Pam Payne consulted design Cathy Meier from Miller Brothers to help her devise a color scheme for their Hyde Park home. Here, they chose Galapagos Green for the living room because it adds both warmth and brightness to the room.



erase it; I can't watch." The inspiration for Lori and David's current mural is Irma Stern's (1894-1966) *Still Life Bowl of Peaches*. Lori found it in an art catalog, and Cristy recreated it on the chalkboard (the giant chalkboard is actually made of two pieces of drywall covered in seven layers of chalkboard refinishing paint).

The result is a kitchen, and a home, with personality and style.

Way Beyond Neutrals

When Pam and John Payne downsized from their large Wyoming home into a more quaint Hyde Park home, they found chocolate brown walls upstairs and a combination of navy and pale yellow downstairs. It was an unlivable situation, but they knew exactly what to do.

"I'm a big fan of color," Pam says. And she is lucky enough to have trusted painter Carl Byers, who has been painting for her for nine years. Pam had also worked closely with designer Cathy Meier at Miller Brothers for her last home, so Cathy already had an intimate knowledge of Pam's tastes. The trio quickly got to work devising a new color scheme for the home, to include rich faux-finishes and bold accents.

"I just tell Cathy what I like, and she goes from there," Pam says. The two met about the color scheme, and Cathy began pulling Benjamin Moore paint swatches. To use bold colors and have the room still be bright, you have to have the correct lighting. But if you are trying to create a more cozy space in a room, lighting isn't as crucial. "I try to always look at what is going on in a room, and how the room will be used," Cathy says.

It helps, of course, to have a client who embraces bold colors. Throughout the home, Cathy chose a medley of reds, golds, greens and even purple. The Pottery Red walls in the den do indeed create a cozy feel, whereas the Fresh Day color on the walls of the dining room helps to create an open, cheery feel. For a touch of whimsy, Cathy and Pam chose Autumn Purple for the powder room. And the Peale Green in the master bath is topped off with a faux finish that shows flecks of gold for a touch of the regal. "Cathy knew she could take me way beyond the pastels and neutrals," Pam says.

The Pottery Red walls in the den help reinforce the coziness of the space and accent the furniture nicely as well.



The key, of course, is having a professional apply the color. Since Carl has been working for Pam for a long time, he knows her tastes, and knows what kind of finishes she likes. "I see the colors and what rooms they go in, and then determine the technique I'll use," Carl says. The master bath, for example, could use a little punch, so the gold-flecked faux finish is appropriate. In a small room like the powder room, it's easier to be creative with the finish as well. Larger rooms that are very functional are different though—the color should soothe the eye, Carl says. It's also important to be very accurate and straight in your strokes when you're using a bold color, because the strokes do show.

To really do a quality job, it takes time, Carl says. In fact, he spent six days a week at Pam's home for two months straight, painting the rooms. But looking around the Payne's home, it's obvious that it was time well-spent. **Design**

Sources: Lori and David's Home

Bona Decorative Hardware (glass knobs), (513) 321-7877. / Cristy Minor (chalkboard mural), (513) 631-1024. / Feldkamp Manufacturing (stainless countertops), (513) 347-4500. / J. A Smith (construction), (859) 581-0652. / John Tisdale Fine Appliances, 339-0990. / Kemper Design (slate floor), (513) 772-8900.

Pam and Cathy chose Peale Green for the master bath. To make it snazzier, Carl Byers, Pam's longtime painter, added some flecks of gold.



Finding the Balance

Designer Kathryn Meckler works with many clients who enjoy using bright, bold colors. The key, she said, is finding the right balance.

- If you love intense color and want a lot of it, you might saturate all the walls to be monochromatic, so that you have several intense colors of the same hue creating their own sense of balance.
- If you don't want to embrace color boldly in every room, try intermixing strong colors with neutrals.
- When using color, make sure that no one color becomes so important that everything else in the room is out of sync.
- When in doubt, complimentary colors always look nice together (grab a color wheel if you need to).
- Go with your initial reaction. "Your gut reaction is something you should always favor," Kathryn says. "It usually leads you in the right direction."
- If you make a mistake with a paint color, don't freak out. You can always fix it and paint over it. It's not permanent.

Kathryn Meckler Designs, (513) 469-7647

Sources: Pam and John's Home

Byers Wallpapering, Carl Byers, (513) 357-8846. / Miller Brothers, Cathy Meier, (513) 522-8484.