

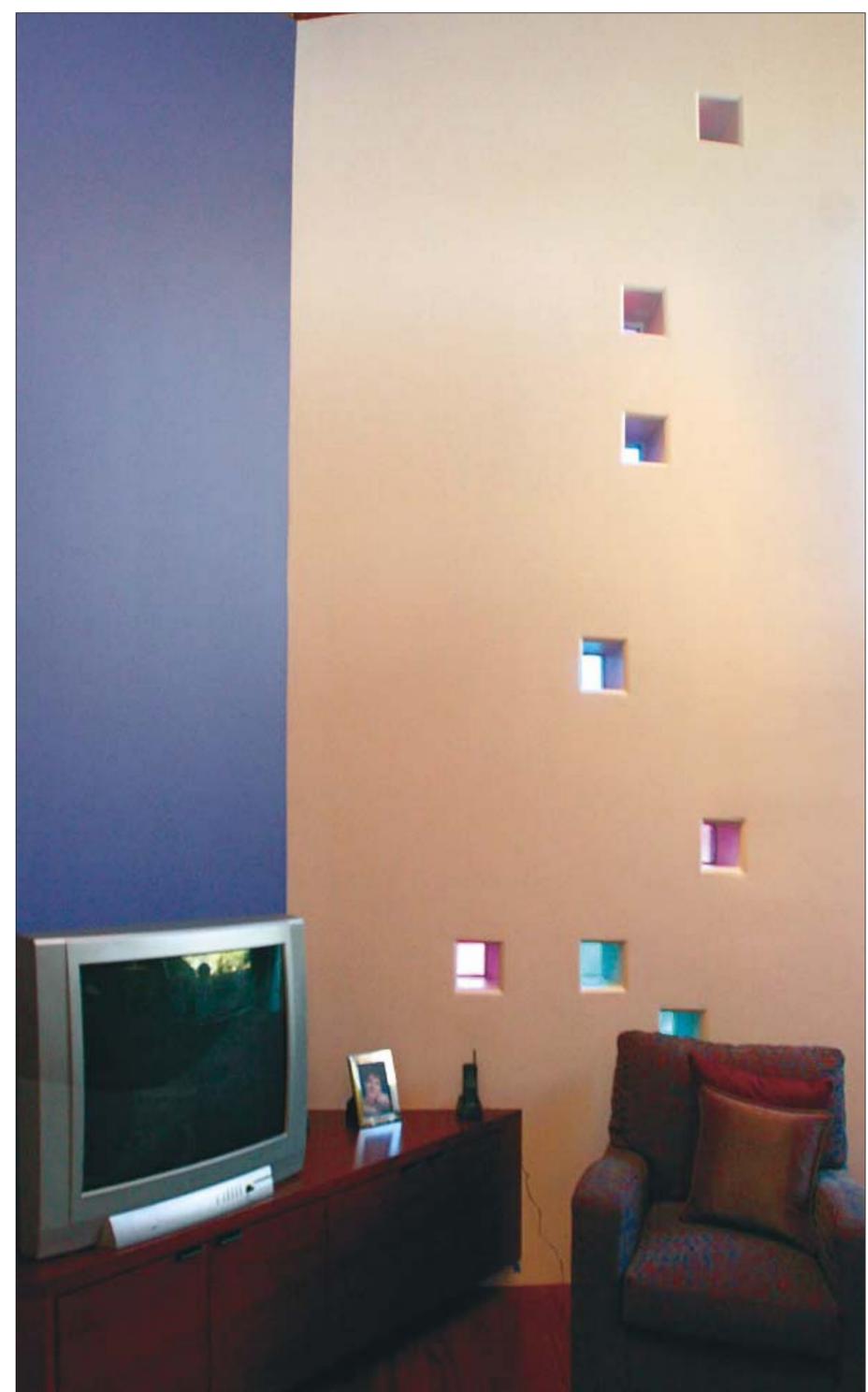


FABRIC ACCENTS: Decorating with purple doesn't just mean dipping your house in a solid grape shade and calling it a day. Try a fabric pattern, like one of these, for your furniture or window treatments that incorporate purple in both bold and subtle ways. These examples are from Robb & Stucky in Phoenix and Norwood Furniture in Gilbert.

IN THE RIGHT HANDS AND PROPER SPOTS, THE **BOLD HUE** ADDS DESIGN DRAMA



BLENDED HUE: The Scottsdale home of Bruce Barth and Joanna Douglas incorporates a generous amount of Douglas' favorite color. Here, a spare bedroom shows off how various shades of purple can come together in one cohesive design.



