

A PAINT AND DÉCOR SPECIAL INTEREST PUBLICATION

# Quarters

SPRING-SUMMER 2017

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# COLOR TRENDS 2017





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THE YEAR 2017  
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**SHADOW**

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*Shadow is a master of ambiance.  
It ebbs and flows with its surroundings  
and light brings it to life.*



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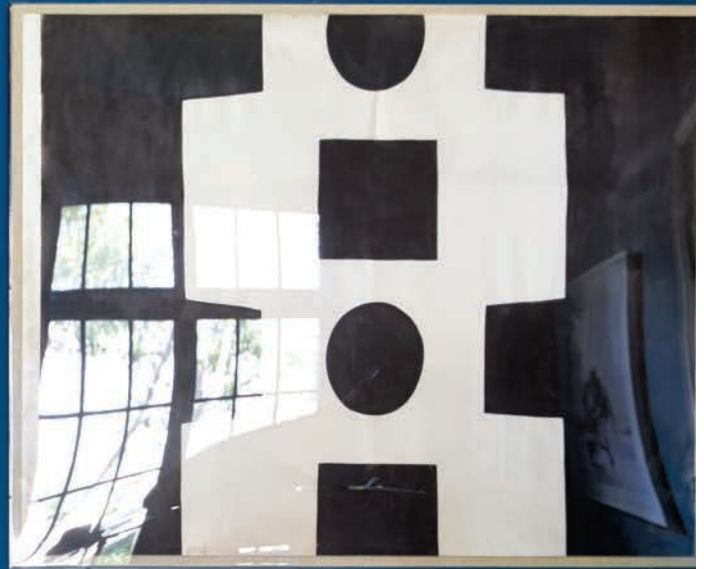
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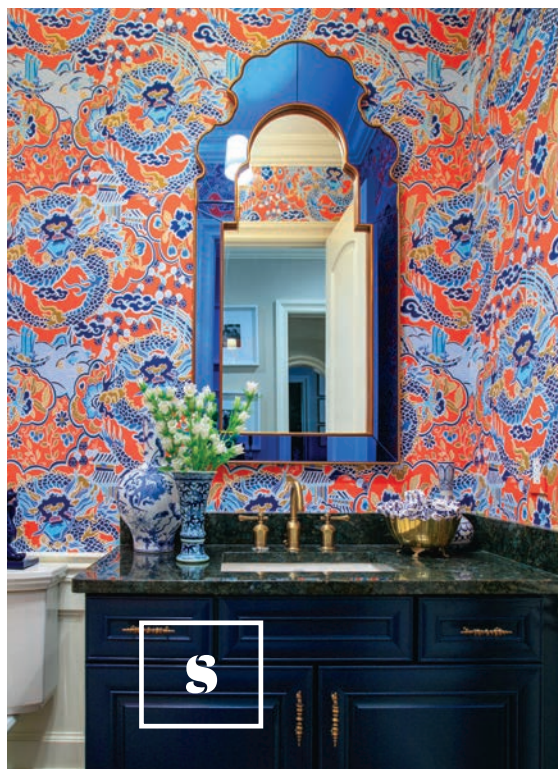
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NOTE FROM

# THE EDITOR

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**JUST RECENTLY**, I experienced firsthand how a freshly painted room can lift a homeowner's spirits.

For the past nine months, I've been living through what seems to be a never-ending home renovation project. The experience has been chock-full of the starts and stops, challenges, and frustrations that one might associate with the remodeling of a 100-year-old galley kitchen and three bathrooms.

When the time finally arrived to start choosing paint colors for the house, I tested no fewer than six shades of blue in an effort to achieve that sparkling cerulean of my dreams. For the master

bedroom's extensive decorative trim, wainscoting, and picture frame molding, the contrasting white had to be just right and the painter steady of hand, because even the slightest slip-up would be visible. When I saw the finished room for the first time, I couldn't help beaming at the transformation. What a difference a wash of paint color can make—and so much of the credit for my happiness goes to the pros. Turn to page 47 for more information about why, when it comes to painting your home, it pays to hire a professional.

For those of you who prefer the serenity of a room painted white, we've got just the right decorating tips—check them out on page 10. If you're searching for ways to create a cohesive flow at home, see our feature on the strategic use of color, page 20. And if you happen to live in a small home or have recently downsized, don't miss our article on making rooms appear larger with the use of interesting color combinations, page 14.

From colorful powder rooms to front door drama, this issue of *Quarters* has something for everyone. Once you've finished reading, think about how color might help bring out the beauty of your own home.

**“When the time finally arrived to start choosing paint colors for the house, I tested no fewer than six shades of blue in an effort to achieve that sparkling cerulean of my dreams.”**

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TOOLS / TIPS / IDEAS / GUIDE

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TRENDS

## Walls That Talk

Whether it's choosing a bold wallpaper or a quality paint, walls set the tone for any room.



P

# Powder Rooms with Pizzazz

SMALL ROOMS CAN STILL MAKE  
BIG STATEMENTS.

by  
KAREN BANKSTON



**I**T MIGHT BE the tiniest room in the house, but that doesn't mean the powder room can't pop with color and panache.

You can turn decorating challenges into advantages in this small but frequently used space. No windows? Use the uninterrupted wall to make a spirited statement. Odd angles? Carve out nooks to display family heirlooms, striking vases, or other prized possessions that complement the color scheme and design. A lack of storage space? Fortunately, there's less need for toiletries in a "guest bath" than in the master, so minimize shelving in favor of style.

Unlike larger rooms, where bright colors might seem overwhelming, the powder room can wear bold well. "The easiest way to dress up a powder room is by using a fun wall covering with color and movement, whether that's with pattern or texture," says Kate Griesedieck, interior designer with St. Louis interior design firm Temple and Hentz.

This nook can boast a color personality all its own, from light and elegant to bright and whimsical to deep royal tones. Black and white are a classic combination: Griesedieck suggests starting with an interesting pattern on the flooring or tile and carrying it over into the walls.

Gold accents work with a variety of color schemes. "The powder room can completely stand alone, so feel free to express yourself," Griesedieck says. Wallpaper featuring bright floral or geometric patterns, for example, can evoke a traditional or modern feel, especially when paired with vibrant paint colors on the ceiling and trim. Even higher-end wallpaper and tile can be affordable for the powder room, and their vivid color, textures, and patterns help make a dramatic statement. Applying color to the ceiling and crown molding, as well as choosing flooring that shows off the color scheme, can add dimension to the décor.

"And don't forget about lighting," Griesedieck says. Look for fixtures that complement the décor. Aim for lighting that not only lights but also flatters the room and your guests. For example, stylish sconces on either side of a mirror can be both utilitarian and conversation-generating, helping bring the design elements together.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SUZY GORMAN



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# White Done Right

HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF  
DECORATING WITH A NEUTRAL

by  
KAREN BANKSTON

## COLOR

### Get the Color You Want

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**COLOR SCHEMES EVOKE** both universal and subjective emotional responses, and the white palette is no exception. What some people see as austere, others find clean and modern.

A major paint manufacturer named white its top color of 2016, but architectural color specialist Nan Kornfeld says this choice transcends trends.

"White is generally in because it is somewhat easier to select and it acts as a canvas for other colors," says Kornfeld.

When choosing white as the primary color in a decorating scheme, consider these recommendations.

#### **CHOOSE A WARMER WHITE.**

Colors always look lighter once an entire room is painted, so architectural or "designer" white is too stark for most applications. Kornfeld favors a formula with a spectrum of colors except black. "These whites are beautiful under all lighting conditions and never look dull," she says. "The colorants complement and harmonize with other design elements."

#### **AIM FOR CONTRAST, EVEN WITH WHITE ON WHITE.**

Use a variety of textures, patterns, and lines, such as in the shape of furniture, to avoid monotony. Incorporate subtle contrasts to add focus, interest, and depth to the décor.

#### **STRIKE A MOOD THAT FITS THE ROOM.**

"I designed a restaurant where the wall color was a white," Kornfeld says. "A dining experience should be convivial and sufficiently energetic, so we mixed the white with lots of warm woods to create a more dynamic experience."



# Renovation FAQs

5 CONSIDERATIONS  
BEFORE YOU LIFT A BRUSH

by  
KAREN BANKSTON

**Y**OU'RE DONE REMODELING, and now it's time to paint. First, though, consider a few key points from Nancy Long, co-owner of Sisu Painting in Beaverton, Oregon.

**AFTER HIRING CONTRACTORS FOR THE REST OF THE RENOVATION, SHOULD WE PAINT OURSELVES?** Not unless you've blown past your budget. An amateur paint job can make a good remodeling project go south fast. Nothing is ever perfect in construction and renovation; nothing is exactly square, and there are always slight imperfections. Professional painters have a lot of tricks up their sleeves, with sanding and caulking, to finish off the project and make it look great.

