



# *Full* Spectrum

In a Lincoln Park townhouse, an eclectic  
palette is chic but fun for a young family.

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hen it comes to bold hues, some may shy away, but this Lincoln Park couple embraces them full force. “We live in color, that’s our mantra,” the wife

says of the rich jewel tones that dramatize the interiors of their welcoming three-story town home designed by Dan Rak and Emily Samano.

While the couple’s passion for color is long held, they opted for a neutral palette in their previous residence after starting a family. “Dark colors can show a lot of markings,” the wife explains. But when this stately house—just up the block from where they lived—became available, the kids were past toddlerhood, meaning the couple could lean back into dark and moody shades. For Rak and Samano, this was an opportunity for traditional-meets-eclectic interiors, where coral and rust pop against slate blue and cobalt, marigold mixes with soft black, and occasional plaids and patterns stimulate without compromising the beauty of the architecture.

Though built in 2011, the abode nods to the historic homes found throughout the neighborhood, a style Rak describes as “thoughtful, traditional and pretty clean.” Classic elements like the extensive millwork provided a frame for the designers’ vision, which involved using color not just as an accent but rather in broader applications. The wife shared inspiration photos from restaurants and a Paris hotel, noting she “liked the aesthetic but more so just admired how they used color.” Rak intuited the direction, noting, “She didn’t come to us with specific asks, but more like a feeling.” Adds Samano, “She shared inspiration that encapsulated a lot of these jewel tones, but maybe not in as bold a way as we used them, like for entire rooms. That’s where the trust came—and they really did lean in.”

The homeowners’ top-floor bedroom served as the launching point. The designers painted the walls a soft black with violet undertones, a shade

that lends dimension as it reads aubergine in the afternoon light that filters in from the west-facing balcony. Marigold and burgundy velvet bedding lends high-contrast depth, while a bouclé armchair balances the space with softness.

That bold scheme continues throughout. On the main floor, coral and rust rugs in the living room and adjacent dining area, respectively, “pull color out and forward,” Rak says. Deep slate-blue walls in these spaces echo the bedroom’s dynamic intensity, while a classic yet playful motif on the living room’s rug introduces some whimsy. “We tried to find a balance with color and unexpected moments while retaining a level of sophistication,” he continues.

Pattern also appears in the plaid stair runner, an “urban take on a classic country look,” Rak notes. It also nods to menswear, which strikes a chord for the wife. “I’m not a girly girl,” she says. “I lean toward a more masculine setting.” At the rear of the main floor, lighter shades of gray thread through the family room, where an oversize plaid ottoman echoes the runner. Overhead, the coffered ceiling is accented with a subtle wood-veneer wallcovering, bringing in more warmth.

The space adjoins the kitchen, a room that spoke to the couple immediately. “The refrigerators have these beautiful wood paneled doors and brass handles,” the wife describes. “The first thing I said to Dan was, ‘I want a lot more of this.’” To that end, the team reconfigured the kitchen to accommodate both a larger butcher-block island and the pièce de résistance: a cobalt range. It serves as much more than just a pop of color. The wife loves to cook, and the family loves to eat—proof that the home is as much a reflection of their lifestyle as it is their design inclinations.

Settled in with her family now, the wife reflects on their return to color, their home rich in hues but also imbued with their life experiences, referencing their travels and even the early years of marriage. “In our first home, we tried to instill a lot of color,” she says, “so this is a kind of a coming back for us.” Adds Rak, “I don’t think their style changed that much—we just helped them find a higher expression.” ■



The homeowners fell in love with the exterior of this 2011 Lincoln Park townhouse because it blends in with the surrounding historic architecture. “They really made a stately home that fits in with the neighborhood,” the wife says.





**Above:** In the family room, designers Dan Rak and Emily Samano created an indulgent space for lounging with a sectional made by Urban Craft Custom Upholstery and a Verellen ottoman in a Pindler tartan. Covering the ceiling is a geometric wood-veneer wallpaper by Innovations.

**Opposite:** A rust-colored Feizy rug enriches the dining room, where a Chapman & Myers for Visual Comfort & Co. pendant from CAI Designs hangs above a table by Artistica Home. A timeless Pindler plaid upholds the Fabricut chairs, and Benjamin Moore's Westcott Navy coats the walls.







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—DAN RAK

Fyrn counter stools and a La Cornue range thread the blue color palette into the kitchen. Pendant lights by Ralph Lauren for Visual Comfort & Co. illuminate the island and hood, both by NJR Woodworking.





**Above:** In the primary bedroom, Benjamin Moore's Tulsa Twilight is highlighted by golden accents, such as the brass base of the Uttermost table and the sculpture above the fireplace. James Dunlop Textiles bouclé on the Ambella Home Collection chair adds warmth.

**Opposite:** Fabricated by Urban Craft Custom Upholstery, the bed wears an Osborne & Little velvet and is topped with Sferra linens, a marigold quilt from West Elm and a bolster pillow in a burgundy Pindler fabric. The Made Goods nightstand is paired with an Arteriors lamp.

