

# Home Base Designer Ideas

Gretchen Edwards  
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Choose a starting point—then pull colors and patterns from it. It can be anything, from a favorite piece of art to a fabric. In both the dining room and living room (shown right) Gretchen began with Oushak rugs, known for their soft colors and almost tea-stained, washed-out look. "I'm so in love with Oushaks," she says. "All of the colors here came out of the colors in them." That includes the silk throw, hand-painted by Charleston artist Paige Hawthorn Smith and adorned with tassels. "Trim is another way to show off a small amount of pattern and color," Gretchen says. **See Resources**



**Don't let elements fight each other.** "The size and scale of fabrics have to work well together." So, buy a yard before committing to the drapery.



**Maximize details.** Gretchen's silk pillow from Chelsea Textiles includes colorful insect motifs embroidered with glass beads. "I love texture and these add a fun, whimsical touch."



**Add some shine.** Especially in a subtle palette, elements like mother of pearl and burnished gilding can add soft, but distinct, touches of light and color. **M**