**SHOULD PAINTING BEGIN BEFORE OR AFTER FLOORING GOES IN?** After. The baseboard goes in after the flooring is installed, and that has to be finished and caulked before painting begins. Think of painting as the fine finish after everything else is done.

**DO BRAND-NEW WALLS REALLY NEED TO BE PRIMED?** It's essential. Primer seals new walls and prevents the paint from soaking into them. If you don't prime, the wall texture might appear uneven, and the paint can look splotchy. You'll see roller or brush marks.

**ARE PREMIUM PAINTS WORTH IT?** You really do get what you pay for. Also, keep in mind that there are all sorts of new paint finishes out there, but some can be hard for do-it-yourselfers to apply. For instance, modified alkyds, commonly used for millwork, are tricky to brush or apply with an airless sprayer.

**HOW CAN WE HIGHLIGHT THE RENOVATION'S MOST APPEALING ASPECTS?** For homeowners who are wary about color selection, I recommend white for ceilings and a neutral color for walls. I often suggest going a little lighter on the interior than your first choice and a little darker on the exterior, because the light affects colors differently inside and out. And remember: You can always ask for guidance at your paint store or go to a site like [houzz.com](http://houzz.com) and play around with colors.

## POP QUIZ



### The High Cost of Inexpensive Paints / presented by Wallauer's Design Center

**When is \$15 more than \$60?** The answer: when you buy a so-called "bargain" paint and realize it's no bargain after all. A higher-quality paint covers surfaces better, goes on easier, and lasts longer than a cheaper alternative. The price differential quickly dissipates when you realize inexpensive paint often requires more coats and painting more often. That's not to mention the value of your time and labor. Higher-quality paint looks better and lasts longer—tipping the math in its favor.



## Five & Done

CHALK-PAINT FURNITURE

by  
TAMMY ADAMSON-  
McMULLEN



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CHALK PAINT

**D**EPENDING ON HOW it's mixed and applied, chalk paint can yield many types of finishes, from highly distressed to highly polished. Blogger Diane Henkler ([inmyownstyle.com](http://inmyownstyle.com)) went with the latter look for a bedroom dresser in a soothing blue.

First, Henkler roughed up the surface with sandpaper. After wiping off the grit, she applied three light coats of chalk paint. (Henkler has several chalk-paint recipes, including this one for achieving a rock-hard finish: Mix two tablespoons each of calcium carbonate,

plaster of Paris, and water; add to two cups of latex paint or a paint-and-primer-in-one product, and stir well. For distressed looks, Henkler omits plaster of Paris and uses different ingredient ratios.) Once the paint was dry, she applied thin layers of wax (a mix of Fiddes & Sons' and Miss Mustard Seed's) to give the piece a factory-like finish. She then used two cloths: one to apply the wax, the other to buff it.

"The piece turned out exceptionally well and shows that chalk paint on furniture is not just for farmhouse or country décor," Henkler says.



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## Think Big

HOW TO MAKE SMALL SPACES LOOK LARGER

by  
KAREN BANKSTON



**“If your goal is to make a room seem larger, then don’t do an accent wall—the deeper color will just bring that wall toward you.”**

**B**EFORE YOU BREAK out the sledgehammer and start tearing down walls, try these recommendations from Portland, Oregon-based interior designer Kami Gray to help make a small space feel roomier.

**CAN WALL COLOR CHANGE PERCEPTION OF A ROOM’S SIZE?** Color has a big impact on the environment and how spacious it feels. Lightening the color scheme can make a room feel bigger and more open. You don’t have to go all white; a pale yellow or light gray, for example, can have the same effect.

**WHAT ABOUT PAINTING ONE WALL A DARKER COLOR?** If your goal is to make a room seem larger, then don’t do an accent wall—the deeper color will just bring that wall toward you. The same principle applies if half the wall is wainscoted: Painting the wainscoting in a darker color might work well in a larger room, but in a smaller space, that basically draws a line around the room and pulls it in.

**SHOULD WALL COLORS CONTRAST WITH THE CEILING?** Painting the ceiling white contributes to a more open feeling, like the clouds in the sky. You want to capture that limitless sensation. If there’s a lot of contrast between the colors of the walls and ceiling, the walls close in and the ceiling comes down. It’s best to keep it all light.

**SHOULD THE TRIM BE A DARKER COLOR?** I like trim to be at least a few shades different than the wall color. If the walls are light gray, I’d paint the trim a creamy white. And I would typically go lighter rather than darker on window trim. It’s not that I don’t like color, but my advice is to keep it simple and think about creating cohesion between all the spaces in the home. If you like pops of color, then I’d suggest painting furniture rather than [putting] a lot of saturated color on the walls. When you’re painting a small room, such as a powder room, I recommend bringing in color on the details, such as towels or artwork.



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# P

## Heavy Metal

ADD A TOUCH OF DRAMA TO  
DÉCOR WITH METALLIC PAINTS.

by  
DIANE FRANKLIN

**W**HETHER YOU'RE creating a distinctive wall panel or a dazzling piece of furniture, shimmery finishes can help achieve an eye-catching look.

"In today's market, metallic and pearlescent finishes have the run of the house," says Rebecca Spurlock of Crescent Bronze, which offers premium metallic powders, pigments, and paints. These paints are ideal for such traditional spaces as living rooms, dining rooms, powder rooms, and bedrooms, as well as man caves, media rooms, and workout areas.

"There are really very few limits," Spurlock adds. "Using metallic paints to repurpose and reclaim furniture is one of the hottest new trends. From dressers to nightstands to dining tables, kitchen cabinetry, and islands, metallic finishes are popping up in a variety of ways."

"Metallic paints are used a lot for furniture pieces and décor accents," says Regina Garay, a marketing consultant for Modern Masters, which offers its Metallic Paint Collection. "We saw a beautiful project the other day in which the designer was using our Metallic Paint on trim and crown molding. You're really looking at metallics as finalizing a space. Where it often comes into the design is in the details."

Metallic paints can also be used for larger areas, such as ceilings and cabinets. New York-based designer Sasha Bikoff, for instance, uses it for powder room cabinets, reports Garay, adding that the Rose Metallic Paint lends a glamorous effect.

The versatility of metallic paints makes for a desirable look. "Designers are mixing 'warm' metallics with natural elements to balance both hard and soft edges," says Rachel Sandor-VanHouten of Faux Effects International, whose metallic products include SetCoat Metallics, MetalGlow, and Palette Deco. Rose gold and champagne—both warm metallics—are new offerings. She suggests adding faux fur or fluffy textiles for the latest look.

Garay notes that warm silvers and champagnes are among the most popular of the 47 standard colors in Modern Masters' Metallic Paint Collection. "They're warm but still have a coolness to them," she says. And though gold and copper remain eternally popular, she's also noticed the appeal of the rich, warm English Brown. "It's not as stark as black," she says. Crescent Bronze offers 100-plus colors in latex paints. Over the past year, the most popular shades have included such neutrals



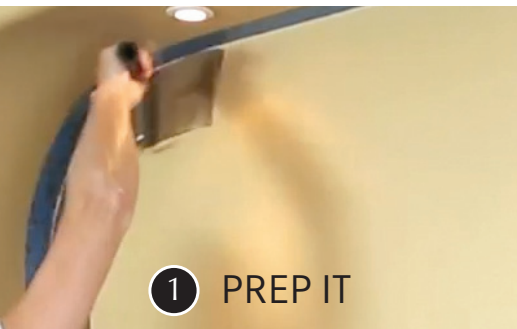
**"Metallic paints can also be used for larger areas, such as ceilings and cabinets."**

as silver, gray, and white. More specifically, sparkling whites, pewters, silvers, Smoke Grey, and Oyster Pearl are popular, says Crescent Bronze's Bill Brabender. He adds that traditional golds, coppers, and bronze-tones continue to be strong sellers in some markets. Metallic paints come in various sheens. Satin is popular because of its pleasing shimmer. Many designers prefer the softer, quieter look of a matte, though. "It still registers as metallic but has a beautiful, low-level luster," Garay says. "You can use matte and satin together for a wonderful tone-on-tone look."

