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THE ULTIMATE THUMBS-UP

BY BETH CONANT

WHEN YOU WORK WITH A CLIENT WHO TOTALLY GETS YOU AND WITH WHOM YOU HAVE THE SAME DESIGN AESTHETIC, PROJECTS LIKE THIS ONE ARE THRILLING.

This client had several requests, and at the top of the list: unique pieces. She wanted a vibe that was cozy, collected, saturated, textured, moody, and interesting. I love everything about those adjectives.

This space, basically a walk-through to the stairwell upstairs, was a wide open, vacant area, but it had lots of potential, and we both knew it.

I started with a Kelly Wearstler fabric for the curtains. With a palette of navy, merlot, sand, and a touch of baby blue, the curtains drove our design. Envisioning an art-filled space with pieces coming in all forms, we pulled in traditional art, furniture art, and textile art; the large-scale, hand-painted look on the fabric was exactly what I wanted.

From that point, it was game on. We went in search of the perfect leather sofa, a velvet occasional chair, a game table, and a rug to complement an existing wood sideboard and a leopard-print runner on the staircase. It was





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important to find and combine just the right pieces, and to choose the perfect paint color, and we accomplished both.

After all the main pieces were acquired, we filtered in two amazing art pieces by artist J Louis, purchased from Shain Gallery, and added a rug from Charlotte Rug Gallery.

The space is intended to be that perfect little spot for listening to music (on a turntable, of course), having a grown-up cocktail, or playing a game. It's a place to relax, talk, and be together.

When the design was completed and installed, I received a text simply saying, "He loves it." All was right with the world. ♦