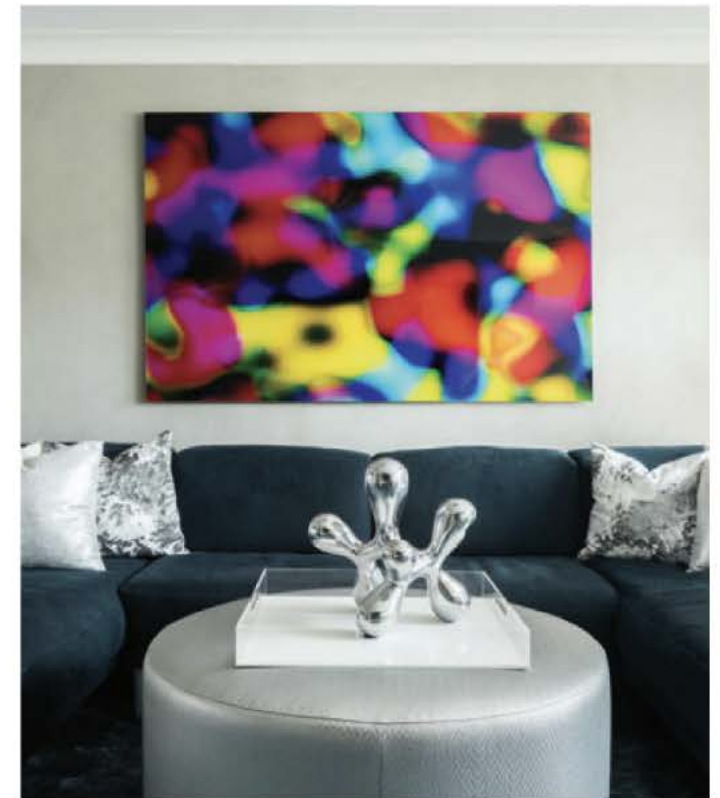




# DOPAMINE DESIGN: SPACES THAT LIGHT US UP

Imagine stepping into a space that immediately relaxes you, lifts your mood, and sparks a sense of joy within you. While a minimalist, neutral and modern aesthetic has been a staple in home design for the last decade, the pendulum has swung, and color, pattern and texture are back. We spoke with three designers known for their vibrant designs to learn the secrets of creating spaces in our homes that trigger the “dopamine response”—the same effect we get from the “feel-good hormone,” dopamine

Story by Danielle Porter





**K**nown for an eclectic and creative vibe that permeates its designs, Antonio Pippo Interiors is no stranger to taking risks with color, graphics and texture in its spaces. Founder and Principal Owner Antonio Pippo is inspired by the blank canvas of space—the opportunity to create something special—and he and his team certainly deliver.

For Antonio, what is the unexpected, underlying element that influences how well space is received? The layout. Antonio is a big believer in function over form. It is key that a space functions properly, has seating for everyone, and provides a variety of settings, particularly more intimate settings in open concept homes. These elements kickstart the good vibes and, from there, joy and vibrancy are layered into the space, uniquely inspired by each client.

