

Better
Homes
and Gardens®

SPECIAL INTEREST PUBLICATIONS

BEDROOM & bath™

Fall 2003
Display until September 9

8 stunning
suites
DRESSED TO IMPRESS

pamper yourself
baths that soothe

glamour!
FAB FINDS TO SPLURGE ON

\$4.99 U.S.



www.bhg.com
AOL Keyword: BHG

a punch



of color

A bold palette sparkles in this contemporary San Francisco master suite.



Opposite: The existing stone fireplace and mantel were removed and replaced with a stainless-steel surround and tile mosaic. Chairs are upholstered in a striped fabric that plays up the colors in the bedroom.

This page: "The furniture appears contemporary but has classical roots," interior designer Kathleen Navarra says. The love seat's curved arms add roundness to the room's strong geometric feel.

"At night, it just glows," Navarra says of the master bedroom's color palette. Flocked velvet draperies in pink and brown hang here and in the bay window. A wool cover and pillows cozy up the bed.





Using color does not frighten interior designer Kathleen Navarra. If she were scared of it, the master bedroom of the San Francisco Decorator Showcase would not be saturated with blocks of juicy pink and rich brown.

"My goal was to show that you can use color in a way that may on the outside seem very bright and jarring, and have it be incredibly soothing and warm," Navarra says.

Inspired by artist Mark Rothko's color-drenched abstract paintings—one in particular with a pink tone jumped out at Navarra as she was flipping through a book—she found an embossed velvet fabric in browns, pinks, and reds that served as her starting point for the room's decor.

She had the bedroom walls painted watermelon with a brown glaze. In some light, she says, the wall color looks almost raspberry, which also is consistent with Rothko's work.

"Generally, in his paintings, he started out with a bright color and then put darker-shaded tones over it. And that's the premise of what a glaze does. It's basically a dark overcoat that's used to give a wall texture, and it causes the color to look different," Navarra says.

The bright, modern color scheme has an added benefit in this large 18×25-foot room: It makes the space feel cozier. Navarra says it's a misnomer that only dark colors look at home in a big space. "In this room, [the light color] certainly helps; it really pulls in the scale and makes [the room] feel very, very warm," she says.

An irregular layout and the sheer volume of space in the bedroom posed the biggest design challenges. Navarra solved those obstacles several ways. First, she placed a 7-foot-long wood book table under the window next to the bed to balance an asymmetrical wall. Because an adjoining dressing room meant she could do away with traditional dressers, she created two cozy seating areas—one in front of the fireplace and the other under a bay window.

Finding the right mix of furniture—and the right scale—also was critical. But in a big room, "big isn't always the answer," Navarra says. "You can create little areas using little pieces. They're taking up volume in the room."

The love seat by the bay window, for example, is only 6 feet long. And though the striped chairs in front of the fireplace are not tiny, they're not oversize, either. Navarra balanced them with a turned-oak coffee table inspired by old spools and made by a local furniture designer.

