

BHG FOR COLOR STARS

It's a red-letter day: We are announcing our first-ever list of *interior designers* whose work represents the gold standard when it comes to transforming a space with color. Whether they go bold or expertly layer neutrals, these virtuosos tell us how they turn ordinary rooms into exceptional spaces. Color us inspired.



MIKEL
WELCH



PATRICK
MELE



JESSICA
AYROMLOO



LEANNE FORD

RAFE CHURCHILL
HEIDE HENDRICKS



MARK D. SIKES



NICK OLSEN



SHEILA BRIDGES



PETI LAU

DANIELLE FENNOY





color blocking DANIELLE FENNOY

The founder of Brooklyn-based Revamp Interior Design champions bright blocks of color to create discrete experiences within a single space.

EYE CANDY

"I always start with a floor plan or furniture plan and then mentally walk through the space. Color on the walls helps draw the eye. In this dining room, *right*, it was this weird middle space, but I want you to stop and feel that moment.

So it became a focal point with the confetti wallpaper. Then all the colors for the space were pulled from that wallpaper."

ESTABLISH HIERARCHY

"I like to bring play into the mix. Figure out what the hierarchy is, where you want the eye to go. Say, 'OK, this is going to be my bold statement, and everything else is going to be subtle,' or 'We're going to envelop an entire room.'"

GO SKY-HIGH

"One unexpected place to bring color is the ceiling. We look up a lot more than we think we do. In my son's room the walls are white, and we went with an orangey ceiling, and I just love it."

FAVORITE PAIRS

"I love pink and lime green or plum and lime green. I think that dusty deep blue and neon pink are amazing. I like a deep, moody color and a zing!"



PHOTOS: (PORTRAIT, HERE & PAGE 75) DAVID LAND, (ROOM) WILL ELLIS

color lesson

"I LOVE TO DO REALLY SMALL SPACES LIKE A POWDER ROOM IN BOLD, BRIGHT COLORS. YOU CAN HAVE THIS FUN, WACKY, TRANSFORMATIVE MOMENT AND THEN YOU'RE OUT. IT'S NOT RISKY; IT'S JUST PAINT!"

DANIELLE FENNOY, interior designer



coastal cool
**MARK D.
SIKES**

This Los Angeles designer makes waves with his ocean-inspired color palettes and love of stripes.

NO-FAIL COMBO

"A blue-and-white palette is crisp, timeless, and tailored. Everyone—regardless of age or gender—is comfortable with blue and white."

WEAVE A THREAD

"Pick one color of blue and have it in every room, mixed with other things, to lend a common thread to the house. Mix up the rooms so some have light walls and blue on furnishings and some have blue walls. Do the same with fabrics, balancing solids and prints throughout."

SET A TONE

"Blues come in a big range: those with green undertones, some purple, some red. I try to stick to the same undertone in a palette."

PHOTOS: (HERE & PORTRAIT, PAGE 75) AMY NEUNSINGER

color lesson

"I LOVE A BOLD COLOR ON EVERYTHING IN A ROOM—WALLS, TRIM, DOORS, AND CEILING. IT ALWAYS TURNS OUT GREAT AND CAN BE SURPRISINGLY CALMING AND SERENE."

MARK D. SIKES, *interior designer*



light & airy
**LEANNE
FORD**

In this Pittsburgh designer's hands, white isn't just a color, it's *the* color. She layers its shades to create impactful spaces.

PICK A TINT

"For traditional spaces, I like a warm, creamy white with tan undertones, and a crisp white for spaces I want to look modern."

ALL THE FEELS

"To keep white from feeling sterile, it's all about texture. You can add box trim on walls or do stucco, and use slipcovers, throws, and layered rugs for warmth."

FIFTH WALL

"Using the same white on the walls and ceiling feels cohesive."

color lesson

"DON'T BE AFRAID TO PAINT THINGS WHITE—NEW PIECES, HEIRLOOMS, HAND-ME-DOWNS. I SAY 'NO MERCY' IF PAINT MAKES IT WORK IN YOUR SPACE."

LEANNE FORD, *interior designer*

PHOTOS: (PORTRAITS, HERE & PAGE 75) NICOLE FRANZEN, (BEDROOM) ERIN KELLY





PHOTOS: (PORTRAITS, HERE & PAGE 75) ALARIC S. CAMPBELL, (DINING ROOM) TREVOR TONDRO/OTTO ARCHIVE, (SECRETARY) FRANK FRANCES/OTTO ARCHIVE



fresh historical
**SHEILA
 BRIDGES**

Like her Harlem Toile de Jouy pattern, which reimagines the pastoral French wallpaper in an African American context, this celebrated New York City designer draws on colors and shapes rooted in history and applies them in contemporary ways.

**PROVEN
 WINNERS**

“When in doubt, always choose a historical paint color.” Inspired by particular eras or architectural styles, these timeless shades have staying power.

EVOKE NATURE

“Most of the color combinations I choose are based in nature—green and yellow or green and lilac. It’s hard to go wrong with Mother Nature.”

**SUSTAIN THE
 THEME**

“To keep a palette flowing from room to room, add elements that create continuity by repeating hues—try pillows or lampshades.”



color lesson

“CHOOSE A COLOR YOU LOVE AND THAT YOU WON’T GET TIRED OF LIVING WITH. I HAVE HAD THE SAME SHADE OF BLUE IN MY LIVING ROOM FOR MORE THAN A DECADE.”

SHEILA BRIDGES, *interior designer*

color lesson

"UNEXPECTED APPLICATIONS FEEL FRESHER. I LOVE A CAMELBACK SOFA, BUT IF EVERYTHING IS A CHIPPENDALE ANTIQUE, IT'S GOING TO READ LIKE A DOLLHOUSE. SO TAKE THAT SOFA AND UPHOLSTER IT IN YVES KLEIN BLUE."

NICK OLSEN, *interior designer*



PHOTOS: HERE & PORTRAIT: PAGE 73 REID ROLLS

bold traditional
**NICK
OLSEN**

Known for turning classic spaces into anything-but-expected showplaces, this Upstate New York-based designer is beloved for chic, cheery interiors with major color statements. Case in point: this iconic room with its blue-lacquered walls and aubergine sofa.

One look and it's clear: He's not afraid of being bold.

COMMIT TO COLOR

"Paint is the easiest color choice you can make; it's reversible, not a lifetime commitment. I think once you live with color, you want it in your home just for your day-to-day cheerfulness."

BREAK THE MOLD

"I tend to use a lot of black or white to give any bold color a boundary. There

needs to be a white ceiling or molding or a natural-fiber carpet or black details to draw a line around the room, enough neutral relief to give your eye a rest."

TEMPER THE BOLD

"Colors in a room can't all be the same level of intensity and saturation. There has to be a balance. If you're drawn to a strong color like the acid green, *left*, it has to be next to a neutral, a natural, or a subtle pattern [like the rug]. A smaller-scale print can mitigate more intense colors because it's not so bold."

LEVELS OF LUSTER

"I tend toward extremes. I either want the flattest, chalky-flat walls or the shiniest, glossy paint finish there is. And satin or semigloss on trim."



modern americana
**HENDRICKS
 CHURCHILL**

In the hands of Connecticut design partners Heide Hendricks and Rafe Churchill, architectural details like trim in bright colors against pale walls and ceilings put a fresh spin on classic farmhouse style. Here, Hendricks shares her painterly pointers.

BE STRATEGIC

"Approach color as a curator—consider its impact on the shape

and mood of