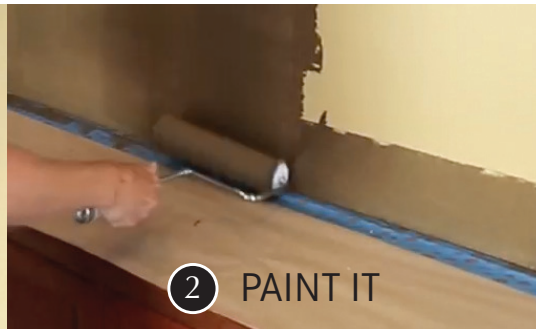




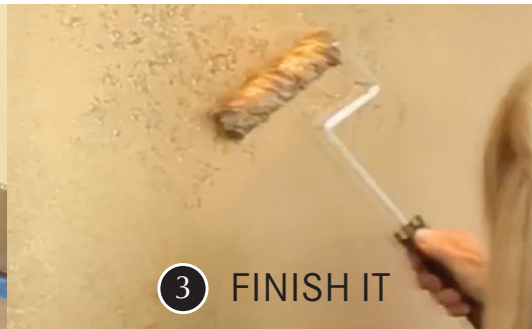
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# A Grand Entrance

HOW TO CREATE  
FRONT DOOR DRAMA

by  
**TAMMY ADAMSON-  
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**AS A POINT OF FIRST CONTACT FOR VISITORS**, front doors have a big job to do. Does yours make a good first impression? If you're unsure, it might be time for a change. Giving your front door a fresh paint job is one of the fastest ways to update it. A bright color (red, yellow, green, turquoise) adds pizzazz; a neutral (gray or black) adds opulence. Whatever the color, it's important to choose a paint that stands up to the elements. Modern Masters Front Door Paint, for instance, is water-based and easy to use, and it dries quickly to a satin finish. Available in 25 ready-mixed colors, it can be applied to shutters, too. Whatever color you choose for your door, says Modern Masters marketing consultant Regina Garay of the product, "it makes it look instantly better."



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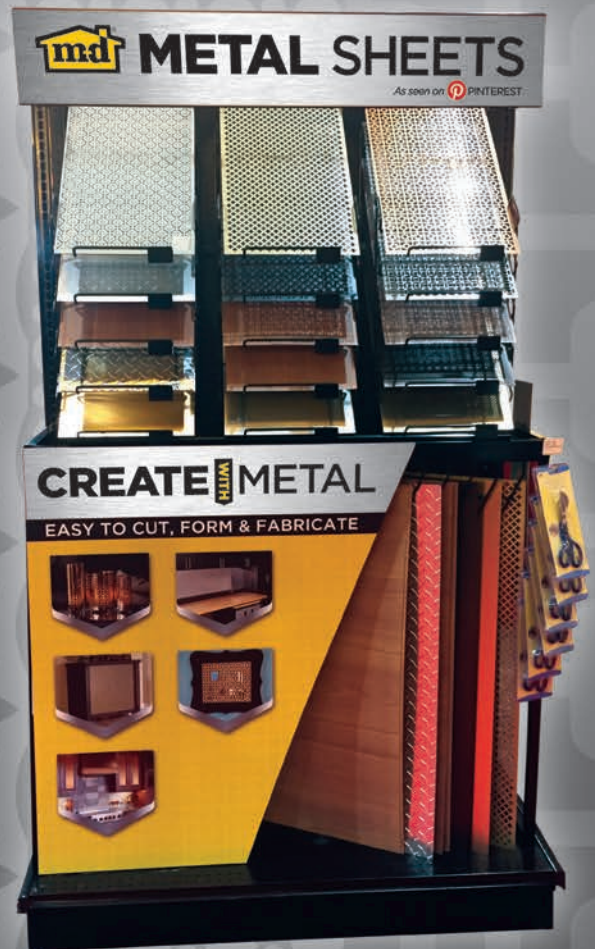
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A modern dining room with a green wall, a wooden table, and green chairs. The room features a green wall on the left, a wooden table with green chairs, and a grey wall with framed pictures. The floor is made of light wood. A large white letter 'O' is on the green wall, and a large white letter 'W' is on the floor.

# O

Creating  
a cohesive  
look for  
the home

*by* DIANE  
FRANKLIN

# W

# YOU KNOW IT WHEN YOU SEE IT.

A well-designed home with rooms that seem to flow effortlessly from one to another, conveying a sense of warmth and comfort. Everything in the space—the colors, the furnishings, the architectural elements, even the lighting—works together as one to make the space pleasing to the viewer.

Today's open floor plans make cohesive flow more important than ever. As you enter, you're taking in everything at once, so you don't want décor that's jarring or disharmonious.

"I always approach design with a cohesive, defined plan that starts as soon as you walk in the door—or even leading up to the front door," says Alene Workman of Naples, Florida-based Alene Workman Interior Design. "To achieve cohesiveness means there are elements that the eye feels comfortable with as it moves through the space. So we're looking for some things that are repeated in a similar way, whether it's a wood tone, a paint tone, architectural elements, or lighting. What you do in an entry may be repeated in a living room and a dining room."

In the creation of a cohesive flow, there's still plenty of latitude to complement the homeowner's personal preferences and lifestyle. "Some people like to be surrounded by a lot of stuff, whereas other people like a clean, sleek look," says J. Paloma Glass, a decorative artist with a background in interior design and co-founder of San Diego-based Olde World Artisans. "It's important to have a home that takes care of you and makes you feel good—the same as it would be putting on nice clothes versus just throwing something on."

## Color & Style

Naturally, color is a key consideration. "It doesn't have to be the same color, but instead a sense of the tone and how strong the hue is," Workman says. "Maybe the molding color continues in certain areas, even if the wall color changes."

When choosing colors for an open floor plan, Glass selects a palette of hues after gauging the homeowner's taste and comfort with the home's existing shades. She then chooses a range of compatible hues. "They could go from a lighter shade, say, of gray to darker shades in the same family. Then we could perhaps treat one area with a color that might pop out a bit more—in maybe a dining room—that would blend nicely with the gray but have its own personality."

Style consistency is another element that contributes to cohesiveness. However, if homeowners want to mix styles, that's

perfectly acceptable. "They may have a traditional home, but they may want a contemporary master bath," says Workman, "which is fine."

There's more latitude for making such a style departure in private rooms—such as bedrooms and bathrooms, which can be closed off from the rest of the space—than public rooms, such as the living room or kitchen. "You have the opportunity to create a totally different environment," says Workman, "because the door is kept closed."







## ELEMENTS *of* STYLE

There are several components that designers can use to create a pleasing flow throughout the living space. “Whether it’s a home or an apartment, I immediately think about the bones,” Workman says, referring to the building’s architectural elements, which may be repeated throughout the space to provide continuity. “It could be the material used. It could be the moldings. It could be the ceiling designs or detailed wall elements that are consistent from one space to another. The design should reflect a definitive decision about the elements that repeat to create this natural flow.”

For instance, the use of crown molding throughout a house might lend a consistent, elegant look. Flooring can also convey a sense of continuity. “It can contribute a pattern or design that moves from one area to the next,” Workman says, adding that the floor’s color can also help tie the space together, even if the material changes from room to room.

Similarly, types of lighting, whether fixtures (for instance, wall sconces in the entry and throughout other areas of the home) or a certain type of light (a yellow or bluish cast), can bring a sense of flow to the environment.

## ADDING DRAMA

Not all elements need to be repeated to achieve a cohesive flow. In fact, doing so could make the home somewhat boring. It’s important to include unique elements that provide visual interest or even a surprise—but such accent pieces should be placed where they enhance the overall look. “It could be an unusual piece of furniture, an amazing chandelier, or even an indoor water wall,” says Workman, who also suggests layering the design with detailing or architectural elements. “These layers don’t necessarily jump out at you, but they add depth and interest. That’s always a good thing.”

# **BRINGING THE**

# **OUTSIDE**

**ALMOST 25 YEARS AGO**, interior designer Connie LaMont and her architect husband, Wayne LaMont, moved their family from Newport Beach, California, to the Seattle area and did something that might be considered radical for two longtime urban-ites: They moved into the woods. The couple bought acreage deep in the Douglas firs and built a home that showcased the natural surroundings. They've been there ever since.

"Living out in the woods suits us," says LaMont, owner of LaMont Design. "I can't imagine living anywhere else."

Enjoying Mother Nature doesn't always mean retreating to the forest, though. Now more than ever, homeowners are intent on making their houses sanctuaries by bringing the outside in with nature-inspired colors, textures, and materials.

Creating a soothing home environment and drawing from nature to do so is nothing new, but it has picked up steam in recent years. Many current decorating styles are nature-inspired, from "farmhouse chic" (whitewashed woods, floral textiles, glazed pottery) to "rustic industrial" (rusted metals, chunky wood, masonry).

Take a cue from Mother Nature and avoid making your elements too "matchy," LaMont says, because nature doesn't decorate in this way. "Don't go for perfect, and try not to square up everything," she says, "but give them flow."





