

INTERIOR DESIGN LISA GILMORE,
LISA GILMORE DESIGN, ST. PETERSBURG, FL
TEXT JUDY MARTEL
PHOTOGRAPHY AMY LAMB, NATIVE HOUSE,
NASHVILLE, TN

GRAPHIC CONTENT

COLOR, PATTERN, AND TEXTURE DEFY
CONVENTION IN A DOWNTOWN ST. PETERSBURG
APARTMENT WITH PIZZAZZ AND PERSONALITY



ABOVE: Designer Lisa Gilmore took inspiration for the living room from a Tuscan landscape painting from the homeowners' art collection. She pulled the Caribbean blue color for the walls and ceiling, and orange for the raised-dot wallpaper in the entryway leading into the room. The pink-and-orange chair is one she calls "kind of a surprise." After falling in love with the vibrant fabric patterned with tigers, she hesitated, thinking the owners would nix the idea. In fact, it reminds them of their time in Asia and has become a favorite piece.

AFTER LIVING IN SINGAPORE for 12 years, former Chicagoans Peter and Dotsie Poli were accustomed to all-white, minimal interiors. So when they purchased a 1,522-square-foot condo in funky, artsy downtown St. Petersburg as their new home, they decided it was the perfect place for a 180-degree pivot toward pattern, color, and bold choices. Local interior designer Lisa Gilmore picked up on their vibe immediately



and, despite not meeting in person until after the project was complete, nailed the look. Peter, in particular, was adamant. "I told Lisa we wanted bright and colorful, and that if Dotsie went behind my back to ask for off-white, to please report back to me," he jokes. The couple gave Gilmore carte-blanche, only sending her three paintings from their collection that would be displayed in the condo, from which she could draw inspiration. Everything else was up to her. Gilmore was thrilled with the idea of using the art as a muse, especially when she took a second look at it. A Tuscan landscape that now hangs in the living area appears at first simply as a beautiful view, but on closer inspection, Gilmore discovered that it was created with tiny, geometric shapes. "That gave me some insight into their personalities," she says, "and I took it as my green light to push boundaries in the use of shapes and color."

ABOVE: The homeowners share the apartment with Ace (on the couch) and Dempsey, their two Australian Labradoodles. The color block painting above the sofa balances the Tuscan landscape, hanging opposite, without competing. Gilmore sourced it locally from artist Babette Herschberger.



The dining space was transformed into an area to display and enjoy wine. The same black-and-white terrazzo floors carry through from the living room, and Gilmore added a bright orange accent wall, where she hung one of the three paintings the owners sent her from Chicago. The rug is custom-designed by Gilmore.

The office/guest room is the last room Gilmore designed. "I think I pushed my own boundaries with this one," she jokes. "This room intentionally throws color in your face." But in the end, the bold choices in color and texture blend well, and complement the view.



"I told Lisa we wanted bright and colorful," says homeowner Peter Poli, "and that if my wife Dotsie went behind my back to ask for off-white, to please report back to me."

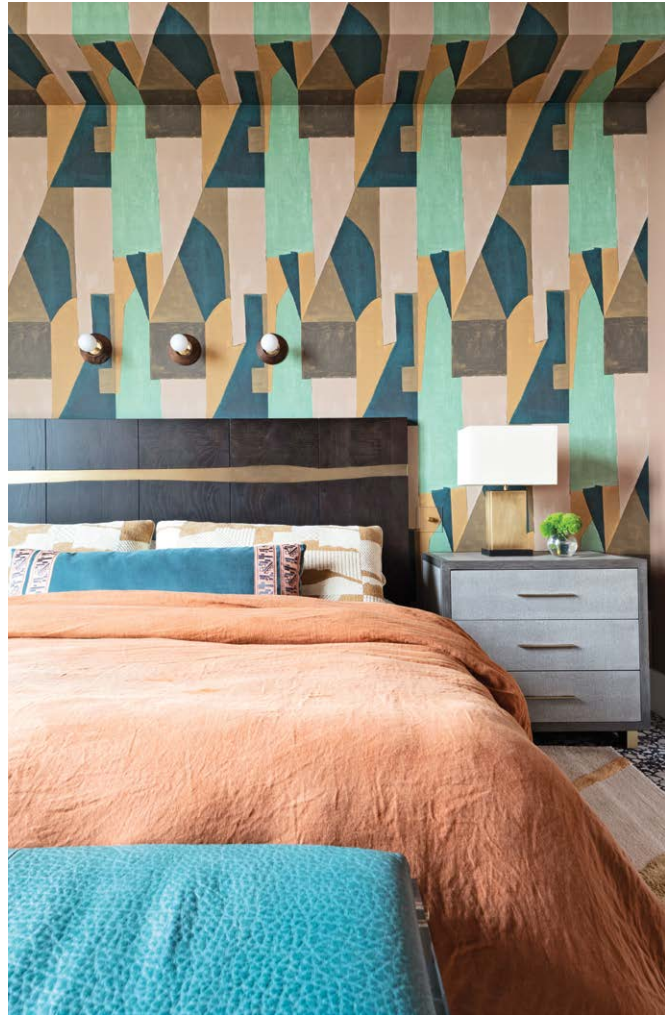
RIGHT: Black painted walls and ceiling in the den are interspersed with panels of black and white wallpaper that Gilmore framed with molding, giving the appearance of a giant work of art. "We paid attention to carrying the pattern from one panel to the next, which creates a way for the eye to travel around the room," says Gilmore. "It makes this small room seem larger."

