

A fraction of designer Suellen Gregory's collection of majolica pottery brings depth and dimension to her dining room walls, finished in subtle shades of green. Ornate tiebacks gracefully hold gathered drapery panels at the height of the sash. The tassel trim was custom-made in Portugal to match the heavy cotton fabric.



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ious elements and *unexpected twists* are part of Suellen's look.

window treatments, walls, upholstery, and accessories drenched in soft or saturated shades. In her professional capacity, Suellen has tackled projects in a variety of settings: a fly-fishing ranch in California and fabulous residences in New York and North Carolina.

For her own living room, though, she followed her heart, which led her to choose a subdued yet feminine combination of colors. Traditional furniture—a mix of fine antiques and family pieces (she has reupholstered her mother's settee three times)—dazzles against a neutral backdrop. The tailored window treatments are a signature invention: "It is always a challenge when you come up with a new idea. It's a learning curve, and I would rather try it on my own home first," Suellen says.

The sumptuous green dining room likewise benefits from her innovation and expertise. Taking a cue from her collection of Wedgwood majolica, Suellen chose a verdant hue for the walls. The ceiling reveals the rewards of persistence; she and her painter experimented with a brushed-glaze ceiling, an appealing effect that now finds a place in many of her clients' homes. "I like to paint ceilings a pale blue," she says. "The softness of the sky color makes it look like it goes on forever." While the dining room is certainly dressy, Suellen relaxed the space by choosing a round pedestal table for easy

Neutrals, punctuated by pops of feminine pink, distinguish the living room in Suellen's home. Subtle stripes on the wall, alternating cream and white and capped by a sky-blue ceiling, elongate the space into a grand salon. The framed mirror adds visual depth to the room.





Suellen's Top Design Tips

For Suellen Gregory, creating timeless, elegant interiors always starts with self-discovery. What colors do you love? Which of your furnishings, artwork, or accessories have special meaning to you? "Home is where the memories are," she says. Investing a little emotional capital pays great dividends in the form of warm, welcoming rooms.

Here are a few of Suellen's suggestions to help you hone your look.

- * Identify the colors you love, and use them in various combinations throughout your home.
- * Edit your collections on display, then rotate pieces periodically for a fresh feel.
- * Try classics from any era—a chandelier, an animal-print upholstered chair, a wonderful dining table; they always look right.
- * Quality never counts more than it does with fine fabrics; invest in the best you are able to afford.
- * Stay true to your personal style. It's often more successful to forgo the trends.
- * Seek out quality workmanship, especially when it comes to upholstered pieces and window treatments.
- * Mix it up. Position new things, antiques, and flea market finds side-by-side.
- * Choose understated window treatments in great fabrics for surprising punch.