**MORE THAN EVER, HOMES ARE DRAWING  
ON MOTHER NATURE FOR INSPIRATION.**

**BY TAMMY ADAMSON-McMULLEN**







# WALLS

The most obvious step in bringing the outside in and creating flow is with a natural color scheme. This should be fairly easy to do; many popular paint colors are drawn from the earth, sea, and sky and work well together.

Paint companies often group natural colors together, making selection easier still. Benjamin Moore's Affinity Collection, for example, comprises 144 earth-inspired hues—soft, organic colors, spice tones, and frostier tints—that complement one another and create harmony together.

“Everyone has a favorite season,” says Genevieve Paiement, paint brand manager for Sico, which has categorized its 2017 palette by season. The company offers summery watercolors, autumnal spice tones, wintry grays and whites, and spring-like florals.

Wallpaper can also help create a natural theme. Thanks to technological advances, today's wall-coverings can replicate or manipulate natural materials. One example: cork, a pattern from Candice Olson's Modern Nature collection that's available from York Wallcoverings. The pattern is made from genuine cork but might have a metallic shimmer or gloss backing, depending on the colorway.

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Cork and similar wallpapers are part of a trend toward organic wallcoverings and a subcategory of “nature luxe,” says York marketing manager Carol Miller. The trend pays homage to Mother Nature but with a touch of bling in the form of opalescent colors or glimmering metallic



threads. The combination “warms spaces with casual sophistication,” says Miller.

Environmental murals are also in vogue. They invite “the natural world to interiors without the maintenance or carpentry of hanging garden walls or planting beds,” says Miller, who suggests locating them in nooks, under stairs, or on single walls to create a feeling of privacy.

## THE SHELL COLLECTOR

Flora- and fauna-themed accessories are a lovely way to incorporate nature. Birds and botanicals are wildly popular and can be found on everything from pottery to textiles to lamps.

The simplest—and least expensive—way to bring the outside in: collecting things directly from Mother Nature. In her own home, LaMont has created a small vignette that includes shells she's gathered and arranged in a small glass bowl. The idea, she says, is to “surround yourself with colors and objects that create positive energy when you're near them.”







# WINDOWS & FLOORS

When it comes to windows, blinds and roller shades control light and privacy without blocking the view. In contemporary décor, they're often used alone, but a natural look can also be achieved with wood blinds in a warm finish or shades printed in a botanical pattern. In traditional décor, blinds and shades are typically covered with

draperies. Floral draperies, for instance, are trending in both subtle color-on-color designs and high-contrast patterns.

For floors, natural hardwoods have been gaining ground for years, but the look isn't exclusive to wood. Advancements in digital printing have resulted in the new popularity of porcelain tiles that mimic natural woods. Nemo's Via Emilia Family, for example, features 80 imprints that boast a rustic real-wood appearance and texture without the potential for splintering.

"These porcelain surfaces show-

case soft, earthy tones that bring a warmth to interiors and complement modern home aesthetics," says Nemo Tile design director Katie Michael-Battaglia, noting that the tiles work well in white, black, and gray color schemes often found in metro locations.

Concrete flooring is also being used in residential settings. After all, as LaMont points out, "Concrete doesn't always have to look like a sidewalk. You can manipulate it to have multicolors, and you can embed it with all sorts of glass, metals, geodes..." Nature grounds us.



A photograph of a bright, modern living room. In the center is a large, light-colored stone fireplace with a dark interior. Above the mantel hangs a large, square mirror with a gold, geometric frame. To the left of the fireplace is a blue armchair with a patterned pillow. To the right is a beige sofa with a patterned pillow. In front of the fireplace is a low, tufted ottoman with a wooden tray on top holding a vase of red flowers. The floor is covered with a large, dark, irregular rug. The room has white walls and large windows on either side of the fireplace.

# ON THE MARKET

6 steps to make any home seller-ready

By DIANE FRANKLIN

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As HGTV might say, should you love it, or list it? The latter is incredibly tempting this year. With the sales inventory of existing homes at a 17-year low, according to the National Association of Realtors, it's hard to imagine a better seller's market. But before you join the ranks of sellers, consider freshening up your décor to appeal to prospective buyers. After all, updates in paint, furniture, accessories, and lighting can have a big impact on how quickly the sign in your front yard changes from "For Sale" to "Sold." Here's what you need to know.

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## 1

## WALLS & FLOORS

**ONE OF THE LEAST** expensive decorating options—paint—is also the one that can have the most impact. “If a house is very tired, add a fresh coat for a fresher feeling,” says Joanne Costa, owner of Joanne Costa Realty in Staten Island, New York.

Another reason to repaint: eliminating bold colors. Costa suggests neutrals, such as pale gray, taupe, or Navajo White. Other experts likewise advocate a subdued approach. “The best paint colors for selling your home are neutral colors that don’t make a statement on their own but instead let the home itself shine,” says Amanda Swan of Set to Sell, a home-staging and interior design company in Birmingham, Alabama.

Swan’s colleague Britney Bradford concurs: “The best colors are ‘greiges,’ a mix of gray and beige that give the room a calming, warm vibe.”

Looking for another update with a big impact? Consider the flooring. “If the carpet is frayed, remove it,” Costa advises. “Instead, go with hardwood floors and an area rug. It will make the room look bigger.”



## 2

### FURNITURE PLACEMENT

**CHOOSING WHERE TO** place your furniture is all about balance. “You want to demonstrate the size and potential of each room with the amount of furniture,” says Bradford, “but you don’t want to overwhelm the space and make it feel crowded and small.”

Swan suggests placing

pieces of furniture at a “conversational” distance from one another: “In other words, when you sit on the sofa you should be able to talk to the person in the chair across from you without having to raise or lower your voice.”

Costa recommends placing furniture against walls if possible. “It makes a room look

bigger and more comfortable,” she says. She reminds sellers that prospective buyers might not come alone, and every inch counts as they’re touring the property. “If you have the wife, husband, children, and perhaps a mother-in-law all viewing the house at once, the room can seem pretty crowded.”



## 3

### ACCESSORIES

Carefully placed accessories can dramatically enhance a room’s appeal. Bradford’s advice: Keep it simple. “For table settings, stay away from large, elaborate centerpieces. Flowers are always a nice touch for showings and photographs. Throw pillows and blankets should be arranged neatly on furniture.”

She suggests warm neutral hues for accessories, though a minimal

amount of soft, inviting color can look good as well. “Again, we don’t want any item to be distracting to the buyer or draw attention to itself rather than the space as a whole.”

Swan recommends an 80:20 ratio: “When placing accessories on countertops and other surfaces, 80 percent of the surface should remain clear, with 20 percent being covered by accessories.”



## 4 FAMILY PHOTOS

There are two schools of thought about what to do with family photos when your house is for sale: Keep them out, or pack them away.

Bradford recommends the latter option. "Once a house goes on the market, the seller needs to think of their home as a product that needs to be marketed," she says. "The best marketing for the home is to create a space where buyers can picture themselves living."

Costa, on the other hand, says, "Family pictures convey that it's a good family home—that people raised a family here."

## 5 CUTTING CLUTTER

Clutter makes a home look smaller and less desirable. Remove excess furniture or accessories—and don't overlook storage areas in which you've accumulated possessions. "If the garage, basement, and attic are full of stuff, get a dumpster and get rid of it," Costa says. "Your basement might be enormous, but if prospective buyers can't see beyond the boxes, they're not going to realize that."

Look at the home with an eye to what a prospective buyer would like to see—and not see. "Reducing clutter and removing personal effects are the finishing touches," Bradford says, "to make the home a blank canvas for buyers to envision their lives in."



## 6 LIGHTING

**DON'T NEGLECT** lighting, especially if it hasn't been changed in a while. As you're making changes, remember to follow the same general guidelines used for accessories.

"Keep it simple,"

Swan suggests. No single piece of décor should stand out; instead, the lighting should help "create a cohesive backdrop for the story that the buyer is painting in their mind about their

potential life there."

Costa recommends letting in lots of natural light to make the home look more inviting, as well as bigger. "The more light in the room, the more comfortable it seems," she says.





**Paint and  
decorating  
pros on this  
season's  
hot hues**

COLOR

*By* TAMMY ADAMSON-McMULLEN

TRENDS

# The Colors of the Year

What's hot in 2017

**Gray is the new black. For that reason,** you can expect this year's palette to incorporate a lot of grayed-out colors, including colors of the year: Benjamin Moore's Shadow and PPG Paints' Violet Verbena.

The two colors aren't vibrant pops of color, yet they're anything but downcast. The colors are comforting, refined, and part of a palette of deep, saturated hues that offer flexibility in home decorating.

