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under the
TEXAN SUN

WHEN IT CAME TO PUTTING
the final touches on her
PICTURE-PERFECT RANCH HOUSE,
citrusy shades and offbeat art were
photographer **Tosca Radigonda's**
FAVORITE FRAMING DEVICES.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY *Timothy Kolk* TEXT BY *Alexa Jablonski*

LINE DRAWING BY NATASHA TIBBOTT

Establish Your Focus

For Tosca Radigonda, selecting a theme for her retro-style kitchen was easy. "I'm crazy about orange!" she says. "It makes me happy." Her go-to hue effectively sets the tone for this room, from the citrus-printed Roman shade to the tangerine espresso maker. The motif peaks in the room's "border," a series of Tosca's pictures of kids eating fruit, hung above the cabinets.

Custom shade, from \$300,

Cush Cush Design, 512-

480-9730. Francis Francis! "X1"

espresso machine kit,

\$800, Myusa.com. "Appelsiini"

tea towel by Marimekko,

\$15, [Textile Arts, txtart.com](http://TextileArts.txtart.com).



Compose, curate, edit The steps that Tosca Radigonda takes to produce memorable shots as a photographer are the same ones she employs to create a memorable home. "My work is simple, clean, and warm, and that definitely carries over into our house," Tosca says of the 1941 ranch that she shares with her husband, Angelo Feliciello, and their son, 11-year-old Milan, in Austin, Texas. Among the shutterbug's favorite credos? Balance a pared-down mix of modern and vintage furniture, play up the mid-century character of the house, and flood every room with natural light.

"810" couch, \$2,575, "Case Study" armchair, \$1,245, and "L-29" side chair, \$705, modernica.net. Similar wall hanging, \$45 per yard, Cush Cush Design, 512-480-9730. Pillow, \$95, jonathanadler.com





Learn to harmonize

Tosca ties everything together—from kitchen to living room to bedroom—with a discerning use of color: In the living room, a pair of orange-chenille wall hangings (left) and an outtake from an ad campaign she shot (over mantel, below), featuring the same fabric used for the Roman shades in her kitchen and laundry room, lend visual unity. The celery-green walls connect the space to Austin's sun-bleached landscape. "When the plantation shutters are open, the paint picks up the color of the vegetation outside," she says.

Try this at home: It's mod made easy—stretch bright fabric taut over a square, store-bought painter's canvas and then staple its edges to the back of the frame.

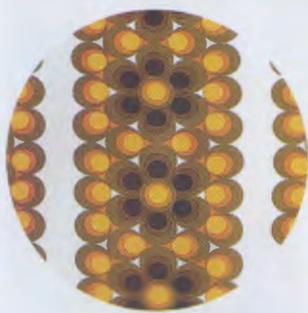
Left: "Arvid" stool, \$650, mossonline.com. Wooden birds by Kristian Vedel, \$79 each, momastore.org. "Glo-Ball T1" table lamp by Jasper Morrison, \$609, dwr.com

< Evoke an Era

"Everyone says I was born 20 years too late," says Tosca, 43, an ardent admirer of all things mid-century. Whether bold (the graphic Mexican tapestry) or subtle (the 1940s blond-wood coffee table), she values the warm, lived-in patina of a secondhand piece.

Try this at home: To make your own dramatic, inexpensive artwork, like the textile at left, hang wide, printed fabric from a wooden quilt hanger (\$41, plainandsimplequilts.com).





Tosca used a piece of patterned vintage fabric from Cush Cush Design (folded into a table runner) to pull together all the colors in the room.

Mix Media

Let someone else dream of a dining room that's coordinated from buffet to butter dish. Tosca prefers to pair a piecemeal collection of cream-colored Eames fiberglass chairs with one in orange leather, and arrange them around a lean, white laminate Parsons table. "I like to be free to choose what I think matches," she says of her atypical set.

Try this at home: Bring artwork down to earth, as Tosca did with her oversize picture of an Italian beach scene. Have a photo lab mount a large print on Gatorfoam board, a stronger version of foam core, and hang it with Velcro tabs.

Custom table, \$2,100, Nieri Design, 512-293-6467. "Case Study" fiberglass chairs, \$239 each, modernica.net. Mounted print, \$100, duggal.com. White "Ripple" vase, \$55, Gardens, 512-451-5490. Similar fabric to runner, \$19 per yard, reprodepot.com



