

# color weaver

DESIGNER AMANDA  
REID PROVES THAT A  
LITTLE COLOR CAN GO A  
LONG WAY IN A LOVELY  
CAMBRIDGE HOME.

*By Marni Elyse Katz  
Photography by Michael J. Lee*

In the living room, a coffee table with a walnut top and brass legs, handmade by Lawson-Fenning, sits between two comfy choices. A Minotti sofa, Eames lounge and Thos. Mosey's Falmida chair make up the back portion of the seating area. A chandelier by Brooklyn-based designer David Weeks makes a sculptural statement at the top of the room.

**I**t's the pops of color—rosy corals and luscious blues—that draw one into the rooms Amanda Reid created for her clients in Cambridge. But looks can be deceiving. “The palette is actually neutral,” says Reid, owner of Mandarin Studio. “The interest comes from the variety of materials and the color from the art and textiles.”

The homeowners, who have two young children, worked with Reid on their prior home. For this property, they leaned contemporary. Although the house, built in 1913, reads fairly traditional from the curb, it features an open floor plan and a soaring central living space with a two-story wall of windows. “They wanted contemporary but not severe,” Reid says. “We used clean lines, but it was important that it feel relaxed and welcoming.”

Reid lightened and softened the interior finishes. She transformed the double-sided, double-height fireplace from looming to lovely by refacing it with honed marble tile in pale sand tones. She also replaced the nondescript (and hard on the feet) porcelain tile with white oak floorboards. Benjamin Moore Pale





Oak, which Reid describes as “not too warm, not too cool,” freshens the walls. She explains, “We wanted the architecture to be the focal point.”

The homeowners, who are enthusiastic hosts, requested a cohesive seating arrangement in the living room rather than distinct groupings. Reid used a large vintage Moroccan rug to unify the space. It’s a cozy base for the monochromatic furnishings, which include an Eames lounge chair plucked from the homeowner’s former bedroom and mirror image chaises with blanket-stitch detailing, from B&B Italia. Rich walnut accents, a touch of marble and brass tones infuse a nuanced warmth, while a medley of throw pillows add pattern along with key hits of coral. The homeowners, who initially wanted blue accents, were not immediately amenable to the color. “Amanda brought in two sets of pillows; the corals were so obviously better,” the wife admits. “It was a process of discovery.”

Reid pulled the lively color, which makes the space feel cheerful and unfussy, from the playful yet sophisticated suzani rug in the adjacent dining room. “The wife loves printed textiles and Persian-style carpets,” Reid says. “If I’m using a handknotted carpet, that’s the first thing I choose.” Framed watercolors reference the rug’s subtle blues and relate to a statement painting in the entry, which introduces bold splashes of the color combination from the start.

Saturated blues make their way into the kitchen too, providing punches of color against the sleek backdrop of clean-lined cabinetry designed by architect Heather Weiss. “They wanted a minimalist design, so we started with



Clockwise from top: A clear glass bubble chandelier with leather cord hangs above a clean-lined dining table surrounded by Eames chairs; an oak-lined coffee station corresponds with the oak panels of the island base in the kitchen; art by Toronto-based Stev'n Hall provides a moment of moodiness in a corner of the living room.



In the wife’s study, an abstract painting by Meredith Bingham plays on the curvilinear patterning and berry colors found in the rug. The tubular brass chair with worn leather upholstery is a sexy contrast to the walnut desk.





San Francisco Bay area artist Elise Morris' color-dappled abstract painting sets a soothing tone in the master bedroom. The neutral linen drapery has a handblocked gold pattern that infuses a hint of shimmer while keeping the focus on the art and furnishings.



In the nursery, aqua wallpaper devised from etchings of clouds by Italian artist Piero Fornasetti is positively dreamy.

simple white, then added oak elements to warm it up," Weiss says. Calacatta quartzite countertops speak to the wife's practical side (they're not as porous as marble) as do the easy-to-wipe counter stool cushions. The stools, which provide just the right amount of pizzazz, are among the wife's favorite pieces—"interesting without being too Kardashian," she says with a laugh.

The wife's office, on the other side of the house, skews more feminine, reveling in the rich colors she loves. The circa 1920 jewel-toned Persian carpet grounds the room, while handblocked printed linen shades complement the global vibe. A walnut chair with crosshatch cording and blueberry-colored mohair cushions is both modern and sumptuous, and as elsewhere in the house, a bit of burnished brass supplies subtle shine.

Reid conceived a similar scheme in the master bedroom in soothing hues. A walnut

platform bed with metal legs and an upholstered headboard sits atop a Turkish rug with an airy design. Drapery and pillows with geometric patterning and a hint of shimmer are a foil to the watercolorlike abstract art. However, it's the painting across the room by Philippe Charles Jacquet on which Reid based the aqua palette, to the delight of the homeowners, who note that it's the first piece of art they purchased together.

In the children's bedrooms, Reid opted for nature-inspired themes while carrying through the aqua color and including a handknotted Oushak rug. A purposefully gender-neutral scheme allows for the furnishings and kids to move between the rooms. As in the rest of the home, the design is thoughtful, functional and beautiful. "I want my house to be beautiful, but we really live in it," the homeowner says. "It's for using, not just looking." ■

## DESIGN DETAILS

**TYPE**  
Single-family residence

**LOCATION**  
Cambridge

**INTERIOR DESIGN**  
Mandarin Studio  
mandarinastudio.net

**ARCHITECTURE**  
studiohw  
studiohw.com

## RESOURCES

**B&B ITALIA**  
Living room chaise sofas  
bebitalia.com

**COLE & SON**  
Nursery and children's  
bedroom wallpaper  
cole-and-son.com

**DE LA ESPADA**  
Living room coffee table,  
office desk, master bed  
deloespada.com

**JULES PLACE**  
Artwork in entry, living room,  
master bedroom and office  
julesplace.com

**KGBL**  
Kitchen stools  
kgblnyc.com

**PELLE**  
Dining room chandelier  
pelledesigns.com

**REDFORD HOUSE**  
Master bedroom nightstand  
and dresser  
redfordhouse.com

**WOVEN ART**  
Living room, dining room,  
bedroom and kitchen rugs  
wovenartcollection.com