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Don't underestimate the importance of a fabulous chandelier. The ornate glass arms and crystal drops of this French antique create a twinkle that resonates throughout the room.

WHEN

designer Sarah

Richardson set out to decorate Luci and Leo D'Elia's dining room, she was starting with a blank canvas. "It was a new home with empty rooms," says Sarah. And the homeowners gave her complete creative control. "My directions were: 'We love what you do - just do what you think is right for the space.'" That freedom allowed Sarah to start with a patterned fabric and use it to develop a colour scheme. "I was drawn to the wall of windows and this very open space," she says, explaining her choice of embroidered silk drapery. "A plain fabric wouldn't have had enough impact." Sarah then opted for neutrals for the key furniture pieces, with accents in orange and sea blue. The walls are deep orange. "I wanted a colour that would make the room come alive," she says. The space has a celebratory feel, but there's flexibility for the future. When the homeowners want to change the mood, they can paint the walls one of the other shades in the drapes. Green, olive, blue - there are many options. ▸

FINE DINING

Succulent orange and rich textiles are a feast for the eyes in this divine dining room. WRITTEN BY NANCY RIPTON PHOTOGRAPHY BY PAUL CHMIELOWIEC

STYLING BY NATALIE HOODINS