magic carpet

COLOR COMBINATIONS CAN COME FROM ANYWHERE—IN THIS CASE, FROM A HANDSOME, WATERCOLOR-INSPIRED RUG.

1 Dedar's cotton satin pillow, $250 for 10x16-inch size, is a sumptuous deep blue (bergdorfgoodman.com). **2** Add some flirty "Ribbon Rouche" trim to the edge of a lampshade (osborneandlittle.com). **3** Lightly scent a room by using the "Balsam TasselAire" as a curtain tieback, $40, Agraria (agrariahome.com). **4** Bring some Latin love to the bedroom with Casa Cristina's "Floreal Decorative Pillow," $15, at Sears and Kmart stores. **5** Anthropologie's "Latte Bowls" are just right for either a hot drink or a cold treat, $20 for four (anthropologie.com). **6** Inspired by an original watercolor by artist Joseph Ginsberg, this "Versailles II" hand-knotted Tibetan silk rug will inject an artful attitude into any room; $2,880 for the 4x6-foot size (tempoluxuryhome.com).

Color Q&A WITH COLOR EXPERT VICTORIA STUART BURKE

WHERE TO USE IT: On garage walls or on accent pieces.
HOW TO DO IT: Use an eggshell or higher sheen to keep it washable.
WHY IT WORKS: It delivers a classic look in unexpected places.
WHAT IT GOES WITH: Crisp white, charcoal, and cement colors.
PITFALLS: None. This makes for a stylish bat cave.

C2 Paint
{Major Tom}
c2paint.com

WHERE TO USE IT: Living room walls.
HOW TO DO IT: Apply paint in a flat or matte sheen.
WHY IT WORKS: Flat sheen diminishes reflective light, but hue stays vibrant.
WHAT IT GOES WITH: High-gloss accent pieces in "Major Tom" or deep reds add dramatic tension.
PITFALLS: Use this only in medium-sized or small rooms.

Farrow & Ball
{Orangery}
farrow-ball.com

WHERE TO USE IT: Paint a "runner" pattern on the stairs.
HOW TO DO IT: "Orangery" as the center and "Salsa Dancing" for the border.
WHY IT WORKS: The combination is bold and beautifully paired.
WHAT IT GOES WITH: White-painted or natural wood balusters and rails.
PITFALLS: Be sure to use a paint formulated for use on the floor.

Benjamin Moore
{Salsa Dancing}
benjaminmoore.com

WHERE TO USE IT: Powder room walls.
HOW TO DO IT: Use "Green Water" as wall base paint, then stencil a pattern in deep teal blue or charcoal gray.
WHY IT WORKS: It is demure, yet it has just enough verve to make it truly memorable.
WHAT IT GOES WITH: "Orangery" is a good option.
PITFALLS: None. This color is versatile.

Valspar
{Green Wa
valspar.com