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2011 ANNUAL RENOVATING & DECORATING GUIDE

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**BEFORE & AFTER A FAMILY HOME'S FRESH
START LITTLE WONDERS SMALL SPACES
WITH UNLIMITED POTENTIAL UPCYCLED
REVIVAL EVERYTHING OLD IS NEW AGAIN**

(Top left) Page painted with Murowash in **Cracker**, \$34 per 1L, from Murobond. (Under painted page) Parchment **papers**, 30c per A4 sheet, from Oxford Art Supplies. (Under parchment) Aged **paper**, \$15 for five sheets, from Olive Manna. **Book**, stylist's own. O-Check **colour pencil**, \$18.95 for a pack of 12, from Telegram. Porcelain **dish**, stylist's own. (In dish) Milk Paint in **Parterre**, \$42 per kilo, from Porter's Paints. (Bottom left) Porcelain **dish**, stylist's own. (In dish) Cement Paint in **Morocco**, \$35 per kilo, from Murobond. Lab **dish** with handle, \$15, from Doug Up On Bourke. (In dish) Cement Paint in **Bark**, \$35 per kilo, from Murobond. 'Pergoda No 7' **paint-brush**, \$1.60, from Riot! Art & Craft. **Booklet** and **book**, both stylist's own. **Background** painted with Liquid Zinc, \$100 for base, from Porter's Paints.

colour library

REINVENTING YOUR HOME IS AS SIMPLE AS A LICK OF PAINT, BUT WHICH PALETTES WILL WORK? HERE, THE EXPERTS OFFER THE DEFINITIVE TIPS

WORDS CATHERINE MCCORMACK STYLING CLAIRE DELMAR PHOTOGRAPHS PETRINA TINSLAY

Colour is the most emotive element of design – inspiring and motivating us. Even a small hint can improve a space. “It is intensely communicative,” says US interior designer Kelly Wearstler, famous for her sumptuous, over-saturated work. “Unique colour combinations create either visual tension or harmony – both can be equally beautiful.”

Paint remains one of the easiest ways to introduce colour inside. “It can be applied in so many ways – from a room to a dado, vertical strip or even just a ceiling,” says stylist Sibella Court, owner of The Society Inc. shop and author of *Etcetera*. “And it can be achieved in an afternoon.”

Berry shades, bright blues, green-based yellows and grey-based whites are popular now, but, “Our personal relationship with colour is individual and unique, which makes it so magical,” says Edwina Hirst, from the International School of Colour and Design. →

Taupe Grey

Sea Urchin

Hopscotch



WHITES, GREYS & NEUTRALS

cool vs warm tones

Almost every paint hue, including white, is tinted with a warm or cool base. Cool tones have a drop of grey, black, blue or green, while warm shades radiate a base of yellow or red. Recognising these undertones and using them correctly is vital for creating harmonious interior schemes. Contemporary spaces love cool-based colour, as do rooms that receive a lot of natural light, as it warms up the tones. Conversely, warm shades appear more at ease in traditional settings and help cosy up spaces reliant on artificial light. Mixing warm and cool together can make walls look dirty, so as a rule of thumb, "Stay with one undertone throughout your whole colour palette," says Edwina Hirst. Keep this in mind, too, when introducing flooring, furniture and accessories.

staying neutral

Organic shades are gaining popularity in Australian homes, although, "You will never get the kind of 'kick' out of neutrals that you get with white," says interiors expert Shannon Fricke. "They are whispers of colours." It's exactly this softness – and the connection that neutrals like grey, olive, sand and stone have with the environment – that makes them so appealing. Like white, they can be used in every room, with attention again paid to the base tint and amount of natural light available. Cool-based neutrals are a good fit in north-facing rooms drenched in sunlight, while warm-based tones will help darker, south-facing spaces feel more intimate and inviting. To prevent neutrals appearing flat, "Add texture through accessories, pattern and pearlescent or metallic paint finishes," says Lucy Sutherland, from Wattyl.

