

THE GUIDE TO LIVING WITH STYLE

May 2008

domino

love where you live!

**HAPPY
COLORS**

**MAKEOVER
MIRACLES**

**SUMMER
PARTIES**

plus
**kitchen + bath
special**
trends, sources
& solutions!

and

Julianne Moore
in her best role yet:
decorator!



A TRICOLOR DECOR

By treating every room to a strict, high-contrast palette, fashion designer and decorator Josephine Sasso gave her old-school Nantucket vacation home au courant drama.

photographs by DOUGLAS FRIEDMAN produced by LAUREN GOODMAN
styling by LILI DIALLO text by DEB SCHWARTZ



Even her graphic ensemble—a canvas dress (her own design) and coordinating red-handled tote—conforms to her decor strategy.

fashion: DRESS Canvas #6454S \$741 Josephine Sasso (610) 658-9022

opposite page: SOFA FABRIC "Guadeloupe" about \$54/yd, Scalamantré (800) 932-4361 for information STRIPED PILLOWS \$440 each, and CURTAINS Linen \$1,000/pair, josephinesasso.com for information BENCH AND LOVE SEAT FABRIC Diamond & Baratta "Bill's Plaid" about \$164/yd, and STRIPED FABRIC (inset) Diamond & Baratta "Scorsetto Stripe" about \$168/yd, Lee Jofa (800) 453-3563 for information POLKA DOT FABRIC (inset) \$50/yd, and COFFEE TABLE \$2,500 josephinesasso.com for information



black + white + blue

A high pedestal table, instead of the ubiquitous low coffee table, draws the eye up and bestows a sense of stature.

A CRISPLY TAILORED LIVING ROOM

Josephine Sasso has mastered the art of creating clothes and furnishings that are preppy and traditional—with a dash of glitz. (She sells her designs through her eponymous shop in Ardmore, PA, and to private clients.) So it's fitting that her 1920s Colonial Revival on historic Nantucket Island has its own Hollywood Regency-esque flair. The trick? Limiting each room to a lean, primary-studded trio. "Using bright colors has always been my thing with clothing, and it transfers easily to interiors," Sasso explains. In the living room, white walls (found throughout the house) and long curtains with thick black borders frame black and white furniture accented with pops of blue—a silk lamp shade, ceramic figurines, a few pillows. Red-print cushions add another layer of interest, and announce the schemes of rooms to come. The posh feel of the space belies the provenance of its pieces, many of which derive from what Sasso calls "junk shops." But repainted and covered in clean white canvas or slightly retro geometrics, the sofas and chairs are fresh and chic.



black + white + red

*A dark stain makes
random chairs and
dressers seem like a set!*

The dining room hosts intimate suppers for Sasso, husband Peter and daughter Juliet, as well as big parties.

black + white + yellow



A CHEERFUL DINING ROOM, KITCHEN ENTRY AND HALLWAY

Sasso is rigorous about color and devoted to symmetry, but her fondness for playful silhouettes and electric hues keeps the mood light and punchy. In the dining room (opposite), she extends the living room's graphics by uniting two laser-cut chinoiserie mirrors, a couple of antique bureaus and a bevy of secondhand chairs in nearly black Benjamin Moore stain. "I like mismatched shapes—especially in a summer house. It looks too much like a hotel if everything's perfect," she says. Then she rattled the New England-y neutrals with vivid red accessories: bulbous glass vases, mirror-framed drawings of coral and a chandelier she found at a flea market and had wired for electricity and spray-painted scarlet. In the kitchen entryway (inset), Sasso devised an unusual tablescape out of glossy yellow tulipieres paired with barnacles that mimic their shape, black candles and cosmos, plus a smattering of seashells. The tricolor plan extends even to transitional spaces: In the upstairs hall (below), the blue from the living room resurfaces as draperies.

white + red + blue



CHAIR FABRIC Hand-printed silk "Neptune's Treasure" about \$198/yard, Scalamandre (800) 932-4361 for information **CHEST** (similar to shown) Martha Stewart Furniture with Bernhardt "Seal Harbor Bowfront" \$1,826 marthastewart.com/shop for stores **FOO DOGS** \$250 each, **CURTAINS** Silk taffeta \$1,600/pair, **YELLOW VASES** (inset) \$50 each, and **CANDLESTICKS** \$100/set of 12, all at josephinesasso.com for information

opposite page: **TABLE** (similar to shown) "Westwood" \$1,995 restorationhardware.com **CHAIRS** (similar to shown) "Antiqued Manhattan" \$99.99 each, target.com **CHAIR STAIN** (similar to shown) Alkyd semitransparent in Canyon Grey #74, benjaminmoore.com for stores **MIRRORS** "Oriental Pagoda" from \$675 each, e-mail mimiwolfe@yahoo.com **ARTWORK** With mirrored frame \$350/set of six, and **CURTAINS** Linen \$800/pair, josephinesasso.com for information

When it comes to wall art, Sasso relishes the orderly cohesiveness of multiples.

SHOWY YET REFINED BEDROOMS

Upstairs, Sasso went maximalist, channeling her Palm Beach childhood with bold strokes while introducing a bespoke quality with fancy embellishments and patterns. "I love to bring in that look: traditional but also resort-esque, with bright tropical colors," she says. Intent on crafting a feminine room (below) for her daughter, Juliet (while avoiding standard-issue purple or pink), Sasso used cotton-damask Scalmandré fabric on custom headboards as the starting point for the black, white and yellow formula. Lots of flounce tempers the glare and injects a little froufrou: The coverlets are embroidered in white eyelet, and the cotton-piqué curtains feature two trims (observe closely—the yellow ruffle is edged with polka-dot detail). In the guest room (opposite), a mix of elegance and beachy nostalgia, the dominant red is kept in check by a range of textures—from wool to silk taffeta—and a light-blue and white background. Simple twin beds are dressed up with damask bolsters and matching custom benches.

yellow + white + black



Like every chandelier in the house, this one was painted to match its setting. Unlike the others, it's adorned with sea-creature magnets.



Sasso and Juliet, age 7, on the back staircase.

SHAMS Cotton \$150 each, **BEDSPREADS** Eyelet \$650 each, and **CURTAINS** \$1,000/pair, all at josephinesasso.com for information **EMBROIDERED PILLOW COVERS** \$70 each, e-mail maryjo@chapoton.net **HEADBOARD FABRIC** (similar to shown) Cotton "Foret" about \$162/yd, Scalmandré (800) 932-4361 for information

fashion: SHIRT Ralph Lauren Blue Label "Christy" \$145 ralphlauren.com for stores **JEANS** Levi's ECO "Patch Pocket" \$68 levi.com **DRESS** Linen \$100 Josephine Sasso (610) 658-9022

opposite page: BEDS (similar to shown) "White Cottage" \$799 each, landofnod.com **BOLSTER AND BENCH FABRIC** "Sevran" about \$113/yd, Scalmandré (800) 932-4361 for information **BEDSPREADS** Linen quilted \$1,000 each, and **DUST RUFFLES** Appliqué \$800 each, josephinesasso.com for information **EMBROIDERED PILLOW COVER** \$70 e-mail maryjo@chapoton.net **SIDE TABLE** (similar to shown) Acrylic \$284 plexi-craft.com **CARPET** Sisal "Planta" \$39/square yard, sisalcarpet.com

red + white + light blue



Pieces of matte-cherry molding
frame the sailboat images
(including, top left, one from
Peter's childhood bedroom).

the end