

# Room Service

Okay, no swiping towels, but the ambience is another story. On a quest to conjure some hotel-style glam and comfort at home, we checked in with a savvy local designer for tips.

By **Megan Fulweiler** | Photography by **Nat Rea**



Bright accessories are regularly switched about to keep the mood fresh.



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**TIPS >>**

**DOUBLE UP OR GO BIG.** Blank walls are boring. Dual elephant prints from Pink Pagoda speak to the bold window fabric.

**SPLURGE.** Quality linens make a difference. “The hotel industry is all about crisp, white bedding,” says Chiappone. Accent pillows are playful notes easily swapped according to whim or season.

**FIRE UP SOME COLOR.** A cheery bench — for a suitcase or sitting — is included in each hotel room along with a tightback (as in never looks messy) chair. Proper night stands — always as tall as the top of the mattress — are another mainstay and more playful when orange. Orange is among the designer’s go-to choices but “in small doses,” she cautions. A good reading lamp (the son’s is from Bungalow 5; the blue beauty hails from Dunes and Duchess) is a must.

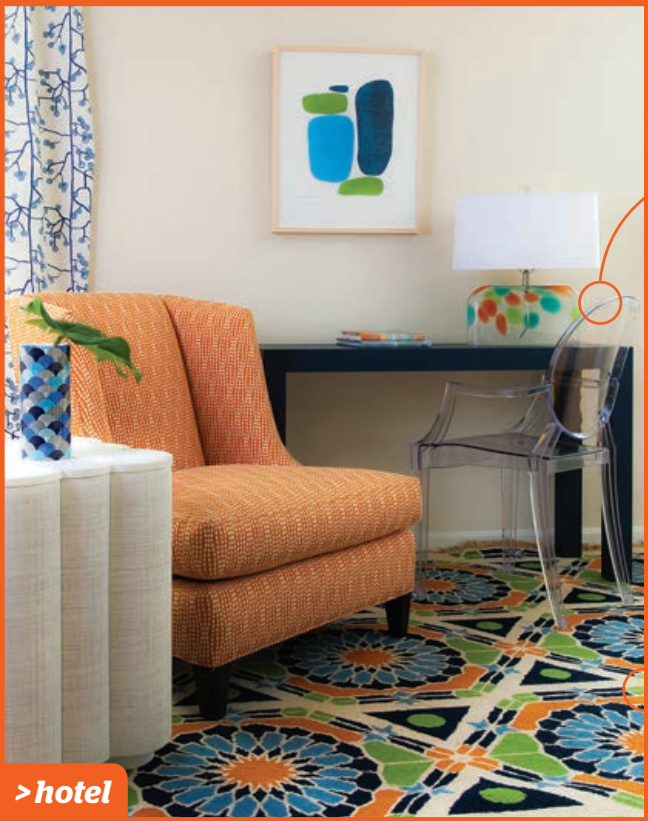
**Cross Over**

The new Break Hotel in Narragansett is as welcoming as you get. Interior designer Jocelyn Chiappone, head of Newport’s Digs Design Company, has infused the boutique inn — all sixteen rooms — with an alchemy of invigorating color and pattern. Sophisticated but fun too, Chiappone’s formula also works for clients who want their nests to have a certain level of please-the-guest luxury. Case in point: this Quidnessett condo owned by a well-traveled Rhode Island business owner. Just right for her on a daily basis, the place is also flexible when the owner’s extended family gathers. What to remember? Bringing the hotel aura home doesn’t mean you have to sacrifice practicality. Take a look at the son’s bedroom (above) and a room at the Break (right).



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HOTEL PHOTOS, RARE BRICK.



**TIPS >>**

**ADD SOME LUCITE.** Maintain an airy look with see-through pieces like this hotel chair. Chiappone teamed the seat with a contemporary desk but sexy Lucite looks fabulous with antiques as well.

**FOREGO THE HUMDRUM.** A lively rug, which is like art on the floor, can be the starting point for a room's palette. And — bonus — patterns are less apt to show stains.

**INCLUDE A MIRROR.**

An oversized ostrich-skin framed mirror acts like an additional window, opening the room and breaking up the dark walls.

**CONCOCT SOME SHINE.**

High-gloss walls reflect light and make a small space feel instantly bigger.

**Leap of Faith**

The owner's favorite color is purple. So Chiappone lacquered the den (which also doubles as a guest room) a daring eggplant for what she calls "a cocoon effect." Then she energized the elegant space with sunset-like orange X tables and a geometric rug. The classic settee, dressed in traditional plaid, balances it all and provides a happy spot for reading. What we don't see? The sofa incorporates a handy air mattress (another hotel feature) for overnighters.

## Staying Flexible

Not sure about how long she'd be in residence, the owner rehabbed the kitchen (custom-colored walls and updated hardware) and bath (clean-lined vanity and glitzy wall covering) with West Greenwich contractor RTB Building and Design but avoided major construction since, really, none was needed. With Chiappone's custom-painted wall color and a cool chandelier from Stray Dog Designs, the breakfast area went from dull to audacious. Should demand warrant, the modest-looking breakfast table extends to seat eight. To conserve space, Chiappone devised a lean dining table (below) for the main living area that also accommodates parties.

### TIPS >>

**FINESSE THE WINDOWS.** Chiappone elevated the breakfast area with a zesty fabric by Quadriile that picks up on the color of the leather-upholstered seats. Curtains elsewhere are fashioned with attention-commanding LuLu DK fabric.

**RAZZLE AND DAZZLE.** Hotels know people respond to sparkle. Follow Chiappone's lead and bind a neutral carpet — and a chandelier shade — with metallic binding. Varying textures, the designer tells us, is a sure way to create luxury.

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**MAKE A STATEMENT.** Reproduction Frances Elkins Loop chairs — with seats cleverly covered in long-wearing Sunbrella fabric — bring grandeur to dining. The hand-blown glass centerpiece is by Jennifer Nauck at the Glass Station in Wakefield.

**CONSIDER PROPORTIONS.** Scale, we've learned, is one of the toughest things for people to conquer. Here, for example, a cathedral ceiling called for a large piece. Of course, it's no accident Currey and Company's beaded chandelier is blue like the dreamy carpet.



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### Booking a Stay

No concierge in sight, but the living room's peaceful monochromatic scheme with dashes of purple strikes the right chord for the owner. Seating choices include feel-good upholstered pieces as well as a couple of stand-out chairs. The master bedroom follows suit with more of the same summery colors, a flashy mirrored desk and eye-catching art. In the end — hotel or home — this skillful designer's strategy for decor success is much the same: "Decide on the room plan you want first, then add color, fabrics, lighting and accessories," Chiappone (shown right) advises. 📍

### TIPS >>

**STEP IT UP.** A silver-washed accent chair clad in a high-end John Robshaw fabric lends a sense of bona fide polish.

**THINK FUNCTION.** The versatile Lucite Diggs Cocktail ottoman — which Chiappone designed and is now made available through ClairVisions — handles drinks, books, even feet.

