

HOMESCAPE

Ideas for interior design & decorating

STAR ATTRACTIONS

Featuring Paul Ippolito of Metropolitan Window Fashions

In this Mahwah living room, the homeowners have highlighted two paintings by a favorite Russian artist. They have centered the sofa right underneath, added white moldings to further frame the artworks, and kept the window treatments to either side classic and simple.

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In front, she "floated" a collage sofa in a mix of solid camel upholstery and Old World tapestry. A table behind the sofa holds two tall candlestick-style lamps with amber shades

and a row of amber votive candleholders.

A window in another wall showcases a medium-sized coat-of-arms panel by Bosland that blends soft green and amethyst hues — forming the room's secondary focal point. Beneath it, Florio centered an antique reproduction gaming table that displays an amber chess set.

"I took elements from the stained glass and distributed them throughout the room in the accessories," Florio said. "The colors come straight from the galleon window. The leaded diamond pattern of the coat-of-arms panel repeats in the votives and the carpeting."

The theme continues in the Tiffany-style shades of the room's ceiling fixture

and lantern floor lamp. Even the sage silk window treatments, by Curtains Plus of North Haledon, are trimmed with amber glass beads. Florio deliberately kept the draperies short and simple to avoid upstaging the window panels.

The rest of the furniture has an antique but sturdy look. There is an armchair that mixes brown leather and chenille, and two large ottomans covered in an antique map tapestry that ties in cleverly with the seafaring concept. A glass-topped coffee table with a wrought-iron base is accessorized with a trio of medieval-looking candlesticks.

Even with all of these rich elements, the visitor's eye goes straight to Bosland's handcrafted pieces, just as his daughter intended. "I couldn't have done this without Elizabeth," Bonnie said. "I give her credit for pulling everything together."

DISTINCTIVE DRAPERIES

Paul Ippolito of Metropolitan Window Fashions, Paramus, used window treatments to help establish focal points in two rooms of a Mahwah home.

A bay window with a sweeping view of the lawn and street clearly dominates the dining room. Later in the day, though, the light from the Western exposure can become too intense, and in the evening the homeowners want some privacy.

Ippolito framed the trio of windows in beige silk damask panels and ornate Kingston valances, both edged in rust and sage-green tassels, in keeping with the room's upscale, European mood. "The draperies are extremely formal



because the room can take it and the homeowners entertain often," he said. "I added traveling sheers for softness and privacy. When you want to look at the mountains, the sheers retract." He also coated the windows with Madico protective film, to safeguard the furnishings and artworks.

The rose-red walls contrast nicely with the draperies and pick up floral elements in the damask upholstery of the chairs, from Safavieh. A handsome E.J. Victor sideboard, with a mirror above it and small artworks to either side, forms a second point of interest for the room.

The homeowners collect contemporary Eastern European artworks, particularly evident in the living room. Two paintings by the Russian expressionist Lavrov, further framed by white moldings, create a strong focal point over the floral sofa. Not wanting to block the view or detract from the artworks, Ippolito chose subdued swags for the narrow Palladian windows.

ALTERNATING FOCAL POINTS

In the family room of the Gilliam home in Old Tappan, the focus changes depending on the season and time of day.

As you enter from the front hallway, facing sofas direct your gaze straight to the fireplace. A traditional white mantel and surround, contrasting with the camel walls and reaching almost to the ceiling, emphasize its importance. So do the tall windows to either side, draped with symmetrical,

silk plaid swags from the New Jersey Decorating Exchange. During the colder months, and especially at night when the fire is lit, the hearth becomes the center of the room.

Janice Gilliam said she and her husband specifically asked for a fireplace when they built the house eight years ago. "I think it makes the room look warmer," she said. "Our kids (two boys aged eight and ten) will put a blanket in front of it and have a picnic."

In autumn or late afternoon, though, the family may become distracted by the visual drama through the large Palladian window in the western wall. "It has a view of the reservoir (Lake Tappan), and the sun sets over there," Gilliam said. She noted that the trees outside also put on a spectacular show in fall.

The central window on that side is left bare to maximize the view. A sense of the outdoors pervades the room through exotic animal images in the statuary and Oriental carpet, and ivy trailing over the fireplace mantel.

As Philip LaBossiere said, "Sometimes you're faced with three or four possible focal points and have to de-emphasize some. The skill is in evaluating which is most important and downplaying the ones you can't remove."

"Every direction should have a focal point," he added. "You don't ever want to look at a boring view."

Eileen Watkins is Homescape editor.



Above and left, the emphasis in this Mahwah dining room is on the bay window. Designer Paul Ippolito has dramatized this area with beige silk damask panels, ornate Kingston valances and deep fringe. He said he chose this formal approach because "the room can take it and the homeowners entertain often."