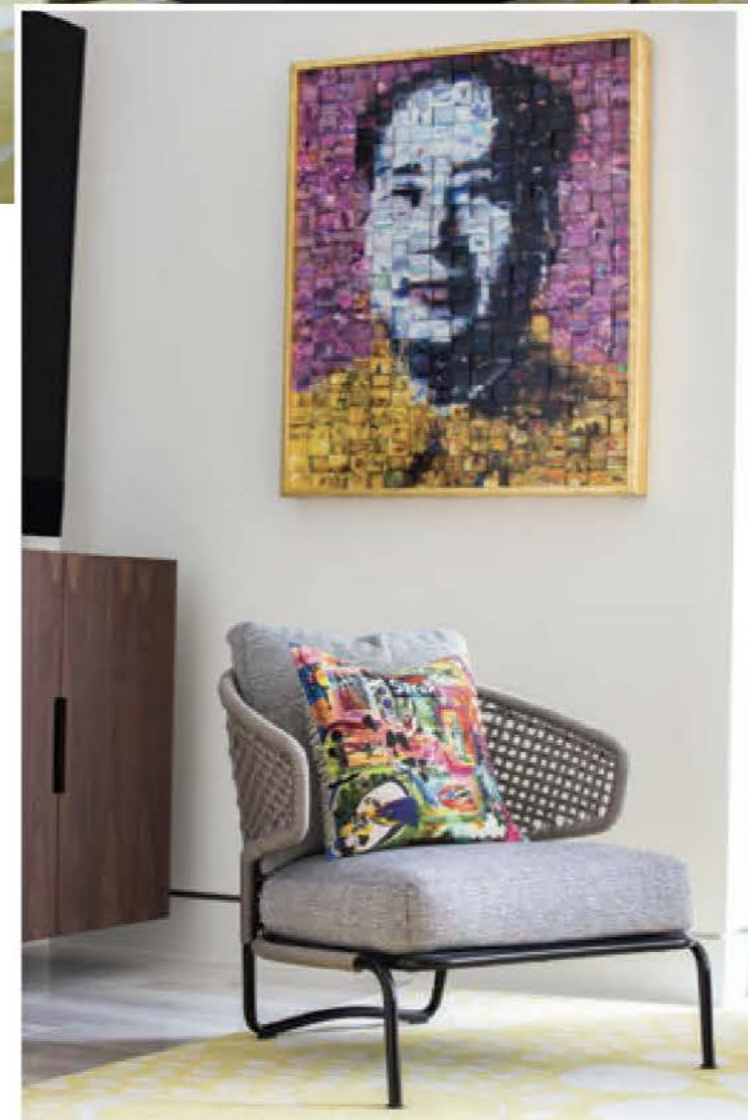
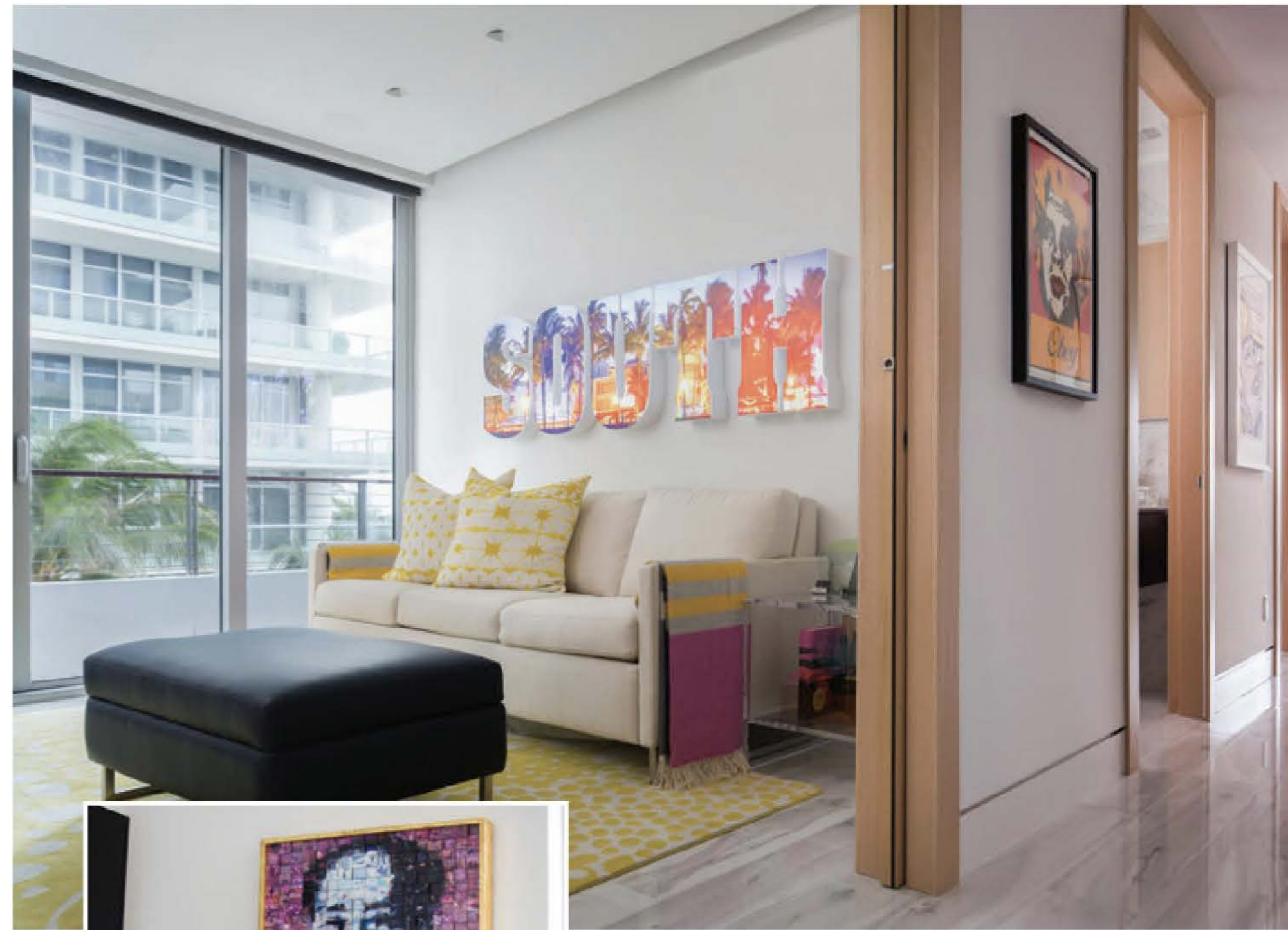