LIT WITH IT: Purple hanging lamps accent this Scottsdale home's breakfast bar.



SEATS WITH FLAIR: The dining area of the Barth/Douglas home pulls in purple to the angular armchairs with both a solid shade and one in stripes.

In a purple mood

By AMANDA MYERS • TRIBUNE

Purple. Like the rebellious child, it's a color East Valley interior designer Dorothy Bron initially calls "a little difficult to work with" and "hard to get right."

It doesn't quite reach the "princessy" appeal of pink or the chic cocktail party allure of black, but sits comfortably somewhere in the middle.

It's the color of bruising, and the color of sunsets.

Purple combines the siren hue of red and the soothing shade of blue, adopting the personality traits of both along the way.

So when Bron and her husband, Eric, of the Bron Design Group in Phoenix received an offer to design a Scottsdale home with generous doses of this tricky color with many shades, they stepped up to the challenge.

After all, the home's location almost dictated its design scheme.

"It's on Purple Aster Way," says Dorothy with a laugh. "Can you believe that?"

Bruce Barth says choosing purple as a dominant accent color both inside and outside his house — the exterior stucco is a purplish-brown hue — was wife Joanna Douglas' choice. "There's a softness to it," he says, standing outside his modern home built into the side of a north Scottsdale foothill.

Flour-to-ceiling windows spread throughout much of the home that overlooks the city.

The designers were able to ruin in the sometimes challenging purple with varying shades and patterns.



PLUM DELIGHTED: Eric and Dorothy Bron of the Bron Design Group in Phoenix were excited to design the Barth/Douglas plum-happy home, calling it "a piece of art."

couch sits at an angle to two bright red armchairs flanked by wide windows. A cream-colored rug with bright shades of purple, red, yellow and green geometric accents ties the room together underneath a modern two-tiered clear glass coffee table.

"You have to be careful with any color combination," says Bron, "but I think this works beautifully." She also suggests orange as a possible accent to purple. Bron, who berated purple for its difficulty, calls it "regal, rich, relaxing and soothing" inside Barth and Douglas' home.

The various shades of purple pop even more when placed next to the close-enough-to-touch green cactuses outside every window, a trait the Brons love about this home.

"So many times, people want (their homes) to blend in with the desert," says Bron. "But I think it's important to figure out what's complementary."

By using a rich purple in subtle ways throughout the house, Eric Bron says the home's bold and modern design has made it similar to "living in a sculpture."

"Everything shouldn't match so your eye can blend the colors," says Dorothy Bron.

Barth says the great room is his favorite space in the house. A squared plum purple

through the purple-painted lift, yet another understated touch of the calming shade.

Or have a seat at the couple's breakfast bar with its square bar stools in a lime green sheen. Hanging above the bar are small, tulip-purple colored triangular lights that add just a touch of the home's signature accent.

So, are forecasters in the fashion world right when they call purple "the new black" for the coming season?

"I don't think we're quite to that point," says Dorothy Bron, but adds, "For me, there's no rules about what goes for what. It depends on the spirit of the space."

Leatrice Eiseman, color consultant and director of the Pantone Color Institute, says purple is becoming more popular; but not in pastel shades often feared by bridesmaids. She says the eggplant and plum hues of purple are what many interior designers are going with for home decor.

"Purple is a more complex color and never seems ordinary, so the people most drawn to it could be described the same way," she says. "They are definitely more creative and artistic in their approach."

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RESOURCES

Bron Design Group
(602) 955-1053
www.brondesigngroup.com

Norwood Furniture
216 N. Gilbert Road
Gilbert
(480) 892-0174

Robb & Stucky
15440 N. Scottsdale Road
Phoenix
(480) 922-0011
www.robbstucky.com

The Purple Shop
www.thepurpleshop.com

ACCESSORIES

If purple still intimidates you a bit, start off with just small touches of it throughout your home.



The purple vases and set of three purple flower prints can be found at IKEA.



The pillow, Kitchenaid mixer and papason chair are just some of the many purple accessories found at The Purple Shop, an online store.



ILLUMINATING: Colored glass in shades of purple, blue and pink line cutouts in the wall of one of the Scottsdale home's bedrooms, giving the incoming natural light a splash of color.

A STANDOUT: Barth and Douglas' living room shows how a bright cherry red in the armchairs can really make their main accent color of purple pop.