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Pretty CRAFTY

Transform an underused room into a playful, colourful retreat that works as a home office, a craft zone or the perfect personal escape



BY EMMA REDDINGTON
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SIAN RICHARDS



**Double up
YOUR DESK**

Run a continuous counter along a wall and customize it with as many workstations as you need. A glass-topped surface can be easily wiped clean of ink stains and smudges.

WALLPAPER, COLE AND SON.COM.
CHAIRS, KARTELLSTORELA.COM. FABRIC,
DESIGNERFABRICS.CA. LAMPS, WESTELM.COM.

AT THEIR FIRST MEETING for the design of this Toronto home office and creative escape, the homeowner presented her designer, Emily Griffin, with inspiration photos of neutral linen sofas, distressed wood, pale walls and equestrian images. It was a complete departure from the rest of the house, which packs a colourful punch with lots of hot vibrant hues. Knowing the woman well, at the next meeting Emily brought a range of wallpapers and fabrics ranging from organic and neutral to bold and dramatic. True to form, the homeowner went for the brightest, most exuberant fabric: a multicoloured raised velvet. She also chose an elaborate wallpaper with a bold pattern in pink and silver. Armed with these two pieces, Emily set about creating an inspiring space perfect for crafting, lounging, reading or just getting away from it all. There's a long desk with two workstations used by mother and daughter for computer work, while a comfy sofa sits across from a discreetly tucked-away television. The *pièce de résistance*, a floating bubble chair accented with a bright pink and orange cushion, hangs in a corner and is the ideal spot to dream up new ideas. In the end, the room was very much a nod to the house: a whimsical, glamorous escape bursting with cheerful colour.



DESIGNER Q & A

Tell us everything! We sat down with **Emily Griffin** to get her pro tips on how to decorate with colour

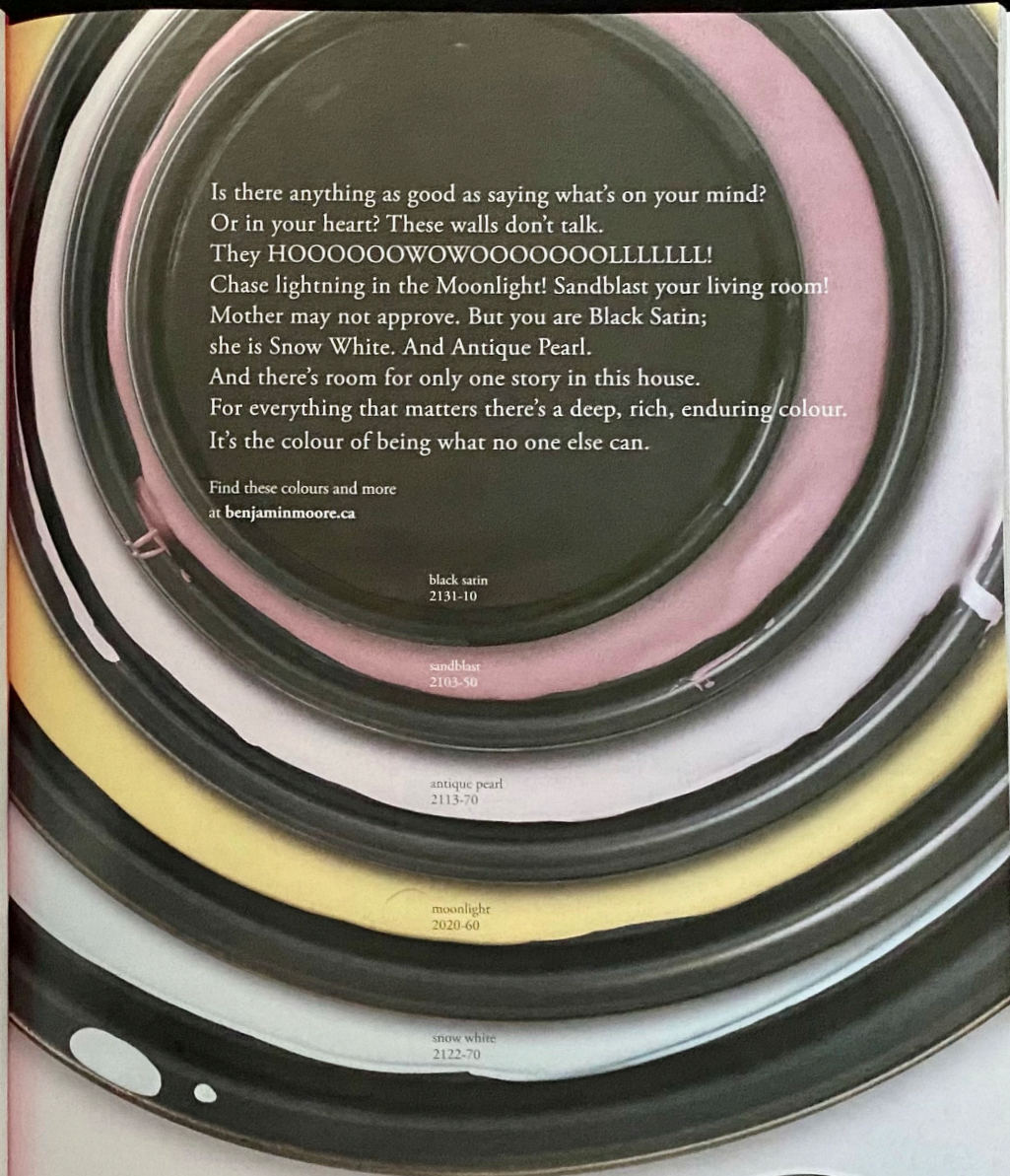
WHERE DO YOU START?
Every room needs a jumping-off point. Begin with a piece of art, wallpaper or fabric. Once you've found it, pull your colours from there.

WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO DECIDE ON COLOUR?
Start by asking yourself what colours you don't like. Then make a list of the colours you're drawn to. Finally pull out all of your favourite paint chips – the colours you think you could live with. It's a basic test. Often the colours we love aren't the ones we necessarily want to live with.

HOW DO YOU MAKE MULTIPLE COLOURS IN ONE HOUSE WORK?
It's all about the tone. Colours should flow from room to room, but they don't have to be the exact same shade. Just make sure they are in the same tonal family. My exception to this rule is powder rooms. There's nothing better than opening the door and seeing an unexpected wallpaper or colour on the walls.

ARE THERE ANY RULES FOR DECORATING WITH BRIGHT COLOURS?
Yes. Don't overdo it. Pick where you want to showcase the colour – whether it is through paint, rugs, pillows or upholstery – and then rein yourself in.

DO YOU TEST PAINTS BEFORE COMMITTING?
Absolutely 100 percent. I never trust a paint chip because a colour will always look different once it's on the wall. Always paint a test patch directly on the surface you're painting before you commit.



Is there anything as good as saying what's on your mind?
Or in your heart? These walls don't talk.
They HOOOOOWWOOOOOOLLLLLL!
Chase lightning in the Moonlight! Sandblast your living room!
Mother may not approve. But you are Black Satin;
she is Snow White. And Antique Pearl.
And there's room for only one story in this house.
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black satin
2131-10

sandblast
2103-50

antique pearl
2113-70

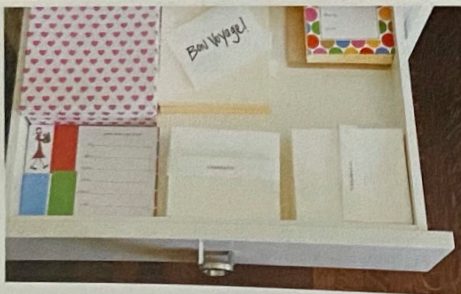
moonlight
2020-60

snow white
2122-70

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Turn
**AN ISLAND INTO A
LARGE WORK SURFACE**

Creative projects, whether it's sewing, scrapbooking or just organizing family photographs, take space. A clean surface with good lighting makes these tasks easier. A tabletop would work as well.

SOFA, RESTORATIONHARDWARE.COM. PENDANT LIGHTS, UNIONLIGHTINGANDFURNISHINGS.COM. RUG, CARPETMILL.CA. STOOLS, ELITE.COM.

Dedicate
A DRAWER FOR STATIONERY

Stock up on basic invitations, thank-you cards and envelopes so you always have them at the ready. It makes planning events and responding in a timely fashion just a little bit easier. Use pretty boxes to store loose ends and one-off birthday cards.

**CREATE THE PERFECT
MULTI-USE SPACE**

A few basic supplies are all you need to turn an underused room into a do-it-all home office or craft zone.

- 1 Stock up on wrapping paper, ribbons, tags and simple presents. You'll be amazed how often this gift station comes in handy.
- 2 Build a craft kit to keep kids entertained on rainy days. Must-haves include a variety of markers, paints, glues, coloured card stock, scissors and tape.
- 3 Dedicate space to your favourite hobby. Store your tools in a handy box or assign a specific drawer so everything is in one place.



Repeat
**DETAILS LIKE A
CHROME FINISH**

The lamps, cabinet hardware, stools and side tables all have the same shiny chrome look, which unifies the room and gives it a feeling of coherence. Even the bubble chair is circled with the lustrous metal.

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we love...
 this swinging bubble chair.
 It adds a touch of space-age
 glamour and fun to a creative space.
 CHAIR, PINKANDBROWN.COM.