In the Miami home of a longtime client, inspiration came from an unexpected place—a pair of soft cranberry-colored, vineyard vines shorts. Using this, Antonio transformed the home with color and character, perfectly representing this preppy, creative aesthetic. The overall space has a crisp white hue throughout, and each space was given a color to set the tone for that room. The result is a holistic and joyful experience that delights at every turn, and is further adorned by the couple's expansive art collection.

The connected dining and living room spaces are tied together through beautiful shades of blue.

In the dining space, a custom Bocci handblown glass chandelier brings in shades of tropical blues while anchoring the dining table, and is perfectly balanced in the living room through the upholstery and unique glass coffee table.

The media room has a confident, signature yellow. The patterned area rug brings depth, while the gas station-inspired wall sign evokes the vivacious South Beach lifestyle. Also notable, the citrus-toned guest



room is bright, welcoming and perfectly balanced with wood tones and natural daylight—the epitome of happy.

More than anything, says Antonio, if you're looking to bring a sense of happiness to your home, "Go with your gut instinct—if it feels wrong, don't do it." He's not a fan of following every trend. Trends can be implemented here and there if you like them and they feel good in your space. Ultimately, however, space that is classic and timeless, and features pieces you can change out along with your own personal evolution, will make a space last and bring you joy for years to come.

Resource:

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# STEPHANIE RAPP

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PHOTOS BY JANE BEILES AND RAQUEL LANGWORTHY



**F**or Stephanie Rapp, owner and principal designer at Stephanie Rapp Interiors (SRI), “light and bright” may often be the mantra for designing happy spaces, but she believes it’s the elements that “stop us in our tracks and engage the brain” that really trigger the dopamine effect.

Much as one cannot see light without darkness, Stephanie finds that color is most effective when it is a contrasting moment or “pop” in a space. Whimsical patterns and artwork have a special place in her designs. She says they’re “inspiring and make us smile”—particularly in children’s spaces where they can add an element of fun.

What Stephanie really loves are the elements we don’t expect to see in a space—something quirky, exciting or different. A particular signature approach of SRI is a brilliant fearlessness when it comes to wallcovering. In a playroom for a long-time client, the wallcovering simply repeats, “p.s. I love you,” in a handwritten font, over and over. From a distance, it reads as pattern, but as you approach, the



message becomes clear, and it's one that melts the heart no matter your age.

