

Pretty in Pink

A young woman's passion for color and travel inspires a stylish apartment where pinks, blues, and bronzes look more glamorous than ever.

BY SHARON OVERTON | PHOTOS MICHAEL PARTENIO
PRODUCED BY STACY KUNSTEL

Turquoise accessories are a cool counterpoint to bright pink and orange in this Boston apartment. The new leather chairs mimic midcentury designs.



Designer Michele Kolb's projects include five-star resorts, luxury boutiques, and Park Avenue apartments. But when the daughter of former clients asked for help with her modest two-bedroom Boston condo, Kolb was delighted. "It was her first real, serious apartment," Kolb says.

"She had very clear ideas on how she wanted to live. She definitely wanted a sense of color, and she wanted the space to be spirited and younger in its feel."

By combining midcentury-style furniture with fresh color and a touch of glam, Kolb created a space that is unmistakably feminine—though not overly girly—and designed to grow with her young client's evolving tastes. Exotic accents, such as carved African drum tables and fur-covered ottomans, reflect the young woman's love of foreign cultures.

An étagère in a hammered bronze finish is tall enough to stand up to the room's soaring ceiling but still looks light. Designer Michele Kolb favors bronze over silver or chrome because it's "a little more on the historical side."



“We didn’t want the dining area to feel too formal,” Kolb says. Natural elements such as a tabletop made from an irregular slab of wood contrast with the glamorous glass chandelier.

(She works for her family's international travel business.) She also enjoys entertaining, so Kolb included plenty of places for guests to perch.

Pink features prominently in the space, but Kolb's other color choices keep it from becoming cloying. In the living room, bright salmon-color pillows are balanced by lots of cool turquoise, burnished bronze, and neutral-color furniture. The wall behind the bed is a blushy pink metallic paint, but the other walls, headboard, and drapery panels carry only the palest hint. A gray lotus-pattern bedspread and herringbone tweed chair cut the femininity of all the pink.

Kolb substituted new modern furnishings for pricier midcentury originals. She even prowled thrift stores to find the perfect little turquoise bowl or vase. "I come from the school of thought that says it doesn't have to cost an enormous amount to reflect style and taste," she says.



This photo: Shades of palest pink look sophisticated when paired with warm neutrals such as the cerused oak desk, this photo. A capiz shell chandelier and silver embroidery on a salmon-pink pillow, above right, add glamour.



INNOVATION

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