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House Beautiful

FALL
COLOR
ISSUE

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COLOR
PERSONALITY!

WHAT COLORS
DOES YOUR
HOUSE NEED?
SPECIAL
PULL-OUT CHART

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Interior design by
WINDSOR SMITH

Interview by
CHRISTINE PITTEL

Photographs by
VICTORIA PEARSON

COLOR Personality™ No. 1

BALANCED

In her own L.A.
home, Windsor Smith
masters the yin
and yang of design

For her new, not-quite family room, designer Windsor Smith chose a double-sided sofa to create a "meeting area" where she never has to look at the back of a sofa. Upholstered furniture from the Windsor Smith Home collection, covered in Mod Lovers in Sinusform, designed by Smith Ron Kravet. She added a large round wooden table, covered in Very Merry in Blauze by Perennials, to a rattan ottoman from California Home. Bronze and silver stools from Holly Hunt can move wherever they're needed. Lighting from Shick Carpet. Walls and ceiling painted Decorators White by Benjamin Moore.

CHRISTINE FITZEL: If color reflects personality, I'd say you're bold and girly and casual and elegant. How would you describe yourself?

WINDSOR SMITH: Oh gosh. That's hard. Practical, whimsical, determined, funny. I live feminine things, but at the same time I live with three men—my husband and our two teenage boys—and we all have to feel great here.

Is that why the colors on your walls run the gamut from pink to black?

It really is the perfect juxtaposition of feminine and masculine energy, but it's all so subconscious. I'm always trying to balance everything. I used to be a ballet dancer, and you stand at the barre and do everything on one side of the body, and then you turn around and do it on the other. And you're constantly looking in the mirror to make sure that the line isn't broken and nothing is askew. I think I have that same innate sense of balance when it comes to color. I tend to jump way off in one direction, but then I know I have to pull it all the way back in the other.

And you jump from one mood to another, in your Los Angeles home, you walk into an elegant Edwardian foyer with topiaries and a marble floor and then the next room is this modern man-cave, with pink-black walls and a Ping-Pong table in the center.

That was originally the living room, but we don't need a formal living room. That's not how we live, so I said, Okay, let's rethink this. I've got two great boys and I'm going to create this very cool space where they can play music and games and hang out with their friends. And it doesn't have to look like a frat house.

Why did you paint it black?

There's a wonderful expression, "Black is the queen of all colors." It's dramatic and intense. When you walk into that room in the daytime, your eyes go straight outside. Black stretches the perimeter. With black walls and a black carpet, everything floats and the room seems boundless. But then the fluorescent on the fireplace felt too heavy, so I decided to do some white paint on there to crisp it up. And then I painted all the stone-

work on the exterior white as well. My husband was not happy about that.

Are you still married?

Oh, yes! I'm very persuasive. This is a spec house, built in 1985, and it needed a lot of help. I added virtually every single piece of molding, lifted the ceilings and the door-

age of myriad fabric and used it on the sofa and the chairs. It's a nice heavy linen in a soothing Ming green, a color that everyone seems to like. The skirts on the chairs have a box pleat and the sofa is finished with a button pleat, which looks like little pats of butter. I love snacking in those girly details.

Yet so flowery curtains here, or anywhere else, I notice.

When you do a certain, it becomes more about the inside of the room, and I want your eye to go outside.

The pink room feels very Bahemian, like a drawing room in Blenheim.

It does feel a little English, with all these eccentric bits and pieces of furniture that look as if they've been handed down. I love that saffron silk velvet on the Italian-style chair with the arched back, and wanted to do something on the walls that would really set it off. That's how I came up with the pink. It's fresh and exciting. The sofa is covered with a blue embroidered bodyspread that my friend Kathryn Ireland brought back from Morocco and I snatched up. I'm drawn to ethnic things with a sense of history. I collect and collect, then lay it all out and see how these eclectic bits come together.

Your kitchen, with dark walls and white wing chairs, is one of the most romantic I've ever seen. What is that paint color?

Benjamin Moore's Pale Blue. I started out with navy but that felt too nautical, and kept going darker until I got to this color.

You can't quite define. The table is French, 18th-century, and the chairs are Italian. Very decadent, with leather so cracked and ratty that I had to make little slips for the seats or you'd have tiny bits of leather stuck to your legs when you got up. I didn't want a formal dining room that we'd use once a year, so I decided to put the dining room in the kitchen. It can get very interactive, with the food moving right off the stove onto the table. And the conversation is so relaxed and intimate—very different from the conversation you'd have in a formal dining room.

