

DESIGN & REALTY

trends

Material Girl

Local designer and textile genius Caryn Cramer picks her favorite looks for springtime room revisions.

By Jennifer Barger
Photography by Greg Powers

When she starts a new project, designer Caryn Cramer (caryncramer.com) turns into a magpie of sorts, furiously grabbing colorful fabric samples, wallpaper books and tile. "It starts rapid fire for me, with a sense of the materials," says the lawyer-turned-decorator. "You can always change the architecture later, but I like to get the rhythm, pattern and texture of everything." Cramer, who spent time working for a textile-maker in Denmark after getting a degree at the Corcoran, comes by her love of electric color and finish combinations naturally. She's a longtime painter and redesigned her parents' house in Chevy Chase as a teenager.

These days, for her line of fabrics and pillows, the energetic Shaw-based pro draws on diverse (and brainy) influences, from canyon-inspired hues to ancient Egyptian sculptures. "It's just like painting, but putting a repeat on it," says Cramer. The Belgian linen-printed yardage, which she sells via her website and through other designers, harnesses digital printing and eco-friendly dyes. The organic and edgy results include the hot-pink Traces Souk that recalls oversize stitches on a Moroccan carpet; and Anuket Inca, marrying citrus yellow and South American-style gold geometrics. A new collection, Totem, launches this spring. "I'm obsessed with colors and getting the right balance of positive and negative space," says Cramer, who carries the same mix-and-match mastery she uses on her fabrics into client's interiors. Here are some of Cramer's favorite pieces for creating an energetic space.

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"I love abstract expression, and this piece has presence. I like the passion and bursts of brushstrokes and the muted, earthy palette."
 Marta Staudinger,
 "Green Ivy" (oil and acrylic on canvas), \$2,850, Latela Art Gallery, Brookland, latelad.com



"This sofa is the adult in the room! It's dainty and has lovely turned wood legs, plus the mint-green velvet brings just a little opulence!"
 Pied-a-Terre sofa, \$2,076, Anthropologie, downtown, anthropologie.com



"This pillow from my collection adds an element of hand-painted lines to a space."
 Anuket Canyon linen pillow, \$200, carynkramer.com

"This chair is a feast for the senses. It reminds me of horseback riding and the buckles used to fasten bridles and saddles."
 Lee Industries leather chair, \$4,000, AmericanEye, Washington Design Center, downtown, americanyewdc.net



"This table is a nice punch of black—a mostly see-through sculptural form that doesn't take up much space, but adds loads of spirit."
 Reaction Poetique high-loop service table, \$990, by Jaime Hayon for Cassina, Design Within Reach, Georgetown, dwr.com



"It's impossible to look at this lamp without feeling happy. It's a very literal interpretation of an animal in a totally unexpected use."
 Porta Romana duck feet lamp, price upon request, Donghia, Georgetown, donghia.com



"This rug is perfect for a room full of coffee-to-caramel browns and minty greens. It has both a linear pattern and a gradient effect."
 Fineweave rug, \$5,750, Matt Camton Rug & Tapestries, Georgetown, mattcamton.com

