a result, a color-washed mottled blue rug spans the family room's oak floor, while a custom sectional— cleverly upholstered in three complementary blue-toned velvets— anchors the space with a low, modern form. Like a seasoned chef, Rocke skillfully added spice, tossing in joyous hues with pillows, throws, chairs, art and accents.

Despite the assortment of exuberant colors, textures and patterns, the combined effect reads as inviting and at ease. "You don't need someone to hold your hand in this space. The liveliness is really comforting," Rocke explains. Of course, she admits it's not for everyone. "You couldn't put a quiet, unexpressive person in this room. It wouldn't be a fit."

## WALLPAPER

"To make a space really good, you have to turn the dial past perfect," Rocke says. "That's what this wallpaper does." Nora preferred working in stages to create this room's décor, and the wallpaper was the final step to completion. Rocke proposed a big, adventurous graphic by Black Crows Studio, custom printed in gray and a white that matches the ceiling's White Dove paint by Benjamin Moore. She reminded her clients that it is only wallpaper. "If you hate it, we can take it down." But Nora, who dislikes small, repetitive patterns, naturally loved the choice. "It is so out of the box," she says.

## BALANCE

"Asymmetry is dynamic and has more energy, but it is kind of a sharp blade," Rocke says. "You have to be conscientious of keeping it in check." To deliver a sense of comfort to a room defined by asymmetry, she created overall balance. She equalized the visual weight of the fireplace wall with the large, elongated sectional sitting across from it. Similarly, she countered the run of windows with a pair of matching swivel chairs that mirror the windows' symmetry. Finally, she positioned statements of color throughout the space to create carefully choreographed rhythm. "They let the eye travel and not get stuck in any one spot," Rocke says. "In the end, this is a lively, get-up-and-dance kind of space and suits the Petersons perfectly." ■



# MIX MASTER

Artist Rob Mellor's exuberant paintings deliver a 1-2-3 punch of color, pattern and composition.

**BY** MEGAN BARTHOLOMEW

Few things have the power to make this family room's bold wallpaper appear neutral, but artist Rob Mellor's canvases entitled *Oracle* and *Tumbled Under* certainly do. Inspired by Mellor's childhood love of comic books, a lifetime of studying contemporary artists and the everyday juxtapositions he spots, these and the artist's other abstract paintings captivate with three key constants.

## PATTERN

Pattern is a key ingredient in Mellor's works. Nearly all of his eye-catching paintings begin with designs drawn from high-fashion fabric scraps, which he arranges, photographs and manipulates digitally to perfection before transforming the image with color and bold, brush-stroke compositions. "Pattern for me equals unlimited potential. Every time you tweak it, you can regenerate something entirely new that gives a work a new direction," he says.

## COMPOSITION

Mellor enlists his "maddening visual awareness" to bring everyday juxtaposition of objects to his art. Sometimes those inspirations manifest in the digital phase, some are expressed in the physical act of painting. This layering of divergences culminates in the final works: pieces that Mellor describes as "visual occurrences" rather than as any set painting style. Each occurrence features stark contrasts, as well as sweeping strokes to remind the viewer of the fluid nature of the paint.

## COLOR

If Mellor's married forms and patterns are the mortar of his art, color is his wrecking ball. Splashes of coral intentionally disrupt the composition of Mellor's pieces displayed in the Peterson's living room, leaving viewers scratching their heads over the discordant decision. "I think that's a sign of a successfully interesting painting," he explains. *robertmellor.art; @rob_m_art*

# To the

“This is such a happy, personalized house,” says designer Kristin Rocke, describing the Peterson’s completely overhauled and enlarged 1929 Tudor-style home located in Salt Lake. The vibrant family room was an addition and opens to new dining and kitchen areas. Architectural design by Lloyd Architects; built by Evergreene Construction.

# MAX

Designer Kristin Rocke knows how to make a splash. While others are dipping their toes in the pool of maximalism, she dives right in. Case in point: Nora and Ryan Peterson's new family room in Salt Lake City.