Depending on how they're used, these new purples can set all sorts of moods. Benjamin Moore's Shadow (2117-30), for instance, can energize, harmonize, or bring restfulness to a space. "Homeowners tend to use deeper hues of violet in studies and formal dining rooms, but this is changing," says Benjamin Moore color and design director Priscilla Ghaznavi. "Shadow is a versatile color that can either act as the hero of the room or as a 'backup singer,' such as on trim or other accents."

With its gray and blue undertones, PPG's Violet Verbena (1169-5) also offers versatility. Paired with dark neutrals, the color unveils gray undertones, but when paired with whites, it reads as a purer purple.

"Violet Verbena blends perfectly with many different surroundings, like a chameleon," says PPG's Dee Schlotter, noting that the color was selected for its distinctive qualities and capacity to work well with other products. "It looks polished yet playful in a child's room, and it is calming enough to be used in hospitals or other spaces that require tranquility."

So what's influencing this trend? Schlotter believes that societal changes have a lot to do with it. "Our global society is blended and blurs the line between so many things: male/female, inside/outside, young/old, natural/digital," she says. "Violet Verbena, which is a neutral, has enough gray in it that can work in a male or female setting, in a baby's room as well as an adult's room, or in interiors or exteriors."







The flexibility of gray neutrals has made them star players in decorating collections. Paint, wallpaper, window treatment, and upholstery companies all have gray neutrals in abundance and in permutations that are pleasing to the eye. Benjamin Moore's 2017 palette, for instance, includes Sandlot Gray (2107-50), Stormy Monday (2112-50), Wet Concrete (2114-40), and Cloud Cover (OC-25).

Gray-browns—particularly soft taupe-ish grays—are another rising neutral. “The influence of gray makes all colors soothing, more sophisticated, and easy to live with,” says Hunter Douglas’ Kim Kiner. “Influencing these directions is a trend toward more mindful living as the desire increases to restore comfort in our homes and balance in our lives.”

Though the emergence of gray and purple is a new trend for 2017, blue remains a color de force on the market, says York Wallcoverings’ Carol Miller. Aqua, turquoise, Riviera blue, teal, and indigo are all popular. Orange, blush, and coral remain in play, but these colors are making a shift, “resulting in a complex pink-cast adobe,” Miller says, noting that these colors play well with blue.

Meanwhile, Pantone Color Institute has named Greenery its color of the year. Pantone calls the “fresh and zesty yellow-green” a “trans-seasonal shade” that pairs well with many other shades, including metallics. It’s also a natural partner for Serenity, a shade of blue that Pantone named a top color last year.

Green also gets a nod from Color Marketing Group, which has two yellow-greens at the top of its list: Thrive, a balanced gray-cast color with a hint of black; and Life Spurt, a clean, light cucumber-like color.

As always, though, the key is to select color schemes and furnishings that complement your tastes and lifestyle. “Follow your heart,” says Miller.

**“The colors aren’t vibrant pops, yet they’re anything but downcast. They’re comforting, refined, and part of a palette of deep, saturated hues that offer flexibility.”**



**BENJAMIN MOORE  
COLOR OF THE YEAR  
SHADOW**



**PPG  
COLOR OF THE YEAR  
VIOLET VERBENA**

# PPG 2017 COLOR TRENDS

This year's four themes emphasize origins, simplicity, progress, and the natural world.

## HOURGLASS



STRING OF PEARLS:  
PPG1079-1



CIDER TODDY:  
PPG1207-7



CONFIDENCE:  
PPG1078-5



GO TO GRAY:  
PPG1004-1



SHEFFIELD GRAY:  
PPG1041-6



DELICATE WHITE:  
PPG1001-1

## ES/SENSE



ALMOND CREAM:  
PPG1086-3



PEACH BEAUTY:  
PPG18-27



SOOTHING SAPPHIRE:  
PPG10-09



SUBDUED:  
PPG1015-4



OYSTER WHITE:  
PPG10-05



VIOLET VERBENA:  
PPG1169-5

## I'MPOWER



PARACHUTE:  
PPG1218-5



BARK:  
PPG1007-7



AZURE TIDE:  
PPG1231-6



MILK PAINT:  
PPG1098-1



HAYLOFT:  
PPG12-18



BERMUDA:  
PPG1150-6

## BIOCENTRIC



PHOTO GRAY:  
PPG1029-4



MOSTLY METAL:  
PPG1036-7



BLUEBERRY MUFFIN:  
PPG1164-5



DILLY DALLY:  
PPG1213-6



LEAFY ROMAINE:  
PPG11-14



# BENJAMIN MOORE 2017 COLOR TRENDS

A group of designers from a diverse array of backgrounds helped select these 23 colors.

## THE COLOR PALETTE



PINK BLISS  
2093-70



CHALK WHITE  
2126-70



ICEBERG  
2122-50



WISH  
AF-680



CLOUD COVER  
OC-25



AMULET  
AF-365



ETRUSCAN  
AF-355



STORMY MONDAY  
2112-50



SANDLOT GRAY  
2107-50



PORCELAIN  
2113-60



WET CONCRETE  
2114-40



SEA STAR  
2123-30



SEA LIFE  
2118-40



SHADOW  
2117-30



DARK BURGUNDY  
2075-10



KNOXVILLE GRAY  
HC-160



GUACAMOLE  
2144-10



GRANDFATHER CLOCK  
BROWN 2096-30



DINNER PARTY  
AF-300



SALAMANDER  
2050-10



GENTLEMAN'S GRAY  
2062-20



NIGHT SHADE  
2116-10



EBONY KING  
2132-20



# Off-the-Wall Colors

How to choose the perfect colors for special spaces

Homeowners tend to first think of walls when selecting interior paint colors, but trim, banisters, ceilings, floors, and doors can make or break a color scheme. Here are some helpful suggestions for these off-the-wall places. (As always, when in doubt, ask an expert for help.)



**Trim:** As a rule of thumb, painting trim a contrasting color is the way to emphasize it; to de-emphasize trim, paint it the same color as the walls. White trim is as popular as ever, especially when paired with saturated wall colors. Benjamin Moore's Dove White (OC-17), a soft shade, is a favorite. Gray also looks sophisticated when used in muted shades against creamy walls.

**Banisters:** Metal is in vogue, with scrolling ironwork, metal cabling, and industrial piping prevalent in many designs. Wooden banisters often follow trim colors, as white-on-white schemes remain popular, says York Wallcoverings' Carol Miller. Make a bolder statement by contrasting trim and banisters or elements within the banister itself.

**Ceilings:** To create a calming space, paint ceilings a slightly lighter shade than the walls. To create a focal point, try a darker color. And to accentuate other items in the room, such as dark furnishings, match the ceiling to the walls. If you go for white, choose wisely: White ceilings can look stark if there's no other white in the room, PPG Paints advises, so opt for a softer white.

**Interior Doors:** Contrast is in for interior doors. Pick a dominant color in your overall color scheme, or choose a saturated neutral. Benjamin Moore's Shadow (2117-30) is a solid consideration. Black doors and white trim can create a particularly stunning combo.





# Stay On Trend

7 tips for keeping spaces looking fresh—without constant upkeep

1

Paint a room or just an accent wall in a trending color, such as one of the new purples. Dee Schlotter of PPG notes that Violet Verbena—unanimously selected as this year's top color by the company's global color experts—is a livable hue that works well with other products on the market and often coordinates well with existing furnishings.

2

Tone down bright or bold color schemes with gray. Consider adding gray accent pillows or a gray throw rug, or painting an accent wall or cabinetry in gray. Gray can “cut the sweetness” of more saturated colors, says interior designer Connie LaMont of LaMont Design. Gray can also be used to cool down spaces (and of course it's the most influential color in the 2017 palette).

3

Try a classic look with pizzazz. For instance, repurpose a Colonial chair and pair it with a classic toile wallpaper done in lime and teal, suggests York Wallcoverings' Carol Miller.

4

Use wallpaper to unite old and new furnishings. “Wallpaper can tie existing pieces to a fresh new multicolor print, incorporating both,” Miller says. If you're nervous about putting up a lot of wallpaper, she says, “Framed wallpaper panels let you create wall art without committing to one pattern for a whole room.”

5

Consider gradually replacing window treatments. As you do, keep an eye on new colors, styles, and textures. Textiles with organic warmth, as well as those with opulence and sheen, are trending, notes Hunter Douglas' Kim Kiner.

6

Motorize window treatments. “The introduction of Hunter Douglas PowerView Motorization has been enormously successful as consumers realize the convenience and easy operation of battery-operated motorized window treatments,” Kiner reports.

