

A photograph of a modern interior scene. On the left, a dark wood desk holds a stack of books and a framed picture. A sleek, black desk lamp with a curved arm and a conical shade is lit, casting a warm glow. To the right, a dark wood chair with a distinctive funnel-shaped backrest is visible. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Decorating

{ made simple }

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TOPICS

The Color Wheel
Color Terms
Lighting and Ambiance
Color Harmonies

Decorating

{ made simple }

How often has a home's interior made you feel delighted? calm? exhilarated? happy? Your home's interior spaces reflect who you are and it often takes some real innovative thinking to bring out your own style.

The world of color and home decorating is a vast one. This brochure can help you in your quest to innovate and decorate by providing you with the basics in color and color combinations. Take a look, make your spaces your own, go all out - remember to innovate and decorate!

Whether you're sprucing up the dining room for the holidays or preparing the nursery for that new addition, most decorating projects start with a particular location or a special occasion in mind. Having identified the space, the next step is to identify a source of inspiration upon which to build your palette. What inspires you could be as close as the cushion on your couch or as far away as your last vacation destination. Inspiration also comes from fashion, nature and art. Assemble items that appeal to you, whether they are fabric swatches, paint chips or photos cut from a magazine. They are your starting points.

Take a good look at these items and notice just what colors attract and hold your attention. Chances are those are the same colors that you find in the personal palette of your wardrobe. Are you drawn to the warm hues of reds and yellows? Or do you find blues and greens feel better to you? If you're worried about missing the latest "trend" just remember what fashion designer Yves St. Laurent once said, "Fashion fades, style is eternal." Don't forget, it's your space; you have to feel comfortable in it.

One final thought...you can take it with you! When shopping for paint, remember to bring your cushions, fabrics, wall or floor covering samples with you. While you're in the paint store, use the take home chips in the display to locate your accessory colors as well. Assemble a collection of paint chips that best represent the color found in your decor. Create your own mini-fandeck comprised of your personal color palette and take it with you every time you shop for your home decorating needs. Remember to consider the influence that lighting in the store (fluorescent = cool) has on your perceptions. And remember that the lighting in your home may make a difference as well.

The Color Wheel

The color wheel is an important decorating tool. Use it to create a symbiosis between the colors you like and colors that harmonize with them.

Warm Colors

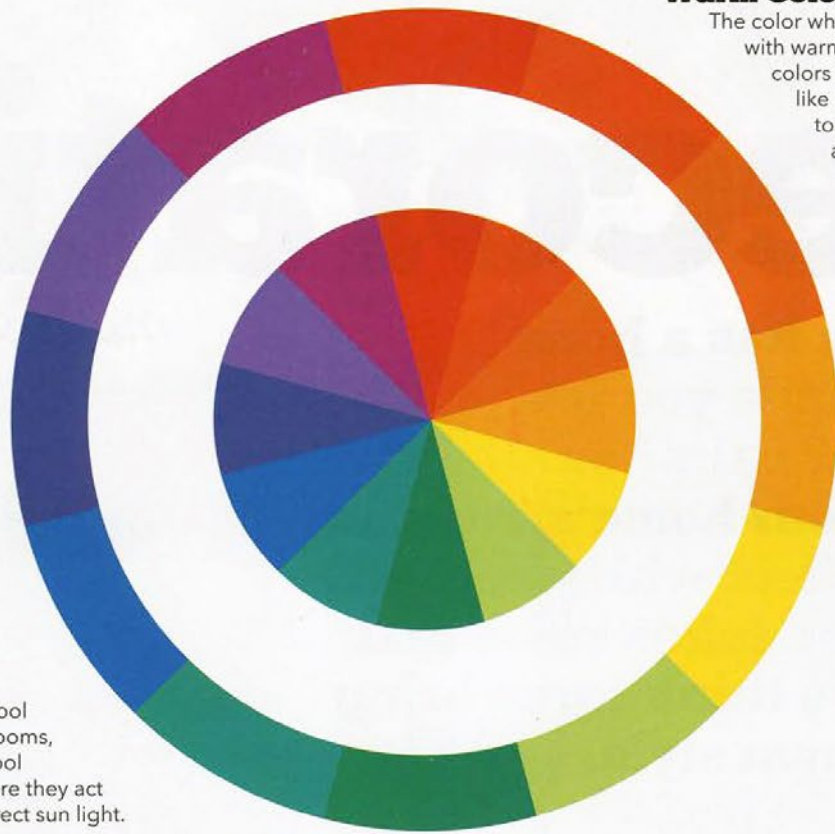
The color wheel can be divided into half, with warm colors on one side and cool colors on the other. Warm colors like red, yellow and orange tend to heat up a room. These colors are a good choice for kitchens, dining rooms, living rooms, and play rooms.

