

Better Homes and Gardens®

No-fail
Turkey
Roasting
Guide
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simply delicious

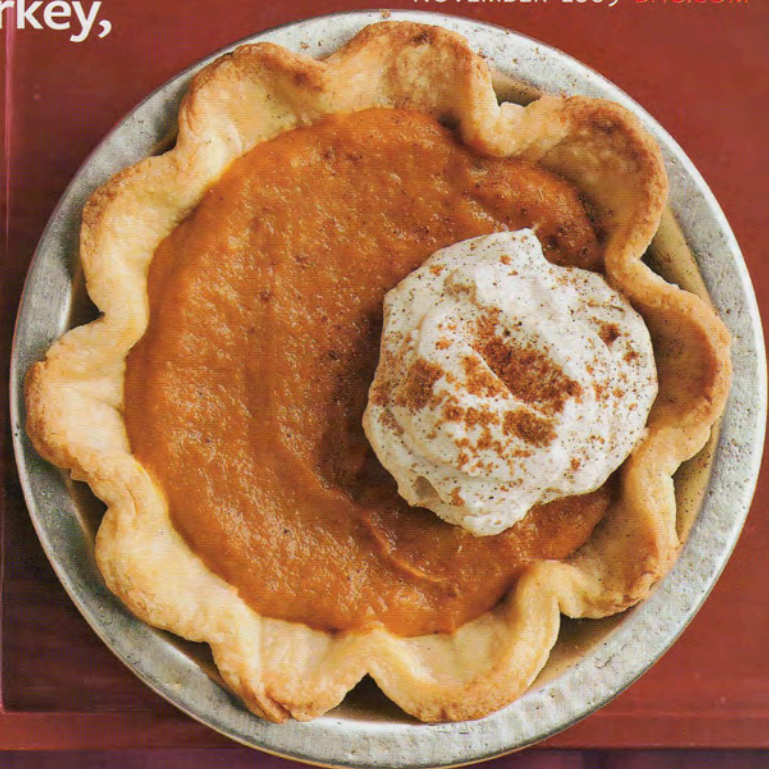
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Make-ahead sides, Moist turkey,
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Interesting shapes and geometric patterns are a hallmark of Bonnee Sharp's decorating. In the living room, she painted the inside of the bookcase burnt orange so her white ceramic pieces stand out. The neutral furniture and rug keep the emphasis on the color. Bonnee re-covered a family heirloom chair, *opposite*, in a modern fabric so it fit with her midcentury modern furniture.

drawn to pattern

A FABRIC
DESIGNER GIVES
HER OLD HOME AN
UPBEAT MODERN
LOOK. HER TRICK?
BOLD GRAPHICS
CALMED BY
MELLOW COLORS.

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The 1924 cottage Bonnee Sharp shares with her husband, Marc Fuller, and daughter Georgia, 2, is a bit deceiving. From outside, the Dallas home is traditional. Inside, it takes a modern turn with a surprisingly open floor plan. That traditional-meets-modern twist perfectly suits Bonnee, who loves to decorate with the family hand-me-downs she holds close to her heart yet isn't afraid to update. "I have a foot in both worlds," she says.

For the fabric designer and owner of Studio Bon Textiles, pattern is key to making things work. "A lot of people have furniture with sentimental meaning, but they don't quite know how to incorporate it into their environment," Bonnee says. "Putting a graphic pattern on any traditional piece makes it look contemporary and fresh." Bonnee gravitates to neutral-color geometrics so they blend with her rooms, which are primarily browns, grays, and whites. The slipper chairs that belonged to her grandmother, and that Bonnee reupholstered, reflect her approach. She traded their original hot-pink velvet for a graphic fabric, but with earthy colors it doesn't beg for attention.

Like her hand-printed fabrics that feature dots and organic designs, Bonnee's furniture and accessories have interesting shapes. Each piece—from the kidney-bean coffee table she bought at a flea market to inexpensive candleholders she uses as art—stands out in the neutral rooms. She credits her grandmother, who used antiques with 1950s modern furniture, for inspiring her to mix things up and throw in some surprises. "I want my home to feel fresh, clean, and happy," Bonnee says.

Patterned curtains enliven the dining room, once an enclosed porch. The dining set came from an estate sale; the buffet is a family hand-me-down. The Cape Cod-influenced house, *opposite left*, maintains its traditional exterior. Simple updates inside included painting walls and staining floors. "The house was a blank slate where we could be creative but retain the original charm," says Bonnee, with husband Marc and daughter Georgia.





LIVING WITH PATTERN

Although Bonnee loves big geometrics on rugs, curtains, and pillows, she knows pattern can be intimidating. Here are her tips for keeping it livable.

SURROUND WITH SOLIDS "If you use large planes of solid color, then you have the freedom to use pattern in splashes in different parts of the room," Bonnee says. "For instance, if you have a highly patterned curtain, your sofa and rug might be a solid."

BLEND IT IN Bold patterns aren't jarring when the colors are the same or similar to others in the room. "I always work with more than one neutral at a time," says Bonnee, who energizes her neutral rooms with rusty orange accents.

BE STRATEGIC Putting a large-scale pattern on the floor lessens its impact (especially if it's a similar color to the floor and/or furniture), since a rug isn't at eye level and is partially concealed by the furniture. Curtains are also a safe bet: When open, the pattern recedes into the folds. ♪

For buying information see page 258.

Bonnee turned a guest bedroom into her office, *this page*. Dressers rather than file cabinets keep the room from looking too businesslike. A fabric-filled bulletin board, *opposite top*, helps her see how colors and patterns mix. In the family room, *opposite bottom*, candleholders create a grid of art above the sofa. Each holder has a small hole in the bottom so it can hang from a nail.

