

CREATE A

MOOD WITH COLOUR



By Designer Shelly Cerrelli | Photography by JF Fabrics

Colour is one of my favourite design tools and in my professional opinion, it doesn't get the credit that's due. Colour has the power to elicit a range of emotions, affect your lifestyle and impact your health – a big commitment, all things considered. Here are some important things to think about.

CHOOSING A COLOUR SCHEME

When choosing colours, stick to the rule of three: the dominant, secondary colour and accent colour. Any more will create confusion and visual clutter. So, just three colours sounds simple enough, right? Wrong! With thousands of choices, where do you even start? Choose your inspiration and

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SAYS DESIGNER SHELLY CERRELLI



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let that guide your colour palette. If you're a naturalist, you may be drawn to nautically inspired blues, greys and creams, or organic hues inspired by earth, leaves and florals. Alternatively, borrow a colour palette from something that appeals to you, like a piece of art, a fabric swatch or a rug.

COLOUR APPLICATION

Combining colour in the right proportions results in a well-balanced, aesthetically pleasing room. Don't forget about the walls, ceiling, casings and trim, floor coverings, furniture, window coverings, art and accessories. Each of these individual elements contributes to the “full picture,” which should be cohesive and harmonious.

When working with colour, try the 60-30-10 ratio. The dominant colour occupies the greatest proportion of the room's visual area – per our ratio, around 60 per cent. This may include walls and floor coverings. The secondary colour represents around 30 per cent of the room, landing on mid-sized elements such as a sofa, armchairs and a feature wall. Last but not least, the accent colour is usually a bolder choice that “pops” in the space, used on elements such as artwork, accessories and window treatments. The idea here is to draw the eye and create smaller focal points within the room.



COLOUR WITHOUT COMMITMENT

Colour is a wonderful thing, but it can create anxiety for some. This has less to do with the colour, but is more about the fear of colour commitment. If you're not sold on the “colour of the year” or you change your space with the seasons, consider opting for a natural dominant colour that “goes” with everything. The idea here is to add colour in places where it's easy and inexpensive to replace as trends change. A piece of vibrant artwork, an area rug, or some pillows and throws are a great way to add colour without incurring a huge commitment or cost.

Colour has many effects on our interiors, used to set a mood, highlight focal points, group related elements and bring context and connections throughout the space. Inwardly, colour should evoke the emotion and inspire you. Take your time and bring the right colour into your world, in the right ways!