BELOW: In one of the guest baths, Gilmore chose a vibrant wallpaper that pulled the purple color from the adjoining room.



The risk paid off. The Polis liked the design so much they didn't have a single edit. The final look not only fits their aesthetic, but their lifestyle as well. For example, the area that would normally be a dining room was converted into a space to display, store, and enjoy the wine Peter collects. The bottles are arranged more like an installation than a wine wall, each replaced with another bottle after one has been opened. The rest of the design decisions all nod to the couple's anything-goes-in-Florida attitude. Wallpaper depicting green dragons in a guest bath? Why not? Giant abstract brushstrokes in the den? Sure. A more-is-more saturation of color, texture, and graphics in the guest room/home office? Here it all just... works.

"I wish all jobs had this much life and personality to them," says Gilmore. "This was a one in a million project."



ABOVE: In the powder bath off the den, Gilmore chose wall tile behind the mirror with a design that appears as if paint is dripping down. She paired that with bold wallpaper with a geometric pattern, mimicking the dark colors in the den.

LEFT: The geometric wallpaper behind the bed led the design choices in the master bedroom. Soft textures, dark walls, and patterned wallpaper give the room both a neutral and lively feel.

SOURCES

LIVING AREA

Vintage sofa – Furnish Me Vintage, Chattanooga, TN, and fabricated by Elite Upholstery, Tampa, FL
 Tiger chair – Sunpan, sunpan.com
 Fabric – Schumacher, fschumacher.com
 Cocktail table – Sunpan, sunpan.com
 Poufs – Lisa Gilmore, St. Petersburg, FL, and fabricated by Elite Upholstery, Tampa, FL
 Hexagon table – Made Goods, madegoods.com
 Floor lamp – Visual Comfort, visualcomfort.com
 Artwork above sofa – Babbette Herschberger, Articles Gallery, St. Petersburg, FL
 Sofa table – Palecek, Atlanta, GA
 Console – Global Views, Dallas, TX
 Drapery fabric – Kravet, kravet.com
 Area rug – Jaipur Rugs, jaipurrugs.com
 Flooring – Ann Sacks, Miami, FL

WINE LOUNGE

Chairs – Sunpan, sunpan.com
 Fabric – Kelly Wearstler Collection, Lee Jofa, kravet.com
 Accent tables – Palecek, Atlanta, GA
 Sconces – Hudson Valley Lighting, hudsonvalleylighting.hvlgroupp.com
 Wine display – Lisa Gilmore Design, St. Petersburg, FL

Area rug designed by Lisa Gilmore, St. Petersburg, FL, and fabricated by Carpet Source, Winter Park, FL

DEN

Sofa – American Leather, Dallas, TX
 Fabric – Arcicom, arc-com.com
 Blue chair – Cr Laine; Kenneth Ludwig Showroom, Chicago, IL
 Fabric – JAB, Jeffrey Michaels Showroom, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
 Cocktail table – Worlds Away, High Point, NC
 Table lamp – Visual Comfort, visualcomfort.com
 Artwork above sofa – Erin MacIntosh, Articles Gallery, St. Petersburg, FL
 Desk – Ottra, Brooklyn New York, NY
 Desk chair – CR Laine, Kenneth Ludwig Showroom, Chicago, IL
 Artwork above desk – Akiko Kotani, Articles Gallery, St. Petersburg, FL
 Lighting – Visual Comfort, visualcomfort.com
 Drapery fabric – Zzimmer and Rhode, Jeffrey Michaels Showroom, SFPD, Hollywood, FL
 Area rug – Surya, High Point, NC

MEDIA AREA

Sofa – CR Laine, Kenneth Ludwig Showroom, Chicago, IL
 Fabric – Misia Paris, Nessen Group, Dania Beach, FL

Ottomans designed by Lisa Gilmore Design, St. Petersburg, FL, and fabricated by Elite Upholstery, Tampa, FL

Club chair – Regina Andrew, High Point, NC
 Wall covering – Phillip Jeffries, SFPD, Hollywood, FL

GUEST BATHROOM

Dragon wall coverings – Clarence House, clarencehouse.com

DEN BATHROOM

Oval mirror – Mirror Home, mirrorhome.com
 Wall coverings – Innovations, Jeffrey Michaels Showroom, SFPD, Hollywood, FL

SCONCE – Visual Comfort, visualcomfort.com

MASTER BEDROOM

Bed and headboard – Maria Yee, High Point, NC
 Bench – Vanguard, High Point, NC
 Bedside tables – Interlude Home, High Point, NC
 Lamps – Visual Comfort, visualcomfort.com
 Side chair – Brabbu, brabbu.com
 Ceiling light – Arteriors, Dallas, TX
 Wall covering – Kelly Wearstler Collection, Lee Jofa, kravet.com

THROUGHOUT

Custom framing – Articles Gallery, St. Petersburg, FL



Gilmore painted the walls of the bedroom and ceiling a color she calls mauve-putty. “I never saw myself putting this on the wall,” she says, “but I kept coming back to it because it goes well with the wallpaper, and allows it to stand out.”