inside appeal

White or neutral walls bring what's in front of them to life, allowing you to introduce colour through furniture and homewares. "White is a lovely non-colour to work with," says Sibella Court, who loves to 'dress' rooms in layers of textured fabrics and furnishings in a mix of white and neutrals. "Use thick-weave wool coir or industrial felt on the floor and crunchy linen on the windows and pile your sofas with embellished or embroidered cushions," she says. Another trick with pale shades is to use a lighter tint of the same paint colour on ceilings and trims. "We always specify a half-strength version of whatever white we are using for ceilings to lighten the feel," says Steve Koolloos, of MCK Architects. →

"You will need to bring paint or wallpaper samples into the room to see how they react to the light at different times of the day" Kelly Wearstler

Ash rose

(Opposite page) Books (left stack, from top) painted with (under open book and papers) Wash & Wear 101 Advanced in **Grey Pail** and **Stowe White**, \$36.95 per 1L each, both from Dulux; Murowash in **Mist** and **Vital**, \$34 per 1L each, both from Murobond; Spacecote Low Sheen in **Foggy Grey** by Karen Walker, \$36.40 per 1L, from Resene; **Vital**, as before. Open book (bottom left) painted with (from left) Wash & Wear 101 Advanced in **Timeless Grey**, \$36.95 per 1L, from Dulux; Spacecote Low Sheen in **Fuscous Grey** by Karen Walker, \$36.90 per 1L, from Resene. Pages (at front) painted with (from left) **Foggy Grey**, as before; Wash & Wear 101 Advanced in **Off White**, \$36.95 per 1L, from Dulux. Salt **dish** in Slate, \$15, from Mud. (In dish) Cement Paint in **Morocco**, \$35 per kilo, from Murobond. **Jar**, from \$5, from Doug Up On Bourke. Centre upright book (on left) painted with Spacecote Low Sheen in **Foggy Grey** by Karen Walker, \$36.40 per 1L, from Resene. **Tag**, \$1.50, from Paper2. **Lamp**, \$380, from Ici Et Là. **Shaving cup**, \$110 (includes soap), from Miljö. **Paintbrush**, stylist's own. 'Letter P' **card**, from £4.55, from Vintage Playing Cards. Books (under card) painted with (from top) Premium Interior Acrylic in **White Whiskers**, from \$29.95 per 1L, from Berger; Low Sheen Acrylic in **Milk**, \$39.90 per 1L, from Porter's Paints. (From left) **Calico** in Cream and White, both POA, from Butterfield Tate Gallery. **Background** painted with Low Sheen Acrylic in Shell Grey (throughout), \$39.90 per 1L, from Porter's Paints. **Books** (throughout), stylist's own.

(This page) Aged paper, \$US15 for five sheets, from Olive Manna. Vintage spoon, \$14, from DavidmetNicole. (In spoon) Cement Paint in 'Bark', \$35 per kilo, from Murobond. Porcelain dish, stylist's own. (In dish) Milk Paint in **Fleur**, \$42, from Porter's Paints. 'Bon' table napkin in Wisteria, \$210 for six, from Ondene.

(Opposite page) Lab dish, \$15, from Doug Up On Bourke. (In dish) Cement Paint in **Bark**, \$35 per kilo, from Murobond. **Flowers** (throughout) from Flowers By Teresa. Pages painted with (from top) Low Sheen Acrylic in **Flax**, \$39.90 per 1L, from Porter's Paints; Murowash in **Flourish**, \$39 per 1L, from Murobond; Wash & Wear 101 Advanced in **Mocha Wisp**, \$36.95 per 1L, from Dulux. **Tag**, \$US15 for 15, from Olive Manna; painted with Low Sheen Acrylic in **Cardinal**, \$42.80 per 1L, from Porter's Paints. Vintage ribbon (on tag), \$11 for two metres, from Olive Manna.