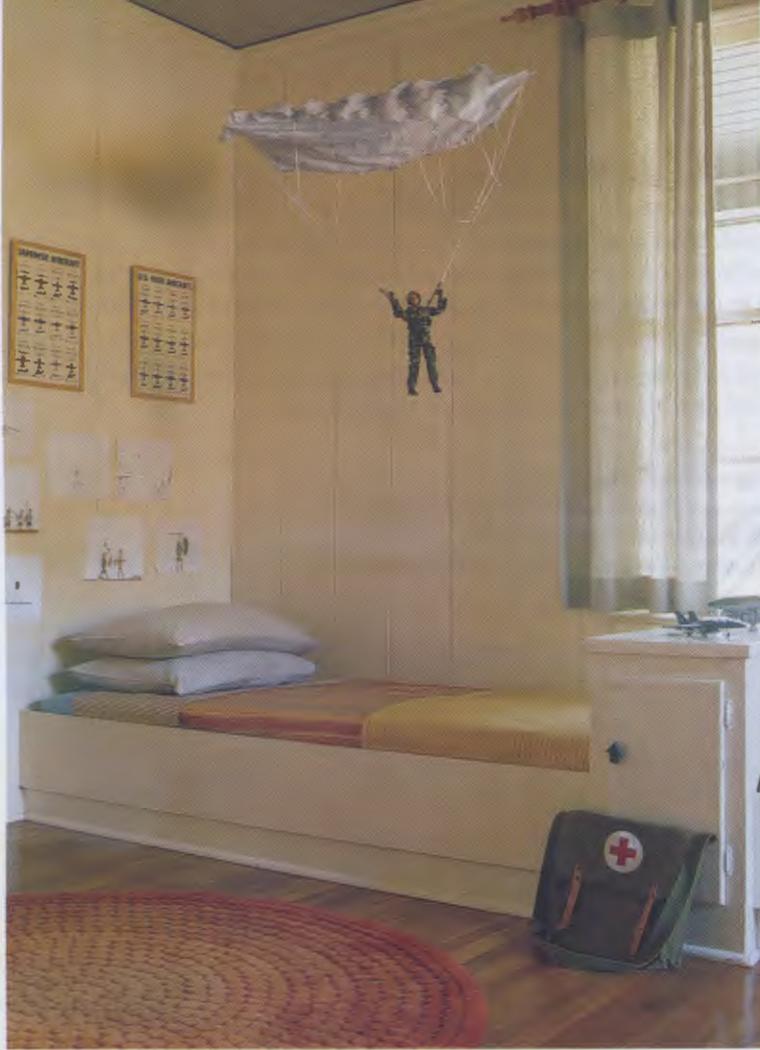
Turn a Mess Into a Masterpiece

After 20 years as a professional photographer, Tosca found her home studio piling up with the Polaroids taken at all her shoots. "I had books and books of them," she says. "They were spilling out of the drawers." Her solution? Convert them into documentary art, taped to the wall and held in place permanently with a Plexiglas overlay.

Try this at home: Pull the snapshots out of that box under your bed and attach them to the wall with acid-free double-stick tape. Piece together sheets of Plexiglas to cover the desired area, then attach with screws at the corners.

Left: Similar stainless-steel table, from \$291, [restaurant-services.com](#). Below: 1/8-inch-thick, 30-by-36-inch Plexiglas sheets, \$13.50 each, [homedepot.com](#) for stores. Similar vintage sofa, from \$1,500, [Antique Marketplace](#), 512-452-1000





Let Kids Be Kids

With a paratrooper plummeting from the ceiling via fishing wire and U.S. Army posters on the wall, it's easy to tell who decorated Milan's room: Milan. A World War II buff since age 6, he uses his vast collection of hand-built model airplanes and soldiers to reenact historic battles, complete with sound effects. (Milan also makes a healthy racket when playing drums in the library, a new hobby that he shares with his dad.)



Top, left: "Rib-knit" cashmere throw (at the foot of the bed), \$268, garnethill.com. Pillowcases by Area, \$79 for two, Wildflower, 512-320-0449. Bottom, left: Rolling storage, \$329, westelm.com

Practice Your Multiplication

"One photo is a photo, but three are a story," Tosca says of a trio of similar-but-different pictures of two-month-old Milan that line the mantel in the couple's bedroom. "Plus, they fit there perfectly." She applies the same theory of multiples when it comes to showing off her stash of vintage purses and handkerchiefs. Her favorites get pride of place on a glossy white shelving unit in the master bedroom—making them sculptural objects in their own right.



CREATED BY PAGE
MARCHESE NORMAN AND
REBECCA ROBERTSON;
HAIR AND MAKEUP BY
LUCY SANTAMASSINO

Go With the Rococo

A king-size bed nook framed by ornate molding dominates the master bedroom. "It reminds me of a hotel in Miami in the '40s," says Tosca, who fell in love with the over-the-top design detail and highlighted it with white paint. To act as counterpoint to its curves, she added angular side tables and a vinyl headboard and bench.

Custom vinyl headboard, **\$2,000**, and bench, **\$800**,

Cush Cush Design, 512-480-9730. Custom floating side

tables, **\$900** each, Nieri

Design, 512-293-6467. Pillow-

cases by Area, **\$79** to

\$83 for two, Wildflower, 512-

320-0449. Stitch blanket

(folded on bed), **\$195**, Layla,

718-222-1933. Elin parchment

coverlet (on bed), **\$240**, area

home.com for stores