





PATTERN | PLAY

INTERIOR DESIGN: MARIA TENAGLIA
TEXT: LISA BINGHAM DEWART
PHOTOGRAPHY: DOUGLAS FRIEDMAN





Perhaps no other room typifies Tenaglia's layered vision more than the dining room. "If the entire room had a patterned wallcovering, ceiling and everything else, it wouldn't be calm," she says. "Here, it's still serene." She chose simple, neutral fabrics for the Bright chairs and a custom dining table with an off-white finish. "But there's a blast of pattern on the host chairs," she says of the Pierre Frey fabric that looks like colorful, abstract brushstrokes splashed across a canvas. References to the natural world abound, too. Both the drapery fabric and the blue hues of the Holly Hunt carpet evoke water, and the fireplace's custom finish, by decorative painter Caroline Lizarraga, looks like onyx. Grounding everything, though, are the vibrant, blue-lacquered walls and ceiling. "Everything is calmed down because the background is so strong," she notes. "You see gold wallpaper and the vases against the blue. Even the organic, 14-karat gold mirror is still a contrast to the shiny walls. Everything is working together to become a showstopper of a room, but it's still inviting and warm to be in."

Tenaglia's client had no problem letting her bold style shine through, and the interior designer thinks there's an important lesson to be learned from her confidence. "People shouldn't shy away from dramatic and assertive spaces," she says. "They can be incredibly approachable and livable and showcase someone's personality. Be who you want to be. If you have a desire to be a little fearless and a little bold, your home is the perfect place to showcase that." ■ *Maria Tenaglia Design, mariatenagliadesign.com*





San Francisco interior designer Maria Tenaglia's client arrived at their first meeting with a tight deadline. The homeowner had sold her old place—and all the furnishings—in the Bay Area community of Lafayette and had only a handful of months before she and her husband had to be out and into their new digs. Fortunately, Tenaglia says, "My client was one of the most open-minded and fearless I've ever encountered. She made decisions quickly and my job easy and fun."

Besides the quick turnaround and decisive streak, her client brought something else with her to an early meeting: a swatch of Schumacher's iconic Chiang Mai wallcovering. That, along with a visit to her existing home, made sussing out her style a breeze. "The most important room to walk through is someone's closet," Tenaglia says. "Most people typically wear black, brown and navy, but I saw an explosion of color in just her shoes. She was bold and had no qualms about showcasing that. She was a maximalist."

Translating her client's style and animating the previously all-white spaces meant using 20 different wallcoverings ("I would joke we were going on a wallpaper safari when she'd come by," Tenaglia says of her client's visits to the home) along with an expansive selection of similarly bold fabrics and floorcoverings. The interior designer's great feat, though, is making that dynamic explosion feel balanced rather than oppressive or overpowering. Part of the success comes down to thematic consistency. Many of the designs reference nature in some way. The aforementioned Chiang Mai wallpaper now featured in the pantry sports a riot of dragons and flowers and plays off the cabinetry painted a vivid acid green, while Schumacher tigers cover a pair of chairs in the entry foyer. In the moody powder room, a magical Cole & Sons forest covers the walls while one of Fuse's cheeky Boa sconces adds another playful natural reference.

Similarly, Tenaglia kept to a tightly edited color palette. "It's basically blues and greens," she says. "It's very natural—fresh but bold." The shades can be found in the lounge's millwork and Kyle Bunting carpet and the wallcoverings in the primary bath, bedroom, office and laundry room. "The kitchen is a lighter version," Tenaglia notes, pointing to the greens on the zigzag pattern counter stools and the Roman shades. The teal paint for the island is a subtle tribute to one of the client's favorite colors. "She wears it a lot, so I brought it in even if it was just a trim for drapery." The palette's exceptions appear on the second floor, where Tenaglia gave guest spaces distinct personalities and color schemes incorporating pinks, corals and purples. "We wanted it to be fun up there."







