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At Home: Boutique owner's Victorian sparkles with color

By: Mary Mobley Special to The Examiner August 23, 2009

SAN FRANCISCO — Jeannie Fraise and her husband Christophe had recently finished renovating their Liberty Heights Victorian by adding a three-story addition (including a master bedroom and bath), creating a new kitchen, and decorating with an eclectic mix of modern art, antiques and contemporary furniture when their family underwent a remodel of its own with the arrival of son Kai and daughter Tulla.



Hayes Valley boutique owner Jeannie Fraise blends bright color, old and new, in her charming Victorian. (Mike Koozmin/Special to The Examiner)

Fraise, the owner of the Hayes Valley home emporium Lotus Bleu, swung into action to make a place for the kids while maintaining the look and feel of the home the couple had created. As in the rest of the house, she started with color.

Gallery 1

"I love color — it makes a home modern, happy and adds a lot of spirit," she says.

In her work, Fraise skillfully mixes bold hues by sticking to a simple rule: In most rooms she uses a palette of two colors.

For Kai's room, she chose orange and blue, and for Tulla's room, she selected pink and green.

In the master bedroom, although there are touches of brown, the color scheme is mainly blue and pink.

"For the kids, I stayed away from colors that are too babyish — I was looking for colors that would work as they got older," she says.

Notable in all the rooms is the daring mix of patterns. "I love textiles and graphic prints," the designer says.

"It's easy to make them work together if you stay within the color palette and vary the pattern size," she says. "Too many large patterns are overwhelming, but mix a large pattern with smaller prints, and a room looks rich and textured."

The trick to keeping the house looking like it's ready for a photo shoot is colorful bins.



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older chair (everything from a wing back armchair to a midcentury-style rocker) with boldly patterned modern upholstery. The result is a unique piece of functional art.

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