7

Embrace a minimalist approach. “Pare everything down to clean lines and your favorites,” suggests Miller. “Box the rest and rotate pieces in and out every few months. The constant rotation makes all of your pieces feel new when it's time for them to be showcased—and you get to fall in love all over again!”



# Brushing Up

When planning an interior's color scheme, remember these art basics.

You undoubtedly learned about the color wheel years ago, in middle school art class, but you may have forgotten how it illustrates the ways in which colors blend, contrast, and relate to one another. It also provides a valuable tool for planning an interior design. York Wallcoverings' Carol Miller, for instance, notes that analogous colors schemes (comprising three or more colors that sit next to one another on the color wheel), which are currently popular, often include shifting blues and oranges. Here's a primer on four basic color schemes.



## Complementary

This scheme features two colors from exact opposite sides of the color wheel—red and green, orange and blue, and so on. The use of bright complementary colors yields cheerful schemes that are ideally suited for children's spaces and game rooms. Softer, more complex complementary colors are more refined and adaptable.

A red-green scheme, for example, might evolve into salmon and sage.

## Monochromatic

Consisting of a single color in varying tints (addition of white) or shades (addition of black), monochromatic schemes make a statement, especially when stronger colors are used. Neutral monochromatic schemes, in vogue for some time, are less bold and easy on the eye.







## Split Complementary

This scheme involves three colors rather than two: a base color and the colors on either side of its complement. Whereas a complementary scheme might comprise blue and orange, its split would consist of blue and red-orange and yellow-orange.

Many upholstery and wallcovering products on the market feature split complementary colors, which add vibrance and depth to the pieces.



## Analogous

Analogous color schemes comprise three or more colors lying next to one another on the wheel—for example, red, red-orange, and orange. It's important not to use the colors in equal strength but to instead choose one as the star and use the others as supporting players. A neutral color, such as white, can also provide contrast.



# TOOLS *of the*





# TRADE

How to  
make sure  
that those  
beautiful  
paints  
don't go  
to waste



BY DIANE FRANKLIN



## Bristles

### NATURAL

The best natural materials, used with solvent-based paints, are well-cleaned straight natural hog bristle and ox-ear hair. Brushes made of these materials come in various lengths and colors. "A blend of thinner-bodied extra-fine ox-ear hair with natural hog bristle provides the smoothest application for any solvent-based coating," says Ben Waksman of Corona Brushes.

### WHITE NATURAL CHINA

Brushes made of this bristle—used to apply solvent-based clears, stains, varnishes, and marine finishes—are "bushier," which helps carry thinner material and spread it well.

### NATURAL BLACK

Intended for solvent-based enamels and paints, these brushes have a built-in stiffness and finer flag that perfectly spreads and finishes heavier coatings.

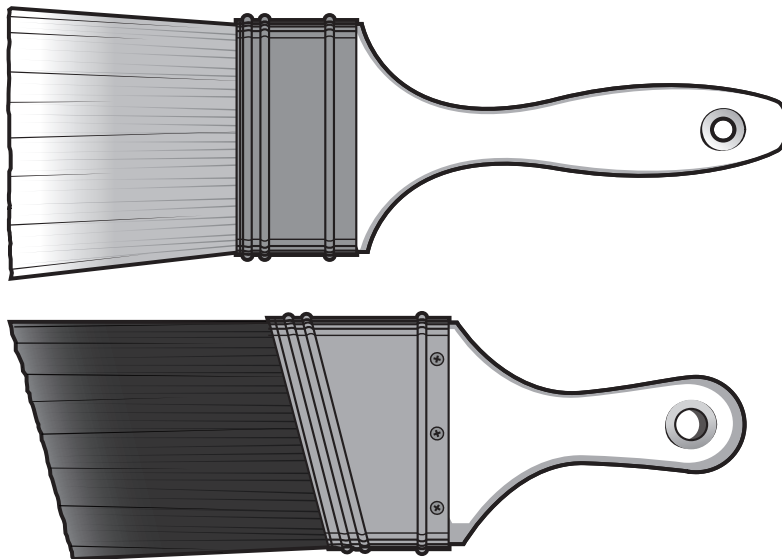
## Brushes

### FLAT

These brushes, ranging in width from 1 to 7 inches, are typically used for open spaces, cabinets, doors, walls, and other areas requiring less precision. They may be used on a variety of surfaces.

### ANGULAR

Used for precision areas—narrow spots, corners, and ceiling lines, for instance—these brushes are preferred by many painters for their ease of use.



## Rollers

### SIZES

The two most common sizes of rollers are the 9-inch (for walls and ceilings) and the 4-inch (for narrower surfaces, such as doors, trim, and cabinets).

### NAPS

Rollers are sold by nap (referring to the thickness of the pile height). Typically they're offered in 3/8-inch, 1/2-inch, 3/4-inch, 1-inch, and 1 1/2-inch sizes. Use shorter naps for smooth surfaces and longer ones for rougher surfaces.

### FABRICS

Use knit fabrics—available in polyester, wool, and blends—with flats, eggshells, and satins for greater pickup and release. Woven fabrics are used for a smoother, lint-free finish and are ideal for higher-gloss paints. Microfiber may be used with all paints and enamels for a uniform finish. Finally, texture rollers can be used to apply texture materials to walls and ceilings. Texture rollers sold by Padco, with their special Goop Loop roller fabric, are used with texture material for a rich finish. Available with standard or extra-rough finishes, these rollers work well for "touchup on existing texture surfaces," says Padco's John F. Mackey.

### QUALITY WORK

## DON'T BE PENNY-WISE AND POUND-FOOLISH

▶ If you spend money on a premium paint and think you can make up for the expense by purchasing cheaper brushes or rollers, think again. Those few saved dollars could be detrimental to the overall job. "Quality brushes and rollers are essential for a project well done," says Corona Brushes president Ben Waksman. "A selection of the finest raw materials—carefully processed and blended with just the right stiffness, density, and healthy stock—will make the difference in the amount of coating that you lift and carry to the surface, as well as applying an even and smooth application." Waksman adds, "Quality tools help achieve quality results. Using cheaper materials means more work for a poorer finish."





ISN'T THAT SPECIAL?

## SPECIALTY TOOLS FOR SPECIALTY LOOKS

If you want to create a stunning decorative finish, you need the right tools. In the hands of a decorative artist, a feather can be used to replicate the veins found in natural marble. A rag can soften the edges of a painted finish to give it a subtle stone-like look. Looking to create a beautiful specialty finish? Here are some tools that might come in handy.



**Faux-finish combs:** Make strié finishes, woodgrains, crisscross patterns, and more by combing through wet glaze.



**Stippling brushes:** These are used to produce a subtle dimensional finish.



**Stainless-steel trowels/spatulas:** Create a Venetian plaster—a dramatic smooth high-gloss finish with the illusion of texture—with these tools.



**Specialty rollers:** Use these to make a rag-roll, sponged, or other textured finish.



**Natural sea sponges:** Make two or three passes in different colors to create a look of depth and beauty.



**Wood-graining tools:** They're used to replicate the look of genuine wood.

*“Quality tools  
help achieve  
quality results.”*





## Filaments

### SYNTHETICS

Used for water-based paints, the best synthetic brushes comprise solid, round, and tapered filaments (also known as SRT). Solid are more durable than cheaper hollow filaments and help ensure more even application. The profile of a tapered filament resembles the profile of the best natural bristles, and it provides great bend recovery and control. More durable and less likely to clog than cheaper filaments, round filaments are helpful with fast-drying water-based paints. "We use SRT filaments—creating our own blends, or formulas—to control stiffness for superior bend recovery and paint pickup and release," says Waksman.

### NYLON

The most durable of filaments, nylon works well in latex paints. Softer nylon blends, such as Corona's Champagne Nylon, are preferred for interior projects; nylon brushes tend to soften in exterior conditions.

### POLYESTER

Stiffer but less durable than nylon, polyester tends to hold on to paint, making it more difficult to clean. It works well in blends in which the filaments occupy the lower portion (or "girdle") of a brush, providing more backbone for the nylon.

### NYLON/POLYESTER BLENDS

These blends work well in exterior or interior conditions, as well as with both water- and solvent-based paints. DuPont offers the Chinex filament, which also works well with both types of paint. "Of the three SRT filaments, it comes closest to resembling natural bristle," says Waksman. "It holds its stiffness better than regular nylon while cleaning up much easier than polyester."

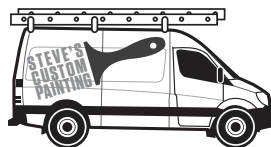
## Pads

Used for everything from interior walls and ceilings to exterior lap siding, pads require "half the time of painting with a brush," says Mackey. "Thousands of tiny flocked fibers mounted on the foam pad carry more paint to the surface to provide a smooth, even coverage."



