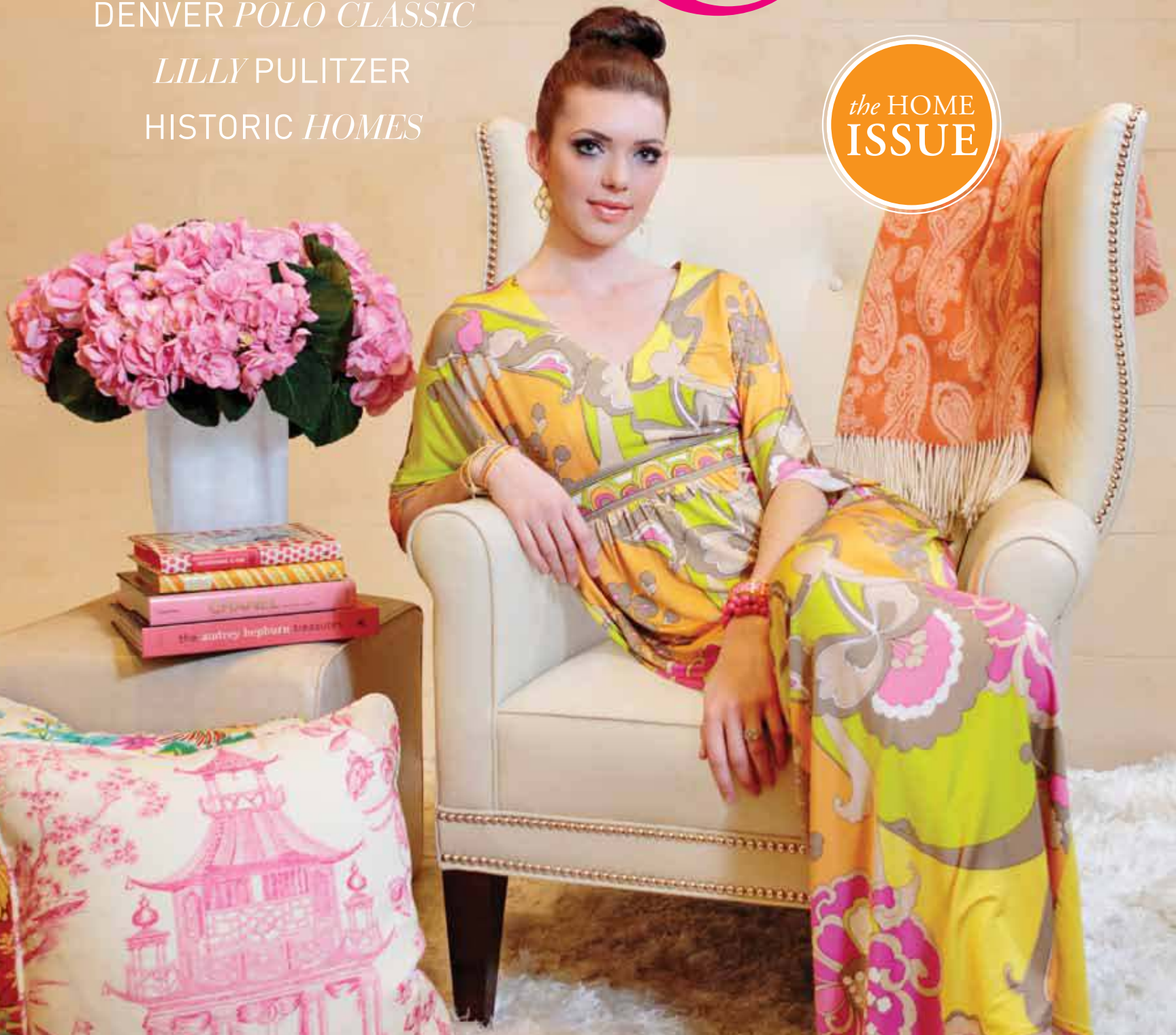


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Bright BEGINNINGS

WHEN A COUPLE PURCHASED THEIR FIRST HOME TOGETHER, NEWBORN BABY IN TOW, THE ADVENTURE HAD ONLY BEGUN. RESCUING A PLATTE PARK ABODE OUT OF FINANCIAL AND STRUCTURAL WOES, THE YOUNG HOMEOWNERS WERE IN FOR A COLORFUL REMODEL, BOTH LITERALLY AND FIGURATIVELY.

By BETSY MARR
Photos by BRANDY DAWSON

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UET DESIGN GROUP'S MIRANDA Cullen and Devon Tobin helped the couple create a preppy-chic space that was warm, inviting, classic and most of all, comfortable. Art lovers at heart, the designers played off the client's collection of original oil paintings – from equestrians to landscapes to architectural works.

"The homeowners loved the traditional, conservative feel but they are also a young family living in a bustling neighborhood. We used their style to create a lot of pattern on pattern – stripes, plaids and prints – that worked together cohesively and eclectically," Cullen says.

Because the home needed significant work, a major renovation from top to bottom was warranted. New finishes were installed throughout both floors, with the design and furnishings focus in the main living spaces. Whimsical touches like distressed red barn doors were installed in the formal dining room, with a black and white toile wallpaper serving as the backdrop.

Wanting to design a space that was very adult while remaining appropriate for a family, the homeowners mixed upholstered pieces in traditional fabrics with more formal furnishings and a smattering of antiques. Soft edge ottomans serve as coffee and occasional tables – perfect as their newborn baby learns to walk.

In the kitchen, a painted blue island added the perfect pop of color to an otherwise very classic space, playing off the painted dining room doors and cream-colored cabinetry.

"Most of all, we wanted the clients to feel that they could grow with the design. This was their first home together, and the home in which they'll raise their children. That was the driving force in everything we did." →



// **Previous page:** Living Room: A traditional living room was complemented by original oil paintings and a leather trunk that served as an eclectic statement piece. Trunk, Classic Home Furnishings; Ottomans, Global Views; Area Rug, Surya; Couch Pillows, Eastern Accents, Schumacher. Kitchen Nook: A simple kitchen nook was adorned with beadboard to evoke a casual, comforting feel. Table, Ballard Designs; Chairs, Hooker Furniture; Wall Covering, Thibaut Ritten House. Family Room: Fun, whimsical accents create a playful, happy family room space. Couches, Precedent; Wall Covering, Phillip Jeffries; Ottomans, Vanguard; Couch Pillows and Fabrics, John Brooks, Provence, Villa Home. Dining Room: Sliding red barn doors added a show stopping element and charming sense of causal comfort to the family's dining room. Dining Table, Orient Express; Wallpaper, Zoffany; Lighting, Arteriors.

This page: Kitchen: Red, white and blue painted wood, coupled with a butcher-block island, created visual interest and a sense of Americana in the home. Cabinets, Tharp; Barstools, Arteriors Home; Lighting, Ourrey & Company. //