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## Some Like it Hot

Interior design punctuated  
 with vibrant colour



jane lockhart INTERIOR DESIGN

By Jane Lockhart

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Claudia and her husband are originally from Mexico, so when I met them on a gray winter day in suburban Toronto, Claudia was warm and welcoming and gushed as she described to me the beauty of her home country. Even more than the gloomy cold and damp Canadian weather outside, for Claudia and her husband, transferred here from a southern region of the Mediterranean, it was the cold and bland interiors of Canadian homes that bothered them most...too much gray, beige and white, just like the weather outside. So began our quest to develop a warm palette of deep, rich colours for the main floor and bring more light and life into their new Canadian home.

For Claudia it was important to bring more natural light into the greatroom that includes an open concept, kitchen, dining and living room. That meant starting with the small windows. All the south-facing windows on the back of the house were enlarged and new ones were added to maximize the amount of available natural light. Arched tops add architectural detail to the windows and the flavor of traditional Mexican and European building styles that the couple is accustomed to.



Shimmery stainless steel appliances, quartz countertops and cabinet lighting make the kitchen sparkle

**Title Page:** Temperatures soar when Jane creates a sizzling Mediterranean palette for a family who loves living with colour.

**Left:** The high-contrast mix of rich cherry and warm white cabinets cooks up high style in the kitchen

All the new tall windows are elegantly dressed in full-length raw silk panels of shimmery copper, adding warmth and energy to the overall space. This warm, burnt orange colour is reflected in the hue of the new dark cherry kitchen island and inspired by the natural stone mini tiles on the backsplash. A glistening dark brown quartz counter top provides a durable, easy to maintain work surface. This rich earth tone anchors the room.

Natural maple wood floors in the living and dining rooms keep the space light and blend almost seamlessly into the kitchen where large sandstone coloured porcelain tiles add overall durability and are easy to maintain. Walls painted in Benjamin Moore's Richmond Gold, a rich pumpkin colour, bring brightness and energy to the house.

Elegant but comfortable custom furniture was created for the dining and living rooms. To infuse these rooms with a rich palette, a vibrant range of hues were chosen for upholstery and drapery fabrics. The sofa, with its timeless traditional style is modernized by adding one long bench seat. This quality handcrafted piece upholstered in rich chocolate brown velvet is the perfect places to lounge for casual family nights or seat guests for more formal gatherings. Two sets of traditional armchairs upholstered in coppery orange silk, add additional seating and a traditional European feel. Throw pillows in rich Mediterranean and Mexican-inspired jewel tones like purple, copper, and chocolate are tossed about on each piece for a majestic but warm flavor.

No longer your typical beige Canadian home, we were able to capture and express Claudia's energy and colourful personality through paint, fabric and décor with dramatic and tasteful results



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YOU DREAM IT - WE BUILD IT.



A fabulous gas fireplace creates a strong focal point and adds a cozy feel to the space. Simply painted in a contrasting warm white, the fireplace, modeled after one Claudia remembered from Mexico, is accented with a hefty rustic beam mantel stained dark brown. A flat panel television set into the wall and cleverly framed with trim moulding defines the space as a true and elegant family room suitable for all occasions.

No longer your typical boring beige Canadian home, we were able to capture and express Claudia's energy and colourful personality through paint, fabric and décor with dramatic and tasteful results. 🏡

Above: A creative seating arrangement takes full advantage of the large fireplace

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