

PACKING A PUNCH

Big and bold colors add pizzazz to this tiny guest house



Black-and-white accents provide ample contrast to the vivid pinks and oranges in this guest house. Shiny inch-square glass tile is used in both the kitchen and the bathroom (left and right, opposite page).

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Valerie Sarofim never decorates a home to fit into just one specific location. Her style is eclectic. She loves color. And every home she's ever owned has had leopard print somewhere. So when it came time, in 2009, to finish a 750-square-foot guest home on East Gros Ventre Butte in Jackson, this Texan decided to go big and bold.

"I've always loved hot pink and orange together," Sarofim says. "Also, I thought if I did something so wild, then my house guests would only stay a week, max."

Enlisting the help of designer Madeleine Krasnow, in just eight weeks the duo transformed Sarofim's formerly unusable guest home into "Austin Powers' Love Shack." It's now her favorite part of her property.

"Madeleine was really great hearing my vision and then bringing me choices that would work well with what I wanted," Sarofim said.

For Krasnow, a Jackson designer who

also works in Washington, D.C., the project is the most unusual she's been hired for in her eight-year designing career.

"Val has a really eclectic, crazy style," Krasnow said. "Her primary house is all purple. Anything that can be purple is purple. For her guest house, she wanted to do something different. I really tried to make the guest house as crazy and fun as possible."

The job was a prime opportunity for Krasnow to use the pink and orange tiles she'd been eyeing in the tile store "forever." Every time she caught a glimpse of them, she thought, "These would be fun. Too bad I will never use them for anything."

Turns out, Krasnow got the chance to work with colors named after the exotic—Zanzibar and Tigris—and preppy—Mackenzie—after all.

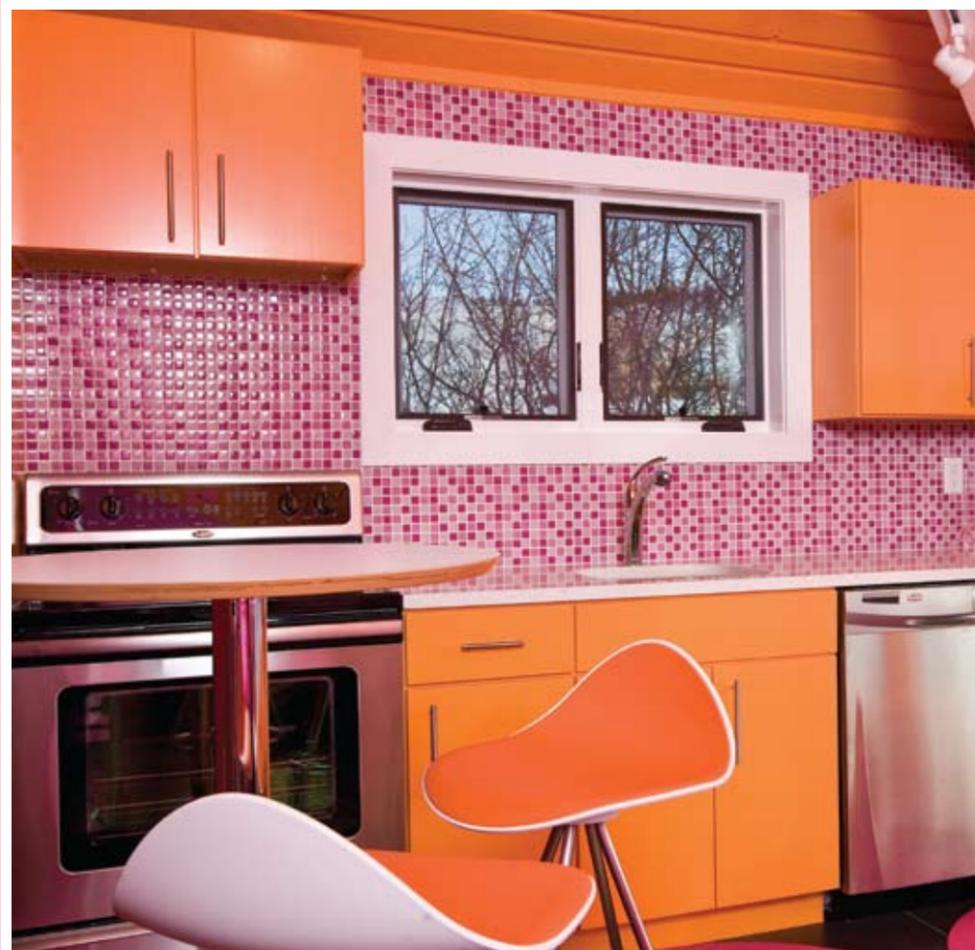
"Anything I found in pink and orange, I'd ask myself 'How can I use this?'" she says. "It was really fun."

The project began with the basic bones

of the space. Krasnow had the floors finished with black slate leftover from Sarofim's main home. Leopard print carpeting, Sarofim's trademark, was installed on the stairs and landings on the first floor and loft. Then the bathroom and kitchen were tiled. The countertops installed in both areas are a product called Ice Stone, made of 100 percent recycled glass in a cement matrix. Each slab is VOC-free, made in the United States and holds Cradle to Cradle Gold Certification.

Then, Krasnow focused on the furniture and light fixtures. Products in both colors were "easier and easier to find," she says, as the Internet has a ton of resources. And, "Pink is really big these days."

She selected functional pieces that wouldn't break the piggybank. The orange Jonathan Adler night tables are actually nesting tables, which allow guests to pull out a smaller table for additional surface space. She chose a black bed with drawers underneath, from Blue Dot, to





Items of white provide visual breaks in the wild color scheme, while the silver squares on the lampshade echo the tiled backsplash. Even the bathroom is done in the lively palette of hot pink and razzle-dazzle orange (below).



provide guests increased storage. On the walls behind the bed, she hung a series of mirrors, a trick designers use to reflect light in a space and make the room appear larger.

Upstairs, they turned the loft into a reading nook, with orange shelving and pink lamps. Though they chose a gray chaise, the decision was made for space reasons, not color. Or lack of it.

Color was further layered in with pink area rugs, orange and pink ultrasuede custom ottomans, and even pink and orange dishware and other accessories. Krasnow did use a few subdued elements, such as a white leather chair, a white table, and the white countertops.

“Where I could, I used white and black,” she said. “It already really packs a punch.”

Paint was one of the last choices.

“We went through so many different colors,” Krasnow said. “We knew we were going to put pink on the walls and orange on the ceiling. The last decision to make was the orange. We weren’t sure which way to go.” Ultimately, the hues chosen were pink popsicle, pink ladies, razzle dazzle, and mandarin orange.

The palette was a stretch from the designer’s usual choices, earth tones. From photos, the space could appear to be blinding, but Krasnow says it’s actually quite beautiful.

“After you first walk in and it’s really intense, your eyes adjust,” Krasnow says. “It has a really cool glow to it at night. The more time you spend in it, the more you can handle it.”

Still, she admits that she’s not surprised that by the time a week has passed, visitors appear ready to return to neutral colors like eggshell and taupe. And that’s just fine for homeowner Sarofim.

“My favorite part is when you walk in,” she says. “No one expects the downstairs. Guests think it quite possibly could be the cutest thing they’ve ever seen.”

But by the end of the week, they tell her that their retinas “may be burned from the color.”

So they have to move on.

“The plan worked perfectly,” Sarofim says.

Yeah, baby! ■