

## ideas collections



## ACQUIRED TASTE

Barbara Scavullo helped turn a boring family room into a colorful place for a collector to display his possessions. By BRYAN ANTHONY

aul Sack is a renowned San Francisco photography collector whose 2,500 pictures span the history of the medium. His noteworthy collection was on exhibit at the SFMOMA and is believed to be the largest on the West Coast. Although most of Sack's walls are adorned with framed photographs, the collector needed a place to display his latest passion—30 African masks and 60 knives from all over the world. He turned to longtime friend and San Francisco interior designer Barbara Scavullo to help transform a drab family room in his midcentury Presidio Heights home into an area worthy of his collections. "The room was designed to meet two distinct but interconnected goals," says Scavullo. "Paul wanted the room to serve both as a gallery and a gathering space."



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the art of display

In order to gain display space, Scavullo built another wall of bookcases and added a pair of shelves behind the sectional. The original white paneled walls were given a fresh coat of taupe paint. "The room was really flat," says Scavullo. "By adding large shelves and color to the walls, we created some dimension in the room."



## natural color choice

The challenge was to incorporate the collection into the family room without making it feel like a sterile museum exhibit. "The masks are black, brown and white, so if we wanted color—and Paul did—we had to be bold," says Scavullo. Drawing on the lush green foliage seen through the large picture windows, Scavullo chose bright orange fabrics for the sectional and armchair.

## architectural elements



The old white brick fireplace got a contemporary overhaul and a solid walnut mantel. "Many of the details in the room are very simple, but they are also very thoughtful," says Scavullo. A design objective was to make the room feel as if it had always been there.