PRODUCED BY ROBERT KURTZ

2007: A vintage Indian fabric was cut up and used to upholster the Moroccan lounge chair. **OPPOSITE:** "It's a traditionalist at heart, and this is my David Adler piece," says Windsor Smith, who chose stationary marble and Baring Blue limestone for the floor. The Entry Round Terrace, from Windsor Smith home, is upholstered in a Rogers & Goffigan silk. An old Venetian lantern and a new Venetian mirror add a glint of silver. The paint on the walls is Benjamin Moore's Tropicana.





"I try to mix it up," says Smith. "I want a sense of history, but balanced with approachability." An old Indian teak table was freshened up with white. The Regency-style Sanssouci Scroll Arm Chair, upholstered in Pissanello silk velvet from Scalamandré, and the Medici Arm Chair, upholstered in Vendôme Striat Silk velvet in Bronzeine from Brunschwig & Fils, are from Smith's Furniture line. The walls are painted Benjamin Moore's Pink Begonia, with Decorators White on the trim.



FAST FACTS
 • PINK
 • HIGH ENERGY
 • INVITED

WHAT THE COLORS SAY

Maybe a bit temperamental, this is someone who needs an environment and surroundings. Really tired by the mundane, they live life with a willingness to push themselves "out there."
 —Katie Smith

"For a dinner party, the chandeliers are lit very low, and all the silver sparkles. You feel as if you're eating in a fine restaurant, yet you're at home. People feel so relaxed. We linger for hours."

WYNNE SMITH

Midnight blue paint creates drama and mystery, yet doesn't feel heavy because it's set off with a white tile ceiling and a Thosco marble tile floor from Trillium. Airy open shelves hold a collection of metal plates. "As if an industrial kitchen or an elegant library," I really wanted that back-and-forth," says Smith. The inviting wingback chairs are from her own line. George Smith's standard armchair is covered in Cap D'Azur silk. A table she designed for Knoll. Chandeliers by Baker Signature Lighting. Pro Grand ranges by Thermador. Putnam rolling ladder. Dinnerware from San La Table.



"BLACK is the most amazing color. At different times of day, it takes on different moods, from sporty to refined." —WOODS SMITH



"In the game room, Ralph Lauren's Bone Black—"a true black," Smith says—is used in a flat finish on the walls and in high gloss on the trim. "If you take black too seriously, you can get into trouble. I knew that polar bear photograph would jump off the wall." Photo from Viola gallery. The Ping-Pong table was originally brought to go outside, but one rainy day she rolled it in here and it never left. "I love that blue. It's the exclamation point that pulls your eye to the center of the room." Warbler Tapestry II, Table Tennis table: Polin Beach rug by Patterson, Flynn & Martin, Spanish bench from Loois Antiques

FAVORITE HAPPY COLORS

- DELICATE
SHADE
ONE-PIECED
- CREAM
- LIME, RED
PINK

WHAT THE COLORS SAY

This is a person who is cool under pressure and loves a challenge. A sharp dresser, whose guests will probably be a bit nervous at times. —Alice Smith

A 1950s fashion photograph inspired a passion for orange. Hermes boxes and a vintage Gucci bag rest on a Louis XVI gilt console in the master bath. OPPOSITE: "I found this amazing embroidered satin from Bergamini Fabrics and used it on the bed, to create a little jewel box," Smith says. "And then I added that whimsical Italian mirror. It's like a star hanging over us." Sun Chaise, covered in Kismet's Obsession, and Zebra Bed from Windsor Smith Home.



**FIRST
IMPRESSIONS**
• NEED TO BE
PROTECTED OR
CARED FOR
• COMFORTABLE
• ATTRACTIVE
• LUSTY

WHAT THE COLORS SAY

Charming, tender and refined, this person can listen intently without feeling the need to give advice or get involved. Interspersed by nature, they enjoy moments of quiet and rich, overpowering the body and spirit. -Katie Smith

Pottery Barn sconces and an antique French repoussé mirror add a little romance to the master bath. The sink is skirted in smoky gray-and-white silk from the S&S Trading Company. (OPPOSITE) "I had a little fun with that midcentury modern chair in my dressing room," Smith says. "I loved the frame and had it replated in matte gold, and repoussé the seat in silvery leather."



"I could have done a table in the center, but I wanted the foyer to be more than just a pass-through. People can sit on that round settee and actually have a conversation. It makes me feel like I'm on vacation at a Riviera hotel."

WINDSOR SMITH

The Betsy Blue limestone on the floor in the foyer has a bluish tint, and Smith picked up the color on the tall front doors, which are lacquered in Interlux yacht paint in Flag Blue. "I was obsessed with those doors. I had them made for the house, and added little bronze escutcheons in the corners of each panel." Directoire chair from Windsor Smith Home covered in black leather.

FOR MORE DETAILS, SEE RESOURCES

