

Color? S.F. boutique has that covered

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If interior designer Jeannie Fraise could be a color, most likely she'd be orange. Perhaps that's why her newly expanded Hayes Valley boutique, Lotus Bleu (housed in the former Symposium bookstore space), is nothing short of a real-life Candyland, stocked with bright pops of happy hues almost good enough to eat, from table lamps handmade in Vietnam and lacquered in candy-corn orange to more than 350 fabric swatches for custom pillows and upholstery in every shade of the rainbow. There are Bubblicious gum-inspired pink area rugs and glossy, Jolly Rancher-lime egg-shaped ceramic bird feeders.

"I love color, and I'm not afraid to take risks," says Fraise, a self-taught designer initially inspired by the deep orange and red tones of textiles and monks' robes in Southeast Asia and by modern updates on traditional embroidery techniques she observed during buying trips to France. For each new project, Fraise follows a personal design rule: "I like to make each space fun, happy and fresh, but not too busy, so I start with two colors and add a neutral."

Before opening the East-meets-West shop last month, with its nods to India, Nepal and Vietnam mixed with hints of French country style from le Marais (the historical heart of Paris), Fraise occupied the narrow atelier next door for nearly five years. She maximized every inch of the tiny 350-square-foot space (now her office and design studio) for new, vintage and imported goods, including handwoven wool rugs made in India by Madeline Weinrib; organic hemp cotton tea towels by Hammocks & High Tea; faux bois wallpaper by Osborne & Little; and her own line of lacquer serving trays, side tables, bamboo vases and napkin rings. This month, don't miss 25 percent off all French designer Robert Le Heros table linens, upholstered captain's chairs and messenger bags.

Lotus Bleu, 325 Hayes St., S.F. (415) 861-2700. lotusbleudesign.com.

<http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2010/03/07/HO9N1C7C2L.DTL>

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