*"If you've never painted before, it's always harder than it looks."*





# When to Go Pro

5 REASONS TO HIRE A PROFESSIONAL PAINTER

**1/ Time.** When you factor in your busy schedule, paying someone to do the job could be well worth the price. “An area that might take you three days to paint will only take a professional one day,” says professional painter Tony Stafki, owner of Minneapolis-based Walls of Art. “Ask yourself: ‘Do I want my whole house covered with plastic and drop-cloths for three days, or do I want to hire somebody who can get it done in a day?’” Efficiency is one of the greatest attributes that a professional brings to the painting process. “We work with a lot of homeowners who have kids, and painting can be very disruptive,” says Anthony Giangrossi of Evanston, Illinois-based Dynamic Colors Painting & Restoration, adding that the company sometimes runs four-person crews to quickly and effectively deliver high-quality work.

**2/ Degree of difficulty.** Unless you have visions of joining the Flying Wallendas, you might not like the idea of climbing a 16-foot ladder to paint a two-story entryway or stairway. “As a homeowner, you’re not likely to have the big extension ladder or PiViT tools that allow you to go over the staircase sideways,” Stafki says. Pros have all of these tools (and the requisite nerve) to accomplish these feats. Painting a 10-by-10-foot room with a standard ceiling is one thing, but today’s open floor plans and high ceilings are often beyond a homeowner’s abilities. “I get that all the time,” says Stafki. “Homeowners will do a little bit of DIY, but as soon as they get to a larger area, that’s when they’ll give me a call.”

**3/ Lead.** Are you painting a home built before 1978, when lead in consumer paints was banned? If so, the potential disruption of such paint poses serious health hazards, making a call to a qualified painting company imperative. “If lead is found in the home,” says Giangrossi, “use a lead-safe certified painting firm that knows how to follow EPA guidelines.”

**4/ Added interest.** Many pros have the ability to add aesthetic excitement: faux finishes, Venetian plasters, murals... Even a small embellishment can have a big impact. An accent on a bathroom wall can give the space “a whole new personality,” says Stafki. Another way to add interest: wallpaper. “While we’re in your home painting, we can also do paperhanging,” says Giangrossi. “A lot of people who are updating their walls will want to do wallpaper in a small room or do an accent wall.”

**5/ Experience.** If you’re an experienced painter, then breaking out a brush and roller might not faze you. But inexperienced DIYers are often more reluctant. “If you’ve never painted before, it’s always harder than it looks,” says Stafki. Keeping ceiling lines straight or correctly taping the space to prevent bleed-through on woodwork, for instance, can prove tricky. “A lot of it comes down to what quality of job you want,” says Stafki. “If you want a professional look, you’re going to have to hire a professional.”



## GETTING STARTED

## 6 STEPS FOR PERFECT PREP WORK

**Protect.** Use drop-cloths. Move or cover furniture. Use quality painter’s tape to mask doors, windows, baseboards, and molding. **Remove.** Take down switchplates, pictures, photos, and wall hangings. **Patch and repair.** Fill holes with a patch-repair product. (Use spackling to fill in nail holes.)

**Scrape, sand, and smooth.** Scrape off flaking paint, then use sandpaper to smooth the wall. **Clean.** Dust or vacuum the walls. Get rid of grime by washing the walls with a mild detergent or non-abrasive cleaner. Rinse the walls thoroughly and let them dry. **Prime as needed.** You don’t have to prime in every situ-

ation, but here are some in which you do: when painting over new drywall or a discolored or stained surface, when extra hide is needed to cover the previous color, and when you’re painting a slick surface and need to improve adhesion. When in doubt, consult your local paint store for advice and to select the perfect primer.









# COLOR CODED

**An art collection inspires a home's paint palette.**

By DIANE CALMENSON



When homeowners Kati and Mark Nunneley moved in to their new home in Dallas' University Park neighborhood, they didn't wait long to make changes. For years they'd lived in a home with a neutral color scheme, and the couple was ready to go bold—really, really bold.

Color is the driving force behind the design of this house, and the driving force behind each color choice is a piece of artwork.

"The home is based on paintings found in each of the rooms," says Jan Jones of Dallas-based interior design firm Jan Jones, who collaborated on the look of the house with Lisa Martensen, at the time her business partner in Martensen Jones Interiors. "The colors you see in the paintings are the colors you see in the rooms."

The eye of a visitor entering the house is immediately drawn to the sitting room's deep teal walls and ceiling. Look more closely, and you'll find that same shade of blue-green on the overalls worn by a farmer in an Impressionist work belonging



to the homeowners. That painting, “Man in Tuscany” by Duane Alt, was purchased in a gallery on Martha’s Vineyard more than 20 years ago. Now hanging above a mantel in the Nunneleys’ home, it serves as the foundation for the room’s moody color palette. The chevron-patterned fabric covering the room’s sofa combines several of the cool colors also found in the piece.

“We were ready to use another shade of teal on the couch and the chevron fabric for one of the accent pillows,” recalls Jones, “but Kati preferred to do the reverse. We did, and the look gave the room all the energy and fun she was looking for.”

In other areas of the room, a set of side chairs, formerly dark brown and upholstered in a leopard print, have been reimaged to complement the room’s décor. Now lacquered in white, each is covered in a large chartreuse ikat pattern. A vintage coffee table placed in the center of the room adds charm and provides some contrast with the room’s newer items. Custom mirrors, white table lamps, and reproduction antique chests complete the setting. A sisal carpet and zebra rug help ground the space in neutral tones. The rug, along with a modern black-and-white painting above the sofa, balances the room’s colorful vibe.







**“We were ready to use another shade of teal on the couch and the chevron fabric for one of the accent pillows.”**



## **Breakfast at Nunneley’s**

In the dining room, a color scheme of Tiffany blue, bright pink, gold, and white is borrowed from a floral painting by French artist Yolande Ardissonne. The homeowners’ traditional dining room table and sideboard are contrasted with chairs lacquered in white and covered in a matching turquoise blue with a patterned backrest. Taffeta draperies in the same shade frame the room’s large windows. Not to be missed is a large Murano glass chandelier surrounded by silver tealeaf wallpaper in a slightly reflective semi-matte finish. A bold soleil mirror graces the wall over the sideboard, and a Cole and Son wallpaper lends visual depth. Beneath it all? The subtle touch of a seagrass carpet.

“I try to use seagrass in every house I design,” says Jones. “It doesn’t stain and is practically indestructible, yet seagrass is soft and smooth underfoot and it gives great texture to a space.”







## Bedroom Bliss

The homeowners didn't quite see eye to eye when discussing the design of the master bedroom. Kati wanted color, but Mark hoped for a more relaxing and neutral palette. "We convinced Kati that the bedroom should be a serene and spa-like space," Jones says. "In the end, we went with celadon, a somewhat watered-down version of the blue-green color used throughout the rest of the house." Once again, the hue plays off the color scheme in a painting, this one by Carol Benson-Cobb, which the designers had commissioned for the room. In addition, several pieces of furniture—including the bed, with its tufted head- and footboard, and the night tables flanking it, from a private manufacturer in High Point, North Carolina—were custom-designed to better fit the room's large dimensions. The graceful Murano glass lamps on the tables are reflected in custom mirrors featuring a Greek key pattern on the frame. The roll goods carpet has a serged edge to allow a few inches of the room's wood flooring to show.



## The Little Black Hall

In a home inspired by art, style and drama are to be expected. For this reason, the designers elected to paint the hallway outside Mark's home office a shade of black. The painting on the wall, from Natural Curiosities, lends a vibrant touch. An antique Murano glass chandelier was purchased online and shipped from Europe to light the space.

The stairwell near the entrance to the house is one more example of how the designers used colors found within artworks to create a cohesive space and flow. The commissioned artwork combines the blue and green with the pops of black and white seen in the home's living areas.

"I know there's a lot of colorful eye candy around the house, but it's not overkill," says Kati. "Each room layers traditional pieces with modern ones for a look that I know we'll enjoy for a long time."









# EVERYTHING NEW *is* OLD AGAIN

A St. Louis home  
marked by European influences  
has timeless charm.

BY DIANE FRANKLIN

**A HOME DOESN'T** have to be centuries old to exude a timeless charm. Interior designer Amy Studebaker of Amy Studebaker Design had the opportunity to bring a classic European look to a new home, collaborating with the builder, architect, and homeowners to ensure that all details were just right.

Inspired by a trip to Italy, the homeowners wanted to bring European influences into a custom-built home in an affluent St. Louis suburb. "The whole home is themed around an Italian old world feel," says Studebaker, who worked closely with builder Johnson Development and architect William D. Cover over the course of the two-year project.

The old world look starts with the stone/stucco walls and clay tile roof of the home's Tuscan-style exterior. It continues inside with architectural embellishments and design choices reminiscent of those found in an Italian villa. The ceilings feature natural reclaimed beams in some rooms and painted ceiling planks in others.

"With old Tuscan villas or old European homes in general, a lot of times you'll see the exposed beams or trusses that are helping to hold up the home," Studebaker says. "Of course, the beams in this home don't technically do that, but they give the impression."





**A GRAND HALL** with high ceilings and classic furnishings dominates the lower level of the one-and-a-half-story home. The color scheme here comprises rich golds, blues, warm reds, and cream. The foyer runs the length of the grand hall and is divided by a wall with three entryways that provide an easy flow from one space to the next. Three window-shaped cutouts high on the wall contribute to the openness of the space.

Flanking the front door in the foyer are his-and-her antique chairs covered in a tapestry fabric. To the sides of a blue sofa in the grand hall sit wingback chairs, upholstered in a striped velvet that adds texture and warmth to the space.

In the kitchen, the exposed faux-painted ceiling beams provide a striking contrast to the other painted and wood-stained surfaces. Florida-based architect Eduardo Martinez provided beam work and cabinets for the kitchen in addition to contributing to other areas of the house. The kitchen exudes warmth thanks to a color scheme of coppers, bronzes, and rusty reds. Copper elements are prominent: A copper stove hood looks as if it's being supported by a reclaimed copper-hued beam, and copper pots are dis-











played above the stove and island.

The barstool fabrics and floor coverings carry out the warm color scheme. “We have antique rugs on the floor, which lend themselves to an aged, worn look,” Studebaker says, “something that’s cozy and welcoming, like it’s always been there.”

Old World elegance continues in the bedrooms, where color schemes are distinctive but compatible with those of the rest of the home. “I like to have an overall color palette but still use color to indicate that you’ve left one room and gone into another,” Studebaker says.

The master bedroom’s palette features rich blue and gold tones. Draperies of gold silk are topped by an embellished cornice board. A triptych of panels, upholstered in tapestry that tells a story, serves as the

bed’s headboard. The framework surrounding the panels is stained; the ceiling beams are painted. “Again we’re mixing the stained and painted, the new and old, to bring about that old world feel,” Studebaker says.

The bedrooms of the three children—two girls and a boy—were designed with each child’s personality in mind.

The younger daughter loves bright colors, so her room featured pinks, aquas, and greens. “We went a little fun and crazy with it,” Studebaker says. “We used florals and stripes on the fabrics and little polka dots on the sofas and did the piping in bright pink.” In keeping with the home’s theme, the room also features an ornate chandelier and a mirror with a carved frame.

Since children’s tastes change as they grow up, Studebaker later redid the room. The now-tween





*One daughter wanted her room updated to reflect her love of Barbie and the pop band One Direction.*

wanted her room updated to reflect her love of Barbie and the pop band One Direction. In keeping with the band's London origins, Studebaker used a Britain-inspired color scheme. "The draperies are a damask fabric in red and blue," she says. "We also had fun creating a canopy that was girly and Barbie-esque."

The dressing table was likewise given the Barbie treatment. "We painted the dressing table pink and white and added a gathered skirt to really give the piece fabulous detail," Studebaker says. "We designed a tutu for the back of the dressing chair—again, to add a wonderfully feminine feel."

In the older girl's bedroom, Barbie again came into play. The inspiration was a life-size Malibu Barbie



Dream House, brought to reality by designer Jonathan Adler in connection with Mattel's celebration of Barbie's 50th anniversary. Using this dream house as inspiration, Studebaker designed pink and black décor that's both vibrant and sophisticated.

In creating the home's interior, Studebaker achieved a look that satisfies the homeowners' love of old world charm and their children's love of pop culture icons. The design is timeless but still manages to capture a distinct moment.



# DECK



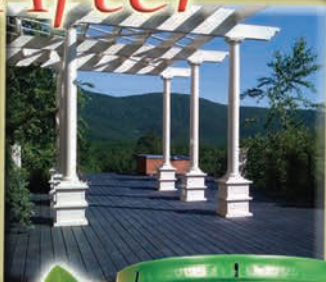
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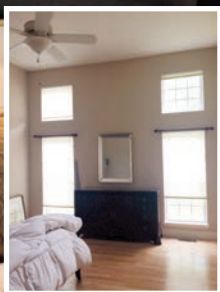
# FINISH

TRANSFORMATIONS

## High-Fashion Boudoir

A dramatic bedroom, before and after

BY TAMMY ADAMSON-McMULLEN



**S** T. LOUIS-BASED interior designer Jessie D. Miller transformed a basic beige and white bedroom into a stunning boudoir for someone she calls “a chic and sophisticated client with an appreciation for art, travel, and fashion.” The design included new architectural elements, including custom-designed, custom-built bookcases; an imported marble mantel; and crown and panel moldings. Miller also specified new furnishings, accessories, curated art pieces (including a Rata Silks portrait and a leaning mirror), lighting, and a dramatic black paint scheme. She also worked with seamstress Jeanette Longfellow to create the window treatments, including Roman shades in Malakos, what Miller calls “one of my favorite fabrics.”





## Choosing Wisely

SMART WAYS TO AVOID COMMON  
COLOR MISTAKES

by  
KAREN BANKSTON

**I F YOU'VE EVER** painted a room in what you thought was the perfect color, only to be disappointed with the finished product, you're not alone. LH Color consultant Leslie Harrington offers some pointers to help you head off paint-selection pitfalls.

**WHAT ARE THE MOST COMMON MISTAKES IN CHOOSING PAINT COLORS?** People often pick colors on a chip that turn out to be too bright on their walls. They miscalculate the magnification of the color from the small sample to a whole wall. Or they might misjudge how the color shifts with the amount of light in the room throughout the day. A lot of people are afraid of going too dark, so they compensate by going one shade lighter—but I recommend going one shade grayer instead when you find a bright or dark color that you like.

**WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO NARROW YOUR CHOICES?** Don't zero in on one color too quickly. Take a lot of swatches around the color you like. Use a process of elimination: Take a bunch of paint chips, put them on the wall, and remove them one at a time. That way, you can work toward a consensus among all the decision-makers. You're more likely to get down to the final choice without fights between spouses. Also, make sure you're looking at the colors in the room. I prefer to get a few samples of the same color and put them on each wall instead of moving a single sample around the room.

**THEN IT'S TIME FOR A TEST PAINT?** Instead of a test paint on the walls, I usually get a swatch pot and paint a surface, like a big piece of cardboard, so I can move it around. By doing that, you can put it on any wall, hold it over your head, and move it from room to room. You might even find applications for that paint color you hadn't thought of before. This idea heads off living in a house with paint samples slapped up on all the walls until you're ready to paint, which is a mess and can be emotionally draining. Another problem is that you'll need to do a lot of extra priming to hide all those swatches in various values of light and dark before you paint.

**“Instead of a test paint on the walls, I usually get a swatch pot and paint a surface, like a big piece of cardboard, so I can move it around.”**





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# Finishing Touches

SAVING THE BEST FOR LAST

by  
DIANE FRANKLIN



## LOOKING TO ADD

texture, interest, or just a touch of glamour to a room? Finish strong. Decorative finishes can be used to enhance walls, ceilings, cabinets, and furniture. Here are some of the latest looks.

## GOING GLING

Eric Spiegel has coined a term for the place where glamour and bling collide: GLING. Spiegel, the owner of Spiegel's Decorative Finishes in Naples, Florida, uses such dazzling products as mica, foils, and opalescent finishes to create elegant high-end interiors. It's a look, he says, that brings "sexy back to walls."

## WARM ELEGANCE

Glazes bring subtle, warm elegance to a wall. "A glazed finish can vary from a slight blend of color to a more dramatic one," says Faux Effects International's Rachel Sandor-VanHouten. "It is just enough to complete a room without being overpowering."

## TIMELESS TEXTURES

"Textured finishes are timeless and can match any décor," says Sandor-VanHouten. Textures that introduce natural elements can help yield what she describes as "a Zen-like atmosphere." Stone and rock finishes, for instance, can be achieved with the use of Faux Effects' Aqua-Stone and SandStone, tinted with FauxCreme Color.

## FAB FURNITURE

You don't have to choose just one finish. Case in point: this eye-catching dresser from Micki Coles, co-owner of The Couture Collection in Charlotte, North Carolina. It has it all: crackle, metallics, stencil, and glaze.





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