DUSTY HUES: REDS, PINKS & PURPLES

rose tinted

Tones needn't be ostentatious to have impact. Muted shades can feel just as dense and colour-rich as their bolder counterparts, and they're also often easier to live with. The soft quality of pastels feels soothing to the senses and brings intimacy to shared spaces like bedrooms, dining and living areas. They can be used as the main colour story, to temper brights or to bring gentle colour to a white or neutral paint scheme. To prevent pastels looking twee, choose hues with a touch of grey in them and, for maximum appeal, use several tones of the one hue. "By using two different shades of the one colour, it remains soft," says Andrea Lucena-Orr, of Dulux. "Bring the colours in as accent walls or shapes painted on the wall, which is especially great in bedrooms. Creativity is the key."

pale palettes

To ensure soft, pretty shades feel modern, look around you first. "When I think of any colour, I imagine all the things that are natural to this palette," says Sibella Court. "For antique reds, pinks and purples, I think of garden roses, sweet peas, well-worn velvet and feathered headdresses." In the 'vibe trays' Kelly Wearstler uses to finalise her colour schemes, rosy shades are mixed with eggshell white, shiny gold and deep navy and brown tones. Dark accents, complementary colours and a mix of pattern and texture help light shades hold their strength – and prevent them overwhelming a space. It's important to note, however, that palettes are personal. "If particular colours do not resonate with you, you will never find them calming and comforting," says Edwina Hirst. →

"For feature walls, make sure the other walls work well with the accent colour. People should walk in and say, 'Doesn't this room look and feel good?', rather than, 'What a great wall!'" Edwina Hirst









SATURATED COLOUR: BLUES & GREENS

the case for colour

Few things energise a home like bright, brazen tones. "I love the attraction and curiosity that intense colour stirs," says Sibella Court. "I'm about to paint my small annex in either Geranium or Aral Sea from my paint range. I love creating vistas like this – the room becomes inviting and interesting because of its intense colour."

Vivid shades of green and blue suit most rooms in a house, but any bold tones suitably reduced with grey "can be very easy to live with", says Edwina Hirst. Start small, recommends Shannon Fricke: "Contained spaces, such as an entry and hallways are ideal, if you're looking to experiment with colour. I call these transition spaces – you move through them, rather than live in them for any length of time, so they can cope much better with a bold treatment."

(Opposite page) Books painted with (from top) Premium Interior Acrylic in **Georgia Blues** (top two books) and **Aqua Rebel**, \$29.95 per 1L each, both from Berger; Murowash in **Storm**, \$38 per 1L, from Murobond; Spacecote Low Sheen in **Planter**, \$39.40 per 1L, from Resene; Premium Interior Acrylic in **Smooth Pesto**, \$29.95 per 1L, from Berger. Salt **dish**, \$15, from Mud. (In dish) Milk Paint in **Perrier**, \$42 per kilo, from Porter's Paint.

Background painted with Low Sheen Acrylic in Shell Grey, \$39.90 per 1L, from Porter's Paints.

(This page) O-Check colour pencils, \$18.95 for 12, from Telegram.

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colour cues

Artworks, fabrics and furnishings are another way to bring colour to an interior. They can also serve as inspiration for a daring or demure paint palette. "Everything visual around us has the potential to inspire," says Rowena Judd, from Murobond. Travel, movies, vintage sari braids and her morning jogs along the Sydney coastline inspire colour combinations for Sibella Court, while the history, architecture and setting of a space are always the starting point for Kelly Wearstler. Current paint trends include berry and purple shades mixed back with green-based yellows, and a full spectrum of blues, from dusty aqua to deepest midnight. Whatever your inspiration, "A great way to distil colour is by developing a 'mood' or 'style' board," says Edwina Hirst. "As you see colours you like, keep samples of them and group them together to create a collage." ❖

"If you're doing the painting yourself, make sure you have all the right gear for a professional job and do at least three coats of any one colour" **Steve Koolloos**