**BY** BRAD MEE **PHOTOS BY** SCOT ZIMMERMAN

Close your eyes and envision the typical Utah family room. You're picturing wood, white walls and maybe stone? A beefy fireplace shouldering a mantle with a big-screen TV above? Perhaps a leather sofa, a boxy coffee table and a ho-hum rug under it all? Frankly, who can remember? And that's the point, according to interior designer Kristin Rocke. "Our rooms should be memorable; they should reflect our personal styles." Her clients Nora and Ryan Peterson agree. So when they decorated their modestly sized family room—part of the redesign and rebuild of their 1929 house—they wanted something unique and as colorful as their active family. Rocke delivered that, and more.

"The room is lively and exuberant, just like the Petersons," says Rocke, who conjured a spirited space filled with gutsy colors, patterns and an innovative fusion of materials—her take on maximalism. "This design is abundant, which is great because maximalism works really well in small spaces," she says. "It is easier to control in a confined area rather than in a house of huge, open rooms."

But how do you pack so much design into a compact space? "Look at it overall and it reads like a big mashup, but it is actually really cohesive," Rocke explains. Look at each separate part, she suggests. "It's not simply more is more. It's really good more, all carefully considered." Madcap? No way. "That sounds delirious. This is too studied and edited." And most importantly, it's all about the Petersons. "It's authentic to the owners and the house. It's their signature style, and I was so fortunate to work with them and bring it to life." Here's how she pulled it off.

## FIREPLACE

The family room opens to the dining and kitchen areas and is framed in by three walls: a window wall, an art wall and a fireplace wall. The latter required a bold overhaul. "It was a bare, new-construction fireplace simply faced with drywall," Rocke recalls. She reconfigured it into a decidedly asymmetrical feature wall packed with

Sliding walnut panels hide a TV above the raised firebox surrounded by metallic, dimensional tile. Open shelves and cubbies of black rift-sawn oak hold games, books, family photos and an easy-to-access storage basket.









savvy storage, dynamic display space and memorable materials. To maximize storage options, Rocke positioned the raised firebox off-center and above, she created a large TV compartment hidden behind sliding walnut panels. "TVs suck the energy out of a room, so I needed ours to disappear," Nora says. Rocke loaded the space to the right of the firebox with storage and display space that includes open, adjustable shelves and deep cubbies—each crafted from black rift-sawn oak set into the surrounding walnut. "The contrast breaks up the boxes and segments the built-ins," she explains. Dimensional, metallic-glazed tiles surround the firebox with eye-catching texture and pattern.

## COLOR

Nora's love for blue-greens inspired the palette of blue tones Rocke used to ground the family room and serve as a common thread tying interior spaces together. Then she crafted a kaleidoscope of vibrant accents. "I'm a florist and I love color, but I was shunning it for something neutral," Nora recalls. "Kristin called me out on that. She said 'This is you' and gave me permission to embrace it." As

**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** Homeowner Nora Peterson (left) with designer Kristin Rocke.

Select accessories—including an acrylic tray and pink glasses from Glass House—add pops of color to the room.

Vibrant pillows nestle in the corner of a sectional upholstered in three shades of velvet from Vanguard. "They are performance fabrics and can actually be wiped off with a wet cloth," Rocke says.

Two paintings by artist Rob Mellor create a compelling focal point atop custom-colored wallpaper by Black Crows Studio.

An imaginative mix of furnishings infuses the space with arresting forms and family-friendly functionality. Bernhardt swivel chairs are dressed in Roma fabric; geometric cocktail tables are by Noir and the table lamp is from Visual Comfort; all available through K. Rocke Design.

# FULL THROTTLE Bold design elements that rouse the room



**THOM FILICIA HOME PERFORMANCE VELVETS** by Vanguard



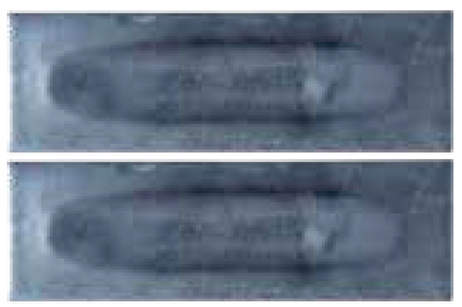
**CUSTOMIZED WALLPAPER** by Black Crows Studio



**WOOL AND SILK HAND-KNOTTED RUG** by Jaipur



**CUSTOM PILLOW FABRICS** by Donghia and Kravet



**DIMENSIONAL CERAMIC TILE** from Daltile