

on color

One of fall's most vibrant hues moves indoors.

Interior designer Suzanne Kasler loves using strong accent colors when she designs a room, but she's "not typically into orange." Then she found an antique French chair upholstered in orange leather and it was love at first sight—and Kasler found herself designing a room around it. "It has that look of timeless elegance that you see a lot in European design," she explains. "Think Hermès boxes, Louis Vuitton scarves. In treating it as a classic color, it can almost blend in." Of course, she adds, "there's a way to use color that you can get the most impact from it; it has to be an integral part of the design." Below, Kasler shares her tips on decorating with orange at home.

—TRAVIS NEIGHBOR WARD



DESIGNER'S BOARD Above: Suzanne Kasler's choice of 14 fabrics, wallcoverings and home accents that show orange at its best. See our Resources guide at the back of the magazine for details on where to buy them locally, as well as the items in the photograph below.

the juice on orange

Use it sparingly. In interiors, Suzanne Kasler says, orange works best as a focal point or an accent piece. "It's an exciting color, it can really bring up a room. But I wouldn't use it to do an entire room—or in a calm room, like a bedroom. A very little of it goes a long way."

Choose the right background color. "If you use white, choose one that has some depth to it," she advises. "That will make the orange more classic and sophisticated. Bright white and orange is more fun—but also more trendy. It can get dated quickly, and you can easily get tired of it."

In the room shown here, Kasler chose Benjamin Moore's Misty Air (OC44) for the walls and trim, giving it an all-paneled look. "I love to do the background of a room in one strong, neutral color. It strengthens the architecture and whatever you put

into it looks great."

Consider Texture. It's all about how color and texture interact to create a whole feeling, Kasler notes. "Having a big feature piece in orange leather rather than orange fabric is entirely different."

Dress it up—and down. "In general, I like to have a mix of casual elegance, and I like things not to look too decorated," Kasler says. In the room she designed here, the orange is softened by the chair frame's "crusty white gesso," the Louis Vuitton scarf draped over the arm, the limestone planter and the sepia toned etching. But, she also added a John Rossellini mirror with antique glass, matte gold wall sconces and an antique gilded console with a marble top. "It's casual and dressy. Cashmere and leather. Branches and roses. They all go together well." ■



PHOTOGRAPH BY JESSICA KAY; DESIGNER'S BOARD BY SUZANNE KASLER