

# POP Diva

Bursts of color and character mark the design style of Nicole Lanteri, who chooses ways to brighten your home this summer.

By Jennifer Barger // Photography by Greg Powers

You could call Arlington interior designer **Nicole Lanteri** the princess of pop. That's because she brings such a bold and bright style to her numerous local residential projects, from grand Capitol Hill row houses to mod Arlington condos. Think shocking pink walls and a silver-upholstered sofa in a luxe living room or a dining room where daring butterfly wallpaper sets off traditional and modern furniture. "Color and pattern make you feel alive," says Lanteri. "They're what makes you say 'oh, wow!' when you walk into a room."

Lanteri walked out of the boardrooms of investment-management law in 2009, launching her eponymous design studio ([nicolelanteri.com](http://nicolelanteri.com)). "The law taught me I was good at getting projects done," says Lanteri. "But I'd always had a passion for decorating and spatial arrangements." Now she employs an eclectic, retro-modern mix in her projects, as in shapely 1970s lamps or midcentury leather chairs set off by dramatically painted walls, European wallpaper and lots of metal accents.

What's the secret to her daring mashups? "I pick colors for projects that clients look good in, and that they like," says Lanteri. "It's not really about what's trendy, but what speaks to them." She weaves older items into her rooms too. "I love vintage lighting in particular, like what you'll find at David Bell or GoodWood," she says. "Every room needs a little age and character."

Lanteri's firm is growing: She recently hired a second designer and hopes to add commercial projects like hotels to her portfolio soon. But, unlike many ascendant interiors pros, she still takes on smaller jobs—even hourlong consults. "I love doing mini-kitchen face-lifts," she says. "The idea that something has a good footprint and just needs a few changes—new countertops, new drawer pulls, a little color—really appeals to me, and it makes clients so happy in such a short time." Here are some of her picks for brightening up a space.



**MOD MASHUPS**  
Interior designer Nicole Lanteri, pictured in her own space, loves mixing pops of color and midcentury vintage items that add abundant character.



**SEATS, PLEASE**

"A pair of these chairs would go with any style or color palette in a space," says Lanteri. "Plus, they swivel!" \$1,650, Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams, downtown and Tysons Galleria, [mgbwhome.com](http://mgbwhome.com)



**NATURAL SELECTION**

"Great dishes and glassware can add whimsy to a space—humor is chic!" says Lanteri of these side plates decked with hummingbirds. \$18 each, Anthropologie, Georgetown and Tysons Galleria, [anthropologie.com](http://anthropologie.com)



**GALLERY GLAM**

"Art is such a personal choice—it really makes a space complete," says Lanteri. "A piece with bright colors in it like William Mackinnon's painting 'Trouble Will Find Me (The National)' can be the only color you need in a space. Hung on a white or black wall, it comes to life even more." \$8,800, Marton Fine Art, downtown, [martonfineart.com](http://martonfineart.com)



**BRIGHT BUFFET**

"A sideboard can be such a boring piece, but this Jonathan Adler one is so lively," says Lanteri. "It would shine with a collection of white vases on it." \$4,100, Jonathan Adler, Georgetown, [jonathanadler.com](http://jonathanadler.com)

**EMERALD PRETTY**

"Vintage lighting is everything—with just one piece, you can add so much character, color and style to a space," says Lanteri of this 1970s Stilnovo table lamp. "It's a great way to splurge since lamps don't suffer the same wear and tear as a sofa or table." \$2,500, David Bell Antiques, Georgetown, 202.965.2355