In a young boy's bedroom, the space is fairly neutral—gray and white with a warm, wood-tone floor. The impact, however, is in the accents. The feature wall is clad with a deep charcoal wallcovering that has an almost storm cloud texture and bold yellow lightning bolts throughout. It's simple, yet exciting, and is perfectly complemented by the charcoal-and-yellow area rug. Soft accents of yellow and orange adorn the room, tying it all together.

The result here is a playful and youthful space that can evolve and grow with ease over time, sparking joy at a variety of stages of life. Stephanie reveals that, for her, a happy space has "that special

something that sets it apart—that feeling of seeing something you love when you walk into a room, and you can't help but smile." Unquestionably, her designs deliver.

*Resource:*

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MELANGE

# Trendspotting: Off to the Market

High Point Market, NC, is a biannual show that industry innovators and insiders flock to with great anticipation. New collections are debuted at the show—just like at runway fashion shows in New York, Paris and Milan.

Here we present two acclaimed design firms, Rinfret Interiors and Moose Interior Design, and their finds from Fall Market 2023.

**CINDY RINFRET**  
RINFRETLTD.COM



*Daysky Console from Century Furniture*

“THIS CLASSIC ENTRY CONSOLE BY CENTURY WILL ALWAYS BE APPROPRIATE IN EITHER A CLASSIC OR MODERN SETTING.”



*Collectable Books by E. Lawrence LTD.*

“CHIC BOOKS SPINES ARE SURE TO LIVEN UP A BORING BOOK.”



*Tommy Fisher "Orchids in Tree" Wall Relief*

“TOMMY MITCHEL WALL RELIEFS - THESE MAKE FOR AN ELEGANT TALKING POINT IN ANY ROOM. THEY DO CUSTOM ANYTHING IN ANY AREA. WE JUST DID ONE IN A SPA!”

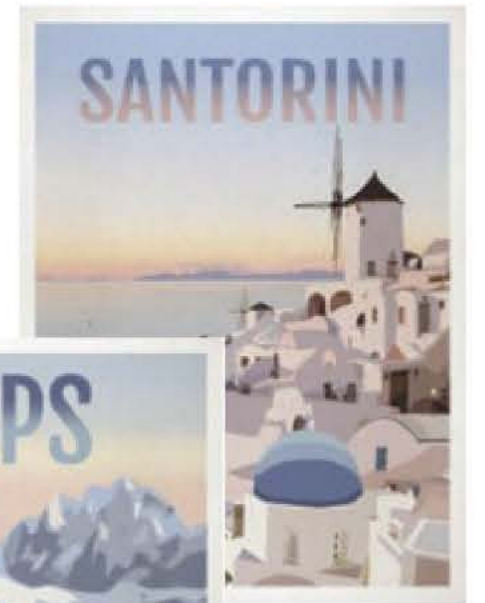
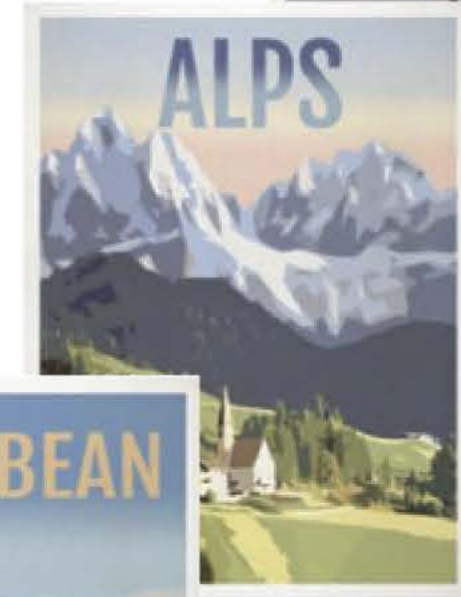
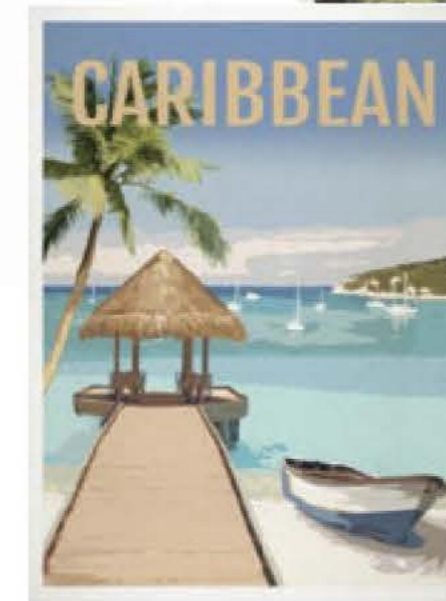
“INSTANT POOL CABANA! NO NEED FOR AN UMBRELLA WHEN YOU HAVE YOUR OWN SHADED HIDEAWAY.”

