

Sumptuous and Serene

Against a fanciful seafoam backdrop, adept pairings of pattern, texture, and style combine in a harmonious dining room that feels both classic and current.

BY Elizabeth Bonner Czapski | PHOTOGRAPHY BY Lance Selgo

After holding onto dining furniture from the family patriarch's bachelor days through four previous dwellings, Liza and Ryan Schlitt were ready for something different in their refined Dallas abode. An eye for timeless design plus a knack for infusing houses with unexpected flair made Texas-based designer Emily Johnston Larkin of EJ Interiors just what the Schlitts needed to update the aged aesthetic of their dining room. Though Emily maintained a traditional layout and a tailored look, she called upon her more daring instincts to instill character in the space, cloaking the room in a captivating yet tranquil botanical print accented with luminous top notes.

"We like clean, fresh interiors that will stand the test of time with a healthy balance of color and pattern," Emily says. "Most clients come to us because we believe in the art of the mix. Our goal was to create an elegant dining room that incorporated unique elements."

Emily covered the walls with Farrow & Ball's intriguing Lotus paper, which bears an artisanal design from 19th-century French archives. "The large-scale lotus print helps elevate the space and makes it feel more grand," Emily says. "It also gives it an organic quality with its feather-like appearance."

The wallcovering's blue-green shades ensure the splashy pattern doesn't overwhelm the surrounding neutrals that allow the motif to be center stage while offering added dimension. Eye-catching features like a coffered ceiling and a rug woven with geometric diamonds contrast with the more whimsical wallpaper. "We often pair [this type of] sisal rug with patterned wallpapers because it's the perfect way to soften a room without taking attention away from the walls," Emily says.

Gathered around a stately table with a rich espresso finish that grounds the airy space, chic French chairs repeat the wall palette with a solid light turquoise on the fronts and an understated print on the backs. On crisp white drapery panels, an embroidered flange with a seafoam design echoes the scheme.

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Subtle yet impactful accents add depth with a gleaming blend of silver and brass. A polished nickel chandelier presides over the room, and a mirrored buffet with an antique sheen serves as a glamorous showstopper. “I love to mix metals,” Emily says. “The brass warms up the cooler tones.”

Above painted-wood demilune tables,

acrylic mirrors with silver edging take a playful, stylized approach to the typical pagoda silhouette. White artwork balances the bold wall covering; texture and dashes of gold impart pizzazz, from a striking abstract piece to a collection of framed intaglios.

Though the room is wrapped in swirls of color, it still exudes a soft, soothing

ambience, thanks to Emily’s skilled layering of diverse elements. “We used a lot of opposites,” she says. “I like a good mix so a space looks collected versus predictable. You want pieces that contrast but also complement each other. We went for classic elegance and a look that was between traditional and modern.”

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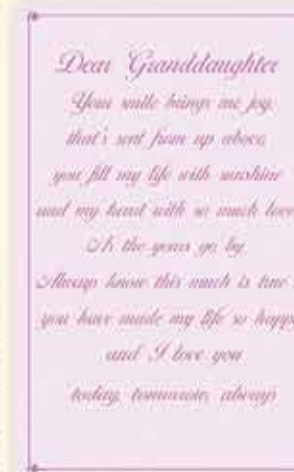
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