

COLOR!

A 1950s ranch gets a modern owner's vibrant word: color. personality

When she bought a 1950s ranch in June 2009, Jenn Lamarre knew that it needed some updates to make it livable for herself makeover thanks and her two young daughters, ages ten to a few gallons of and twelve. She was thinking of a more open kitchen and maybe some upgraded paint and a palette appliances. But her decorator and good friend Barrie Benson saw a more dire issue, and pronounced the solution in a single and pronounced the solution in a single

> "I called the place a 'granny ranch,' " says Benson. "It felt too old for her and her two girls."

"I'm not a neutral person," agrees Lamarre. "I find it liberating to be surrounded by color. And the house didn't lend itself to muted tones."

Both women got what they wanted. Architect Matt Benson (Barrie's husband) of Meyer Greeson Paullin Benson and Salins Group Construction knocked down a wall that sectioned off the breakfast room, making a more open central gathering space out of the kitchen. But the most significant changes started with a few dozen cans of paint.

"She might love color even more than I do," says Benson. "I don't think we missed a shade in the spectrum." Most rooms have a hint of Lamarre's favorite peacockblue-and-bright-green combo, with pops of orange for vivid contrast. The kitchen features accents of lemon yellow, inspired by a set of china in the same shade that Lamarre inherited from her mother.

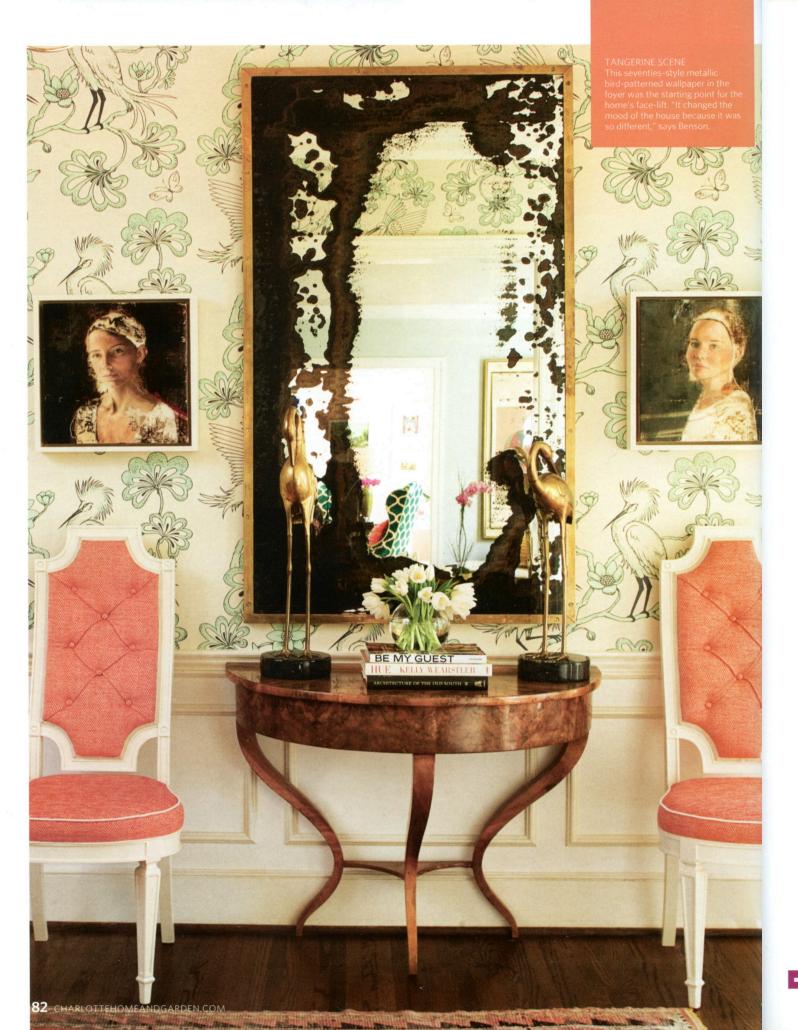
The result is an energetic, modern space where bright shades peacefully coexist. And more importantly for Lamarre, "a fun, happy house for me and my girls."

ON THE BRIGHT SIDE

Lamarre calls her sun porch "the Florida room," and in both function and form it's a nod to her native Naples, Florida. Because the walls are painted white up to the chair rail molding, Benson says, they felt the walls above could handle the deep, dark blue they chose to offset bright chartreuse upholstery. New York artist Natasha Law painted the oil painting above the fireplace.









SOUTHERN EXPOSURE
A white cowhide rug and acrylic table are modern touches that work with the vibrant hues of the Florida room. Color is not as scary as you think, says Lamarre.
"The worst thing that happens is, if you don't love it, you change it," she says.

ONLINE: Find out what paint colors Benson chose for this home.