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ROCKPORT

Comfort COLORS

PALETTES FOR LIVEABLE ROOMS

Comfort COLORS beautifully illustrates how professional designers use the power of color to elicit an emotional response or create a mood in a room.

- Features a diverse range of decorating styles shown in more than 250 color photographs
- Includes insightful tips from designers on how to solve the problem of color selection in interesting ways.

This expansive volume—created by experts—offers color combinations for a variety of rooms that will inspire designers and homeowners alike.

Blue Rooms



BLUE HAS BEEN WIDELY USED in interior design since the time of the Egyptians. In Western culture Greeks and Romans included blues in their palettes, and blues were a prominent element in the brilliant jewel-like color schemes of the Renaissance. The French kings drew from the Renaissance. They included blue within the palette of their favorite colors—particularly the pastel tones favored by Madame Pompadour. As for the English, their preferred shade of blue leaned toward green in the earlier Georgian period, while the majestic and classic Wedgwood blue reigned in the late Georgian period. American style and color preferences were naturally influenced by the French and English in colonial times, so blue has always been considered a standard color. More recently paint manufacturing technology has allowed the production of literally hundreds of tints of the basic colors, so the choice of blues ranges from the palest, coolest tints to the very deep, most intense tones.

Blue is a color of contrasts. Although tones of blue are perceived in vast areas of nature in sky and water, natural blue pigments are relatively rare, and therefore, expensive.

Blue is capable of creating the striking quality of great depth, an aspect which was valued by Renaissance masters like Leonardo da Vinci.

A dining room that is used for entertaining can afford to be impressive and slightly formal, an effect achieved with these rich Prussian blue walls. The dining table adds another layer of colorful interest and focus to this space. Design: Barbara Eberlein

Right: Bright, light lemon yellow in this breakfast room is optimistic in its effect, using clean, crisp, defined color for sunny daytime use. Design: Barbara Eberlein

Below: This is a quite proper English living room, where yellow is a backdrop for fine eighteenth-century furnishings and for an array of carefully chosen accessories. This limited palette contributes to a sense of order, which is a required ingredient in many well-planned homes. Design: Barbara Eberlein





An appetizing combination of nature's leaf green and white is a simple solution which pleases many personal tastes. Green is a very popular color for many areas of the home. Design: Barbara Eberlein



This rich green wall color is appropriate for a game room that must be refined without excess formality, matching the billiard table felt surface. White woodwork and a few brass highlights added to this relaxing green hue comprise an easy recipe for comforting color. Design: Barbara Eberlein



This kitchen alcove is luxurious with architectural detail and rich color. The color tints are all in a similar range, even though the hues cover a wide spectrum. Design: Barbara Eberlein



This is a stunning use of the three primaries to balance the color scheme in an elegant living space. A deeper tone of red on the walls harmonizes with medium-tone yellow draperies, and a paler blue in the striped sofas and carpet borders. The fireplace accent wall, the floors, and ceiling are white, keeping the space airy and inviting, while featuring the art and exquisite antiques. Design: Barbara Eberlein

USING TRIADS TO FORM COLOR RELATIONSHIPS:

Lines connecting the three primary and the three secondary colors on the color wheel form equal-sided triangles or triads. Triads are a way of achieving a balanced color scheme; they may be formed with any three colors which are equidistant on the color wheel, as well as with tints, shades, and different intensities of such colors.



In this special bedroom the color scheme is developed from various tints of rose and its complement, a soft leaf green. The deeper rose on the floor and upholstered bench is balanced with medium tones on the walls and other upholstered pieces and white on the bedcover, woodwork, and ceiling. These colors are especially compatible because they are derived from the complements red and green. Design: Barbara Eberlein



Below: Soothing and soft, the simple lines and cool colors offer a respite from the blazing natural light on the exterior balcony. The designer avoids high contrast, using a monochromatic color scheme with pale tones of lilac modulating to silvery white for a refreshing and original effect. Design: Barbara Eberlein



USING MONOCHROMATIC COLORS:



The third way to create a pleasing color scheme is to use only one color, but to introduce variations of that color, altering either its lightness or darkness (value) by adding white or black, or by adding its complement. Such schemes are called monochromatic, as they are based on one color.



A single color, perhaps inspired by the handsome painting shown beside the fireplace, is repeated in a variety of textures in fabrics, as well as on the walls, the painted furniture, and even the mats on the smaller framed works of art. A peaceful, unified effect results, making the room a haven, serene and secure. Design: Barbara Eberlein



Right: A cutting-edge modern dining space is sculptural in its simplicity, with no frivolous details. An aquamarine hue emanates from the large painting to the glass table top. This sophisticated setting provides an unobtrusive background for colorful conversations with family and guests. Design: Barbara Eberlein

Below: Sleek contemporary simplicity echoes the international "less is more" philosophy in a nearly monochromatic color palette of beige and taupe. Design: Barbara Eberlein



Below: A wall covering in a pale buttery yellow with a subtle pattern surrounds the rich wood tones. The textures of richly woven fabrics and floor coverings along with carefully chosen accessories in tobacco and black complete the range of values in a warm and informal atmosphere. Design: Barbara Eberlein





The neutral surroundings provide a backdrop for the focal point of the room, a beautiful fireplace. Design: Barbara Eberlein

In this indoor/outdoor room the walls, furniture, and fabrics are kept in unobtrusive neutral tones which will blend with the changing color scheme of the surrounding natural setting. Design: Barbara Eberlein