Warm colors tend to advance and therefore close in a room. Use warm colors when you want to "cozy up" a large room.

Cool Colors

Cool colors like blue, green and violet are quiet and tranquil colors. They are best used in rooms that call for relaxation and calm. Use cool colors in bedrooms, bathrooms, dens and nurseries. Use cool colors in sunny rooms where they act as a counter balance to direct sun light.

Cool colors are recessive; they give the illusion of pushing back walls thereby making a small room look larger.



Color Terms

Although color can definitely speak for itself, there are some words to describe color commonly used in the decorating world.

Hue - Hue is simply another word for color. It is the quality that distinguishes one color family from another.

Shade - Shade can indicate any color or hue mixed with black or gray.

Tint - Tint is any color mixed with white paint; a light color.

Value - Value is the relative lightness or darkness of a color.

Temperature - Temperature is a color's perceived sense of warmth or coolness in relation to the specific color and the colors around it. Red, yellow, and orange seem warm; blue and colors high in blue content seem cool. Violet and green are neutral in temperature as they both have warm and cool content.

Chroma - The brightness or darkness of a color is its intensity (chroma). If a color is intense, it is bright and pure - it will enliven your space. Low intensity colors are subdued and contain more gray - these colors will lend an air of calm to your space.

Undertones - The subtle underlying color of a hue is its undertone. Interior colors are rarely pure. They are mixtures of many colors and the undertones that reflect that mix. Olive being a green with an undertone of yellow.





TOPICS

Lighting and Ambiance
Color Harmonies

Lighting and Ambiance

Light reveals color

Light allows us to see color. You can make wise choices if you know the basics of how light influences color.

Direct sunlight exposes the colors in a room, showing their "natural form, without any additional warmth or coolness. Indirect sunlight tends to make colors appear warmer than they are. Artificial light can cause colors to appear warm or cool. Incandescent and halogen lights induce a warm look, while fluorescent lights create a cool look.

Most light is typically artificial and the color of the light can vary. For example, warm lights from incandescent bulbs can intensify yellow and reds colors, while dulling cool colors. The cool blue light of fluorescent bulbs tend to muddy warm yellows and reds, but amplify colors like blue and green. Halogen bulbs produces a much whiter and brighter light. The most pure form of light, natural light, will have a major influence on your color choice.

Rooms with less direct sunlight tend to be cool. Warm light is more common for south facing rooms. Color can help balance

the feeling of temperature in a room; use warm colors in north facing rooms and cool colors in south facing rooms.

Colorful Illusions

Using color can help to define or alter space.

It's all about creating illusions with color. For example: light, cool colors expand the sense of space; dark, warm colors give the impression of contracting a space. Similarly, subtle colors make a room seem spacious, while more intense colors have been thought to make a room seem smaller. Other factors including the quality and quantity of the light a room receives can limit these visual effects.

A color's appearance is also influenced by the colors around it. White may appear warmer when placed next to red or cooler when placed with blue. Complementary colors, colors that appear opposite one another on the color wheel, tend to enhance one another.

Color Harmonies

Color harmony ensures that a room will not only look good but that it will also feel good. When striving for color harmony, take into account your walls and furniture as well as any other accessories in a given room. There are many ways to harmonize colors, and the color wheel is a great tool to assist you. Here are some guidelines to get you started.



Monochromatic
A scheme that uses one hue in combination with any of its tints, tones, or shades. It is the easiest scheme to use.



Complementary
A scheme using colors directly opposite or nearly opposite on the color wheel.



Triadic
A scheme that includes any three equally spaced colors on the color wheel.



Analogous
A scheme that uses two or three related colors that lie next to each other on the color wheel for a harmonious blend.



Split Complement
A scheme that uses the hues to the left and right of a color's complement on the color wheel.



Double Complement
A scheme that uses two complementary schemes in one room.

A single color family
is all it takes to create
an atmosphere of
understated *elegance*
and *serenity*



BEFORE

1273
Wildflower
Prairie

1276
Velvet Robe

1278
Fresh Take

Monochromatic

A scheme that uses one hue in combination with any of its tints, tones, or shades. It is the easiest scheme to use.

TIP: Use variation of the same color in accent pieces - fabrics or carpets - to tie everything together.

