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A BREAK FROM **TRADITION**

Liz Levin imparts a fresh, modern look in a traditional dining room

When designer Liz Levin was tapped to decorate a Reston couple's newly built Colonial-style home, her task in the dining room was to create a space that was "young and modern, yet still of the architecture." The homeowners wanted uncluttered surfaces, with no extraneous furnishings. However, with the room's large size Levin feared it would look too spare.

Her solution was wallpaper. "I suggested it to eat up the space," she explains. "But it needed to be large-scale and impactful. An updated take." Cole & Son's Art Deco Vintage Glamour collection gave her what she was looking for in a pattern called Fig. "I loved the color," she recalls. "That was the jumping-off point."

There was another reason for choosing the cool blue, taupe and gray wallpaper for the dining room: to counteract the effect of "orangy-stained floors," as Levin calls them. She'd already chosen a mushroom color for the adjacent entry walls, and the dining room's color scheme coordinated with it perfectly. A mushroom-hued dining room rug connects the two spaces.

Levin's bold choice of Moroccan-inspired, cream-and-chocolate zigzag linen draperies from Quadrille and a Moroccan-style chandelier were part of the effort "to get away from the traditional." An Art Deco-style white lacquer sideboard and custom-framed mirror occupy the wall; dining chairs—upholstered both in gray leather and in an outdoor fabric with a gray and white weave—are grouped around a custom pedestal table by David Iatesta. With its unique driftwood plank top, the dining table provides the final touch to a striking space.

INTERIOR DESIGN: LIZ LEVIN, Liz Levin Interiors, Washington, DC.
PHOTOGRAPHY: ANGIE SECKINGER.



