

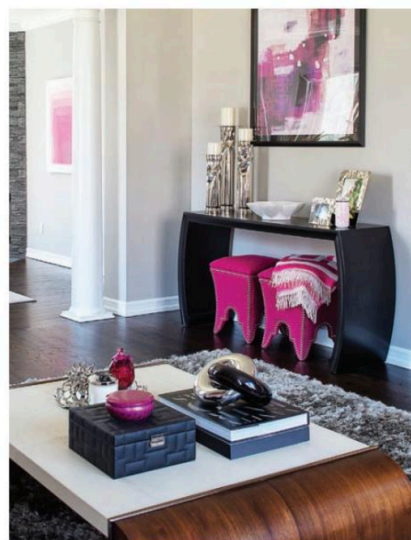
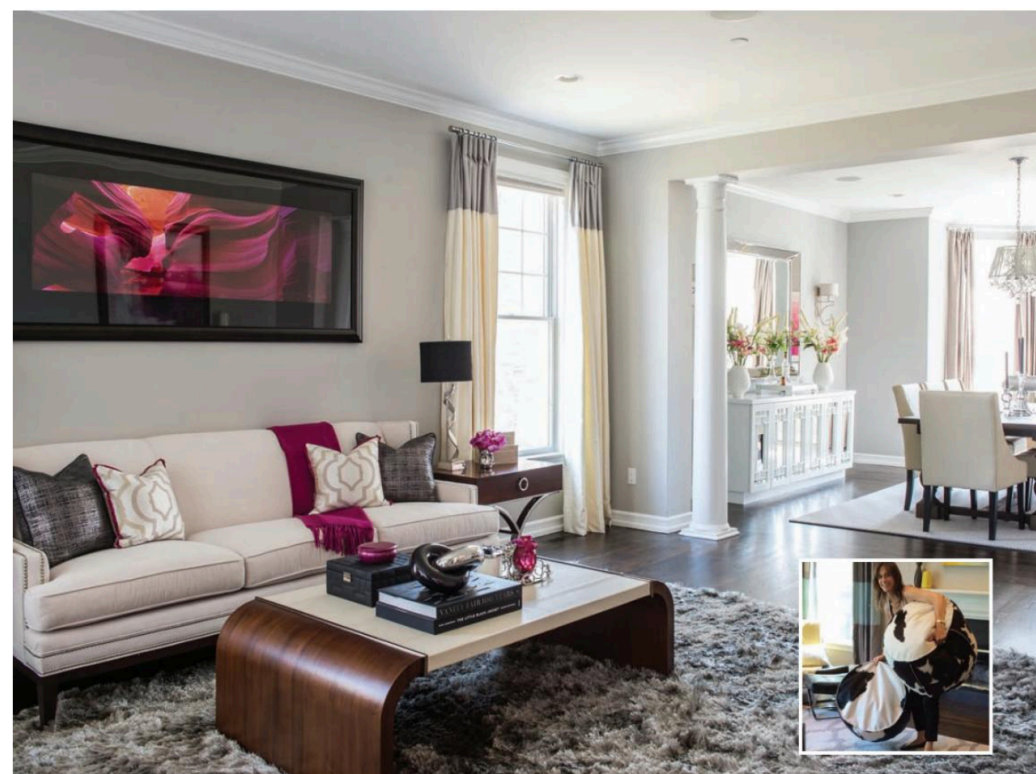
EAST COAST HOME+DESIGN

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"Wherever I go directly influences my work," says Lara Michelle of Lara Michelle Beautiful Interiors. "Especially if I see something unique."

In fact, Lara's love of all things unique led her customers to seek her out for a recent redesign of their home.

The clients, a young family of Indian descent, were looking to create a place that celebrated their love of color. They were seasoned travelers with a great passion for art. More importantly, they were open to taking design risks—so open, in fact, that they only made one real request: that Lara would find a way to showcase their favorite painting.

"The family absolutely loved color," she says. "So I thought we could use this painting as a guide for the other colors in the room."

In the living room, the walls are painted gray to serve as the perfect backdrop for the piece, which hangs above the couch. Taking cues from the artwork, the team accessorized with mauve throw rugs and ottoman chairs under the desk, while the painting's more subtle golden tones influence the color of the furnishings and window treatments.

Texture also plays a major role in the project, with the plush carpet offering a perfect foil to the smooth wooden tables and desk. The look is completed with the lively pillows strategically placed throughout the room. "Pillows are like jewelry," says Lara with a laugh. "They are fun and really add the finishing touch."

In the dining room, the client wanted a buffet table, and yet was having difficulty finding something to fit the space designated for it. So, working alongside her carpenter, Lara custom-created a beautiful piece for them.

The customers were overjoyed with the changes, which gave them a youthful place that radiates with the same vibrant energy that they do.

"Working with the clients was so much fun," says Lara, "especially since they were willing to mix things up. And that, to me, is what design is all about."

Photographs by Chaun Bing