EMILY GRIFFIN'S

COLOUR PALETTE *picks*

Colour affects mood, so choose a combination that suits your needs. Bright, vibrant shades are energetic and inspiring, while softer hues create a soothing, calming atmosphere.



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 FARROW-BALL.COM. PEONY,
 BENJAMINMOORE.COM.
 OXFORD WHITE,
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 RESTORATIONHARDWARE.
 COM. PINK GROUND,
 FARROW-BALL.COM.
 BRANCHPORT BROWN,
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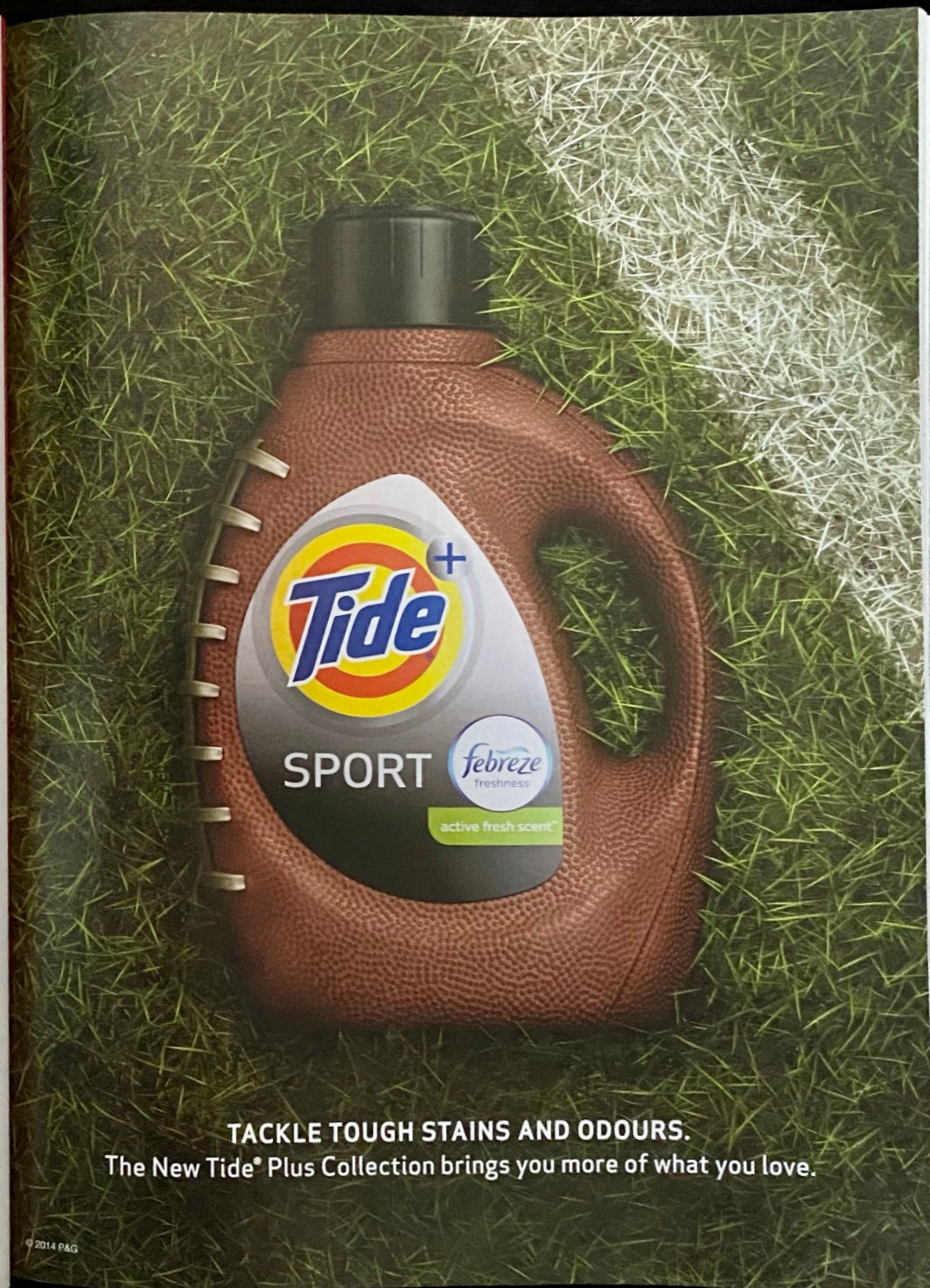
BOLD & PREPPY

MOUSE'S BACK,
 FARROW-BALL.COM.
 SYMPHONY BLUE,
 BENJAMINMOORE.COM.
 CHARLOTTE'S LOCKS,
 BENJAMINMOORE.COM.



MODERN & MOODY

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