

Stylish Solutions

Decorating with Red, White and Blue

... continued from page D1



A classic tonal red, white and blue color story is being used for this residential project in Moraga. The undertone is brown-beige.

2) Look for something close by that is red, white or blue as a starting point. Trust me, when we were first contacted about an historic exterior on a major corner in Berkeley my heart skipped a beat. The building was outdated and needed major restoration. The old colors were all off. The owners wanted something fresh and I had one chance to get the color right. A wrong tone, especially when my first thought went to red in Berkeley, and we'd have the Cal Marching Band saying "Take off that red paint!" This Cal alum decorator didn't want to get the proverbial axe.

What did I do? I started with the blue from the nearby street signs and the red from the brick at the back of the building. I used that as a jumping off point for our main color selections, diminished the colors to common undertones in both red and blue, and applied the triad rule from the color wheel. The shades then fell into place. There was a great deal of testing and we actually have four shades of red as an accent, but it was so fun. Sometimes you have to go bold.

The next time you are considering an update, look around. What in your home is red, white or blue. Is it a stack of books? Is it a simple accessory from Home Goods? Then use them and group them!

Get intentional about those details and your space will perk up immediately.

... continued on page D8

