

Painting Your Home

changing interiors from "blah to ahhh"

I. Start Small



If you're not sure where to begin with color, experiment in a powder room or create an accent wall. Use a favorite color or get inspiration from a color drawn from artwork, rug or magazine. Be sure to tie in something from the room just outside it for "flow".

II. Think of a Mood



When selecting a color, consider the purpose and mood of a room. Soft, cool colors and neutrals create a serene feeling. Dark colors and those creating strong contrasts create a dramatic look.

III. Lighting Makes a Difference



Natural daylight shows the truest color; incandescent lighting brings out yellow tones; fluorescent lighting casts a blue tone. Each wall will look slightly different because of shadows and lighting. Select a color that looks best in the lighting for when you use the room the most often. Prioritize which wall(s) are the most important in case the color is not perfect on every wall.

IV. Know Your Paint Terms



It helps to understand the terminology used to describe color especially if you need help at a paint store. HUE is what we call a color. For example, blue is a hue. The VALUE is its lightness or darkness. Again, navy is a dark value of blue. When you add gray to the hue, you get a TONE. This would be a dusty blue. Adding white to the hue is a TINT. Now the blue becomes baby blue.

V. Always Test First



Testing your colors is very important. If you are painting directly on the wall, be sure to neutralize the wall color there first with primer. Paint within the primed area and be sure to make it large enough. Painting on a tag board is best because you can move it from wall to wall. Neutralize again by leaving a large white border. Don't forget the ceiling (the 5th wall). White is not always best. Color helps show off crown molding and can dramatize a room.

VI. Add Depth to Create Interest



Transform flat, dull walls into interesting and personal spaces with subtle or dramatic visual texture and broken color. Burnished mineral/metal finishes and layered colored glazes add depth. Some examples of softly reflective metals are mica, copper, pewter, bronze and, of course, antiqued silver and gold.

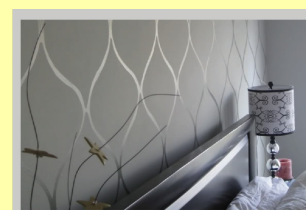
VII. Go With the Flow of Your Home

VIII. Play With Monochromatic



Create bold or subtle variations

IX. Choose Different Paint Finishes





Consider walls as planes of color, and see how they interact when viewing one next to the other in adjacent rooms. Approach it like a composition: You're in one room, but you're going to see a piece of another room through it. So as you're choosing colors, consider how they will flow from room to room to create your picture.

within one color group by changing the tint or tone. For an accent wall, choose a darker color on the same color strip by skipping one or two colors down. Rooms that are decorated in monochromatic colors will get exciting when textures of the contents are varied. For example, you can use a furry pillow, roughly textured drapery fabric and a carpeting with luster all in the same hue and it will appear very interesting.

Create bold or subtle variations within one color group with contrasting paint finishes. Vertical or horizontal stripes can be created using the same color with a matte sheen next to a semi-gloss sheen. Or you can use one color with a tint or tone of the hue next to it.

When in doubt call for a professional paint consultation. The time spent choosing will save you money in the long run.

Special thanks to HGTV for their contributions to this newsletter.

Did you know?

Andrea offers group presentations on topics related to interior design and staging.

*Most Recent Presentation: **The Power of Color**
on September 30th from 6 - 8:30 PM*

CONSULTING SERVICES

A Designz consultation focuses on your desires for your home's décor. We blend your current possessions with new selections to create your signature style. Designz principles of layering color and texture add impact while harmonizing scale. Balance and rhythm complete the composition.



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Today. Named "Design Queen"
by the Loudoun Times Mirror.