Monochromatic

{ your "one and only" }

Complementary

{ rules of attraction }



Colors found on the opposite sides of the color wheel tend to *enhance* each other's *intensity*

BEFORE



0950
Ivory Coast



0609
Innuendo



0953
Evening Star



Complementary
A scheme using colors directly opposite or nearly opposite on the color wheel.

TIP: Consider using a single color on your walls and then add pizzazz with accessories like cushions, flowers, vases and lamps in complementary colors.

Complex color schemes
such as triadic are
pleasing as they
balance visual
temperature



BEFORE



0115
Sophistication



Triadic
A scheme that
includes any three
equally spaced colors
on the color wheel.

0278
Barberry Sand



TIP: A bit of black in
a room will enhance
all of the other colors
in a space. It's also a
good idea to purchase
a quart of paint to do a
patch test to see how
it looks under different
lighting conditions.

0687
Stillwater



Triadic

{ a love triangle of color }



Analogous

{ welcome to the neighborhood }

While analogous colors appear next to each other on the color wheel, each color is a different *value* or *lightness*

BEFORE

0714
Turquoise Tower

0827
Ray of Light

0692
Barely Aqua

Analogous
A scheme that uses two or three related colors that lie next to each other on the color wheel for a harmonious blend.

TIP: The floor is the fifth wall of your house and probably the most costly to modify. Take fixed surface such as floors, fireplaces and fixtures into account when choosing colors.

The combination of colors adds variety to a room in a *pleasant* but *active* way



BEFORE

0436
Fern Gully

1101
Mullen Pink

1289
Lilac Blossom

Split Complement

A scheme that uses the hues to the left and right of a color's complement on the color wheel.

TIP: To enliven the space, try adding a tint of the wall color's complement to the ceiling or trim.

Split Complement

{ the company you keep }

Double Complement

{ complementary x 2 }



A double complementary color scheme doubles your decorating *pleasure* by giving you *four colors* to choose from

BEFORE

0667
Blessed Blue

1138
Romantic Night

0942
Lemon Dream

0684
Snow Drift

Double Complement
A scheme that uses two complementary schemes in one room.

TIP: To achieve color balance in any color scheme try the 60/30/10 approach. The walls are usually the 60%. The 2nd largest area (window treatments, upholstery or floor covering) make up the 30%. Accent will make up the remaining 10%.

Warm colors can be comfortable and COZY in more subtle versions to lively and exciting in the brighter variations



INSPIRED BY

1040
Dark
Marmalade

0144
Film Noir

0990
Butterscotch
Glaze

Warm
A scheme that uses hues combinations found in the "warm" half of the color wheel.

TIP: Warm colors are thought of as energetic and stimulate activity, but can also close up an area. Consider using warm colors in "come together" areas.

Warm

{ *comfort, light & energy* }

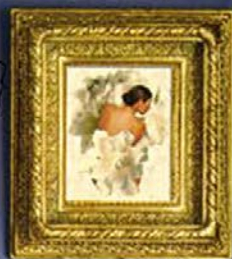


Cool

{ elegance, calm & serene }

The bright cool colors are refreshing and inspirational while the lighter tints invoke relaxation.

refreshing and inspirational while the lighter tints invoke relaxation.



INSPIRED BY

0591
Blue Jacket

0004
Child of Heaven

0221
Brown Suede



Cool

A scheme that uses hues combinations found in the "cool" half of the color wheel.

TIP: Cool colors counter balance direct sunlight and tend to make areas look more spacious. Use this color range in areas like the bedroom or in bathrooms - places where sanctuary is sought.

The strength of the bright color schemes is its ability to *stimulate conversation and express personality*



INSPIRED BY

0716
Blue Green
Scene

0850
Citron

0969
Au Gratin

Bright

A scheme that uses the highest chromaticity of any color found on the color wheel. Brights can also include pure tints of colors

TIP: When choosing a bright color palette be mindful of the other furnishings in the room. Although it's a tricky balance to pull off, the rewards are high.

Bright

{ *dramatic, expressive & dynamic* }

Neutral

{ clean, subtle & restful }

Neutrals are used to diffuse attention and provide a sense of *balance* and *minimalistic charm*

INSPIRED BY



0222
Au Natural

0419
Poseidon's
Beard

0002
Elusive White

Neutral

A scheme using colors of very low saturation and are close to or contain gray. Neutrals can be warm or cool.

TIP: Neutral colors make good backdrops for objects with bolder colors. If you want to give those color photos or picture windows prominence a neutral choice might be the perfect choice.

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