



MEET

MEG BRAFF

“MY KIND OF COUNTRY”

The designer, antiques store owner, and author—her new book, *The Decorated Home*, is out now—talks color, collectibles, and more.

You're known for your unapologetic use of color. What are the color rules you live by?

I try to limit myself to one really bold statement per room—like a fuchsia wallcovering or a turquoise sofa. When in doubt, keep it simple.

Do you have a tried-and-true paint shade?

Actually, I rarely use the same color twice! We're always custom-mixing paints to match wallpaper or fabrics—or to go with the location of a house. I'm working on a ranch in Texas now, and the home's palette truly reflects the earthy tones outside. It's such a beautiful setting that we wanted the design to fade into the hills.

Speaking of outdoor settings, what are your backyard must-haves?

Every yard should have a comfortable place to sit and chat over drinks. **Garden Bench (1)**, \$249; grandinroad.com

What's an impulse buy you just can't resist?

I love the tiny gadgets up at the register at hardware stores, like keychain screwdrivers.

Multi-tool Keychain (2), \$4; homedepot.com

Can't miss collectible?

I love lettuceware! I've been building my collection for years. **Cup and Saucer (3)**, \$120 for set of 2; toryburch.com

Besides your shop, Meg Braff Designs, what's your favorite spot for antiquing?

My town, Locust Valley, New York, has wonderful shops such as The Finer Things and Early & Co. I also love buying at auctions because everything has an interesting provenance.

Most recent antiquing score?

One fabulous find was a set of chinoiserie wallpapers that I had remounted. They were sitting in an old box at a sleepy little auction house.

You do seem to love wallpaper.

What's your latest pick?

Oriental Pastorale from our collection; it's a bit exotic and combines chinoiserie, bright color, and treillage. **Patterned Wallpaper (4)**, \$144 per roll; megbraffdesigns.com

It's Saturday. How are you whiling away the afternoon?

Gardening and planting in my yard. **Seed Collection (5)**, \$25; floretdesigns.com and **Floral Gloves**, \$38; shopterrain.com

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