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1 Homeowner and designer Heather Vaughan chose neutral colors for the walls and upholstery in her living room so she can change pillows, curtains, and accessories with the seasons. The rug's striped border inspired this poppy-red scheme.

5 Ways to Go Beyond Beige

Craving color but afraid to commit? Take a cue from this designer, who steps up the basics using bright, colorful accents.

BY SHARON OVERTON | PHOTOS MICHAEL PARTENIO
PRODUCED BY STACY KUNSTEL

2 Colorful fabrics that have a bit of beige link them to the room's neutral background. The jute trim on the slipcovered ottoman, *below*, is repurposed upholstery webbing and echoes the linen border on the curtains.

3 Surfaces that are somewhat faded or

distressed—such as the natural dyes in the rug—soften contrasts. “None of the colors match perfectly,” Heather says. But because of the aged textures, “they all work harmoniously.”

4 Furniture with simple lines—such as the chairs and sofa, *below*—balances bold patterns.

5 To distinguish the window seat, *right*, from the rest of the room, Heather introduced a black-and-khaki print for the cushion and accents of lime green and orange in a pillow. Thick black picture frames also give the nook more presence.



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