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TRADITIONAL HOME

SHOWHOUSES

Orange Crush

IN CITRUS, SALMON, OR TOASTY LIKE AUTUMN LEAVES, ORANGE TURNS HEADS

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Every designer has a "someday" pile. A basket, bin, or tackboard packed with ideas, swatches, and color palettes intended for eventual execution. Case in point—an orange-and-gray chinoiserie toile that lived in Kelley Proxmire's collection of favorite samples. With a ballroom void of any interesting features on her plate, the designer knew a lively pattern in an unexpected color would fill the grand space with personality.

"The room did have arched windows on three sides," says Proxmire. "Its large proportions reminded me of Versailles and evoked a grandness that I wanted to emphasize."

The toile made its key appearance in the center of the room as a skirt on a large, round table. But then it tapered off, allowing a team of coordinates their own time to shine. In the

seating area in a window bay, walls are covered by orange grass cloth. Traditional slipper chairs flanking a tufted sofa stylishly sport circles in orange and white. A loose interpretation of a chevron pattern adds more orange on toss pillows.

The color gray may not offer the same oomph, but it takes no backseat in fashion. A loveseat anchors a second seating group where the sofa's gray upholstery is balanced by checks that edge soaring drapery panels. The X-based benches that Proxmire discovered at a discount store got a handsome, high-style face-lift: The inexpensive pieces were painted white, then covered with a playful gray-and-white animal print. ■

Produced by Eileen A. Deymier

Photography by Gordon Beall

For more information on showhouse rooms, see sources on page 122