*Sky Cabana from Couture Jardin*



*The Porter Mirror from Regina Andrew*

“THIS CLASSIC NAUTICAL MIRROR FROM REGINA ANDREW HAS THAT NANTUCKET LOOK THAT I LOVE.”



*Travel Art from Art Classics*

“ART WITH A FUN TRAVEL VIBE, GREAT FOR FAMILY ROOM OR POWDER ROOM.”



*The Fisher Weisman Sutton Collection from Visual Comfort*

“FISHER WEISMAN FOR VISUAL COMFORT LIGHTS AND SCONCES. IT'S LIKE ART DECO JEWELRY FOR YOUR LIGHTING NEEDS.”



# KATHERINE COWLEY

MOOSEINTERIORDESIGNS.COM

"NATURAL STONE WITHIN FURNITURE LIKE COFFEE TABLE AND NIGHTSTANDS - THIS WAS MY ABSOLUTE FAVORITE TREND TO SEE. I ALWAYS LOVE TO TRY AND USE NATURAL TONES WHEN FURNISHING A HOME. THE ITEMS FROM BAKER FURNITURE WERE BREATHTAKING. I FEEL THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT EARTHTONES THAT EVOKE A CALMING ATMOSPHERE. SHOWN HERE: COVE COCKTAIL TABLE SMALL AND LARGE, BAJA NIGHTSTAND AND MONACO NIGHTSTAND, ALL FROM BAKER FURNITURE."



*The Baja Nightstand from Baker Furniture*



*The Monaco Nightstand from Baker Furniture*



*The Cove Cocktail Table from Baker Furniture*

"THE COLOR GREEN! IT WAS REFRESHING TO SEE AN ACCENT COLOR THAT WAS NOT BLUE, BROWN OR OFF-WHITE. ALTHOUGH I LOVE THOSE COLORS, IT WAS NICE TO SEE THAT GREEN IS FINALLY GETTING SOME LOVE. IT COULD BE USED TO CREATE A MOODY ROOM BY DRAMATIC PAINT COLOR, OR BE USED AS A POP OF COLOR WITHIN THE SOFA OR THROW. SHOWN HERE IS THE SLOAN SOFA FROM VERELLEN."



*The Sloan sofa from Verellen*

"PLASTERED/TEXTURED LAMPS AND ARTWORK - I HAVE SEEN PLASTER AND TEXTURE BEING USED A LOT FOR A WHILE NOW, AND I THINK IT IS SAFE TO SAY IT IS STAYING. THIS IS A DESIGN TREND I LOVE TO SEE EACH YEAR AT THE MARKET. SHOWN HERE ARE TABLE AND FLOOR LAMPS JILLIAN, ALANIS AND ADRIANA, ALL FROM ARTERIORS HOME. HADWIN ARTWORK FROM MADE GOODS."



*The Adriana floor lamp from Arteriors*



*The Jillian lamp from Arteriors*



*The Alanis lamp from Arteriors*



*Hadwin artwork from Made Goods*