

How to make your home happy!

(for Chassie Post, it took three easy steps)

Step One: Find a signature color

One look at this Tiffany-box-blue apartment and you're mesmerized. Chassie Post and Phillip Costello (she's a fashion stylist, he's a lawyer; they're also musicians) painted every wall a vivid blue—and not for the first time. “I’ve had the color now for eight years,” says Chassie. “I’ve moved three times with it!”

You, too, can adopt a trademark tint. Pay attention to the little things in life that elevate your mood. Do you horde hot-pink socks? Does your neighbor's apple-green door look delicious? What color are the rooms that make you feel fine? Focusing on food—like a gorgeous raspberry cosmopolitan—can also help you develop a taste for a color.

Once you've captured that color, don't hesitate. Take a deep breath (doing your best to avoid inhaling paint fumes) and go all out. Feisty, full-coverage creates amazing atmosphere. Like getting your hair dyed, you can't know how fab it's going to look till it's done. That's half the fun.

STORY BY KIERA COFFEE. PHOTOGRAPHS BY OBERTO GILI

"I asked if the slipcovers could be tailored to within an inch of their lives"

Step Two: Unify everything

❁ "Nothing goes together!" This has to be the number-one decorating complaint we've heard. Chassie brought her apartment together with color therapy. Whatever wasn't blue, she painted white. She started with the floor, slicking on white floor paint, like **Benjamin Moore's Latex Floor and Patio Enamel (\$30 a gallon)**.

❁ Much to the chagrin of her family, she whited out some treasured hand-me-downs (using **white Krylon spraypaint, \$5**), like her grandmother's Victorian foyer table (see page 127).

❁ The furniture Chassie couldn't paint, she slipcovered in white canvas. Chassie told her slipcoverer to "tailor them to within an inch of their lives." After that, she says, "It all came together. My furniture was from everywhere, but after it was slipcovered, you could see these great shapes." You can attain slipcover success by trying the yellow pages or logging on to **www.slipcovers.com**. Both **Pottery Barn** and **Surefit.com** make great pre-made slipcovers, from **\$99 to \$250**.

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BEAUTIFULLY WITH
GRANNY NESTING TABLES

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Form-fitting slipcovers flatter shapely furniture

If you're set on specially made slipcovers, you can save money by buying the fabric yourself. Hunt down your town's least expensive fabrics and then go to your slipcoverer with your frugal finds.

True blue

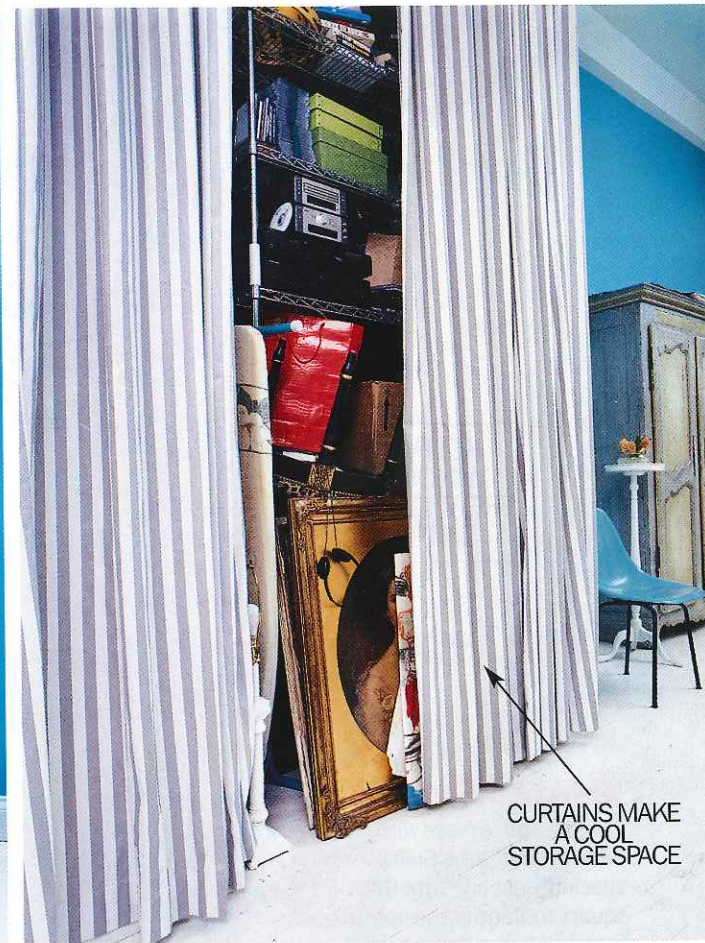
Chassie searched so long for this color, she even wrote a song about it (called "Choosey," of course, and performed by her band Daytona). When you find the shade that'll make you want to sing, play it to your paint store. If the store doesn't already have your hue, have it custom-blended for a few bucks extra. Just bring in anything under the sun (we once took in an egg) so the machine can mix your color.

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TROPICAL—NOT
TROPICAL—WHEN
PAINTED WHITE

THIS GRAPHIC
TRIM WAS CREATED
USING BLACK
ELECTRICAL TAPE

Step Three: Unleash your inner artist

✿ To personalize your pad, be crafty. Chassie contrasts her color with homemade animal-print pillows trimmed in green ruffles. Animal prints are fierce; you can be equally chic with any black-and-white graphic pattern.

✿ Found objects can add eclectic flair. Chassie found on the street the butterfly wings that boldly beautify her entranceway. "Who knows where they came from? Maybe they were a visual aid for science class," she muses. "But they are fantastic—high art can come from low places."

✿ Receiving can be better than giving: A friend gave Chassie the mercury-glass lamp that's reflected in a mirrored screen in her living room. "Usually, I am given presents in my blue," she says, "which is what happens when you adopt such a brazen color."

BED CURTAINS
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INDUSTRIOUS
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SPRAY-ON WHITE
RENEWED THIS BLUE
SILK HEADBOARD