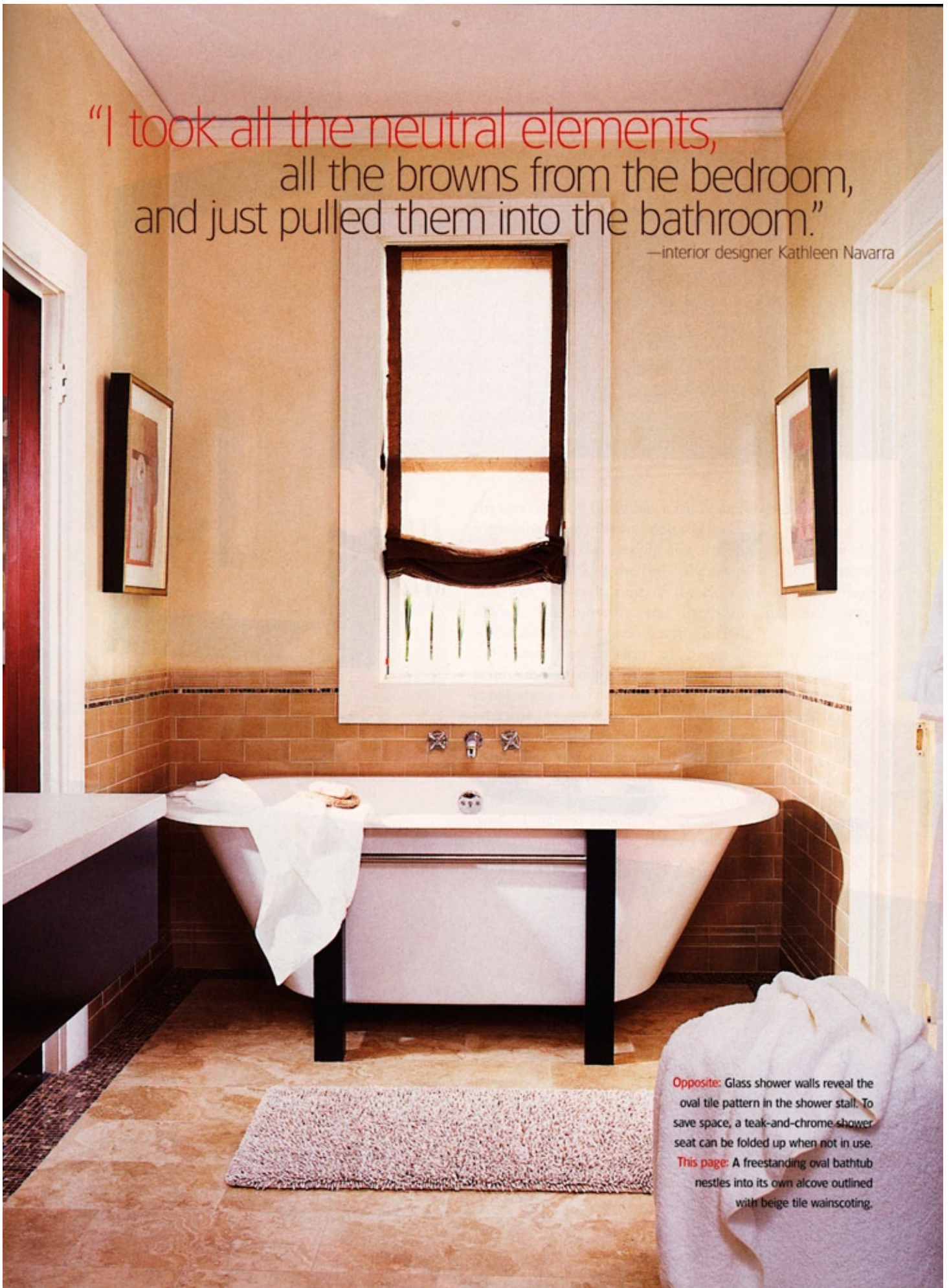
The spool-shape table adds curves to a room filled with angles. Richly patterned fabrics and a carved ripple design in the headboard add curves as well.

She chose the octagon-shape mirror because she "wanted the mirror to reflect all the hard edges but feel like a circle," >



"I took all the neutral elements,
all the browns from the bedroom,
and just pulled them into the bathroom."

—interior designer Kathleen Navarra



Opposite: Glass shower walls reveal the oval tile pattern in the shower stall. To save space, a teak-and-chrome shower seat can be folded up when not in use.

This page: A freestanding oval bathtub nestles into its own alcove outlined with beige tile wainscoting.



a colorful life

Interior designer Kathleen Navarra chose a bold palette for the bedroom in the San Francisco Decorator Showcase. She is currently working on other rooms that feature fun color combos and offers these color suggestions for you to try. ■ Green, lavender, and coral. "There's a feeling it's enveloping you," Navarra says. "And the eye is drawn to the bright punches of color." ■ Orange, blue, and yellow in saturated rather than primary tones. This combination is bright and cheerful. Try it in a child's room. "At night, it's warm. It almost glows," she says. ■ Delft blue, taupe, and cream. "It's soothing," Navarra says.

she says. "And on the inside, it has beautiful gold trim. It is an interesting piece without being too much."

Navarra says the sleeping area is her favorite part of the room. "I really love the bed," she says. "We did a custom bedcover. We took some of the elements from the drape behind, the butterfly and dragonfly, and had them embroidered on the bedcover. It is inviting."

Navarra steered clear of brights in the adjoining bathroom—choosing white, cream, beige, and brown—for practical reasons. "I thought for as large as the bathroom is, I preferred to keep it neutral," she says. "I took all the neutral elements, all the browns from the bedroom, and just pulled them into the bathroom. You can easily paint, easily accessorize with color. Bathrooms [fixtures] are expensive."


But her goal was still to make it a modern space with a twist. "I wanted people to walk into a room with a very contemporary edge to it," she says of the bath.

Using 3×6-inch brick tiles popular in the early 1900s, Navarra had beige wainscoting laid in the bathing areas. A marble vanity countertop, retro-style polished nickel fixtures, and an iridescent Roman shade will never go out of style. The new oval bathtub looks vintage and modern at the same time.

Perhaps the most striking aspect of the bathroom is the custom-color tile mosaic in the shower stall. "I love the oval shape" of the new pattern, Navarra says. "It is something that feels more curvaceous."

But her favorite part of the room is the contemporary vanity—and the surprise behind the regular wall mirrors. "Most people, unless they see the hinges, don't realize they are medicine cabinets," Navarra says. "They add a lot to the room in terms of practical storage but look really pretty." ●

Resources on page 88



Hand-carved mahogany mirror frames with a nutmeg finish hide medicine cabinets and are a striking contrast to the white marble countertop.