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The Spring Issue

in full bloom

Top Tips for Household Cleaning

Cheerful Pastels Fit for the Season

Best Ways to Boost Curb Appeal

happy together

A Pastel Palette Sets a Cheerful Tone

As a talented do-it-yourselfer and design-savvy blogger, Ashley Wilson *(At Home with Ashley)* had a specific vision for her Victorian home in Logan, Utah. "I wanted to add a rainbow to the whole house, and I started with the stairs," says Wilson, who saw a similar style in an outdoor space in Houston, Texas. "Mine are not the same colors, but they sparked the idea. It's happy, and stairs are a low-commitment place to add a lot of color and a lot of fun."

Another whimsical touch appears alongside the painted staircase that pairs the varied shades of pink, yellow, and green with harmonious art that stretches from floor to ceiling. "There is a gallery wall that coordinates with the colors of the stairs. The walls were begging me for color," she says. Wilson shares her colorful home with her husband and their young son and two dogs. "Part of my point was that I wanted to create a happy and safe place for everyone," she adds.

Her mission comes to fruition in the living room where two sofas—one camel-colored leather; the other pink velvet—adorn a corner like a sectional. "It's really cozy," says Wilson. "The leather sofa grounds the room and has a masculine influence, and the pink sofa came from a different room. The living room is big and I wanted to fill it with nice furniture."

The space has evolved with elements added in stages like the accent rug with a bold floral pattern. "I layered it on last winter, before the wallpaper by artist Diane Hill that is hand-painted then printed, so you can see the brushstrokes. It looks like one long mural where you see a peacock and other fun things that make it feel really special."

Her application (that started above the fireplace) makes the mural even more enticing. "First, I framed it out with fancy trim to feel like a big picture frame. Then, I expanded it over time to the other three walls, and I just love the look," says Wilson. The wallpaper makes yet another appearance behind the mint-hued entertainment center she painted. "When you watch TV, it doesn't distract, and when you walk in the room, it feels more continuous."

Neutral pieces balance the pastel hues: a coffee table topped with whitewashed wood, an industrial-style light fixture, and an electric fireplace (painted white). The traditional grandfather clock Wilson bought for $20 got a fresh update, too. "The face was totally gone," she says. "I painted it pink, and I painted the face in the color wheel and put in a new clock mechanism so it works."

Pink-velvet draperies with orange-tassel trim also contribute to the sweet color scheme. An adorable dog bed with a raised platform sports a shade of mint. "You might as well have a cute dog bed," says Wilson. The soothing space she created provides a comfortable retreat for the family to unwind. "We watch TV and do puzzles together in there. We do a little entertaining, but mostly relaxing," she adds.

Refreshing your home with spring hues? Heed Wilson's tips. "Pillow covers are a really affordable way to lighten the look; it's low commitment and low storage," she says. Flowers and other accents can have a similar effect. "Not everybody will want to do a pink sofa," adds Wilson. "But you can switch out your coffee-table books [for those] with color."

Outdoor spaces can get the same treatment, as Wilson demonstrates with a clever DIY project. "We had a pergola with no shade and it's hot here in the summer," she says. So, she cut and dyed a canvas drop cloth in different colors for a rainbow effect. Snaps with screws make them easy to secure and detach. A white table with alternating pink chairs makes the perfect seating area for alfresco meals.

This cheerful home shows that a little creativity and a do-it-yourself mentality can lead to exceptional results inside and out. "It's very personal to me," says Wilson. "I don't want a serious home; I want a fun place."

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