



Embrace the Drama

DON'T HOLD BACK THIS FALL: PICK A SMALL SPACE AND GO ALL OUT WITH JEWEL TONES, MOODY FLORALS, AND METAL ACCENTS, SAYS DESIGNER **SARAH WITTENBRAKER**.

BY KATHY BLACKWELL

Sarah Wittenbraker is the quintessential Austin interior decorator: Fun and funky, the UT grad is a multitasking mother of three children (all redheads, like her) who is at once polished but with a bit of an edge. The decorating guru recently started offering "Design in a Day" consultation services for those who haven't yet committed to an extensive design project but need some expert advice or a nudge in the right direction. She will soon launch an e-commerce site for home and fashion accessories with friend Anne Campbell.

Although she loves the city's outdoorsy, laid-back lifestyle, this fall she encourages clients to go bold with design, at least in small spaces within the home. "I think we'll start to see more drama in houses, even if it's just in small pockets," Wittenbraker says. "Open-concept floor plans beg for flowing neutral palettes, but when able, I try to carve out small spaces to hold saturated color and bold statements. Dark blues and grays are still having their moment, and even violets are finding their way out of nurseries." Once you pick your jewel tone, match big pieces to the wall color for a different spin on monochrome, and then go for added effect by choosing floral fabrics and metal accessories, she says. "Moody floral textiles and edgy brass lighting will give any area high drama. Pick one space, and go all in." *Sarah Wittenbraker Interiors; sarahwittenbraker.com* **AW**



A SOPHISTICATED SOFA IN SAPPHIRE



"Selecting a sofa that is bold in both silhouette and color, like this blue velvet Chesterfield from Ralph Lauren Home creates an instant statement. Matching the wall color to the vivid upholstery heightens the drama. Monochromatic design does not have to be confined to whites, grays, and earthy neutrals." *Four Hands Home, 2090 Woodward St., 512-225-0333; fourhands.com*



WINDOWS CALL FOR FRESH FLORALS



"For years I've seen clients steer away from floral fabrics, but some new flowering prints have a modern feel that can edge up the traditional or romanticize the cold. Deep, moody blues punctuated with citrons and pinks create drama that feels fresh, not stodgy. Going all in with unapologetic floral drapes creates an unexpectedly bold and even edgy point of view." *\$120 a yard. Available through Supply, a trade-only showroom. Contact your interior decorator or designer.*



BOLD, BRASSY STATEMENT LIGHTING



"If you're unabashedly draping florals in your high-drama nook, you'll need some modern contrast with sharper finishes like metallic lighting and accessories. This custom fixture from The Renner Project is a stunner that will elevate any room bordering on 'granny.' Brass has been hot for a while now, but it shows no sign of stopping." *\$11,200, The Renner Project, 3018 N. Lamar Blvd., 512-524-1334; therennerproject.com*