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COLOR ISSUE

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Palette Pros

Three designers give us the inside story on how they use hues by **Gina Bazer**

Color is the most powerful tool interior designers have at their disposal—after all, what makes a bigger statement in a room? We spoke to three experts about using hues to pull spaces together and express a home's personality, from glamorous to happy to warmly modern. One designer used a mixed palette of mostly muted colors, another stuck to four basic shades throughout a house, and the third let playful primaries do his bidding, grounding it all with warm woods. We couldn't help but love them all.

RESOURCES SEE BUY GUIDE, PAGE 100.



← CHEERED-UP CHAIR

It's hard to believe this chair originally had a grandma-ish mahogany frame with red velvet upholstery. Thornton had the wood lacquered black and the back re-covered in a silk tartan, the seat in a complementary fabric. "I was going for that sort of cheeky, youthful British look," she says.

1 SHADES OF GLAM



Summer Thornton juxtaposes elegant grays and yellows with blues both muted and bright at the Palmolive Building.



↑ PLAYING OFF THE LAKE

"The client likes blues and grays, which we used in various shades to pull in the gorgeous views of the lake from the living room," says Thornton. She added chartreuse and lavender pillows for accents. "In a project like this, where there is a lot of gray, small elements in brighter shades add energy."

GOING DEEP →

In the den, a graphic gray-and-white Scalamandré fabric on the sofa pops beautifully against charcoal-colored wallpaper. A huge oil painting of a horse by James McLaughlin Way anchors the space. ("The owners love horses, and I love animal figures, so we used them a lot in accessorizing this space," Thornton says). Finally, contrasting silk pillows in rich ochre make this setting chic and dramatic.



"I'm a layering kind of girl. I like using a lot of patterns. Injecting even one pattern keeps a space from feeling stagnant."

PAPER PERFECT →

"I use wallpaper as much as I can, and this pattern from Cole & Son is a great graphic interpretation of a floral," says Thornton. The paper's cocooning darkness makes the bedroom feel cozy; a black-and-white-striped faux chinchilla throw at the end of the bed lightens the look in this moody yet glamorous space.



BALI 702

PACIFIC OCEAN BLUE 2055-20

TEAL 2055-10

get the look

Tip your hat to tartans by having a piece of your favorite **plaid fabric framed** at Artists Frame Service (artistsframeservice.com). Add equestrian style with horsey

bookends, \$295, from Mecox Gardens (mecoxgardens.com). Gold always equals glam. Maize **brass lamp with gold silk shade**, Laura Kirar Collection for Arteriors Home, \$1,319, at George Lowell (georgelowell.com). When

Thornton has the blues, these **Benjamin Moore shades** never fail her: Bali ("We used this in a high-gloss finish and painted all the moldings, walls, and ceiling in the dining room the same color for a dramatic effect"); Pacific

Ocean Blue ("an intense blue-green that would be great for a front door"); and Teal ("I am using this color on a wood-paneled family room in a lacquer finish to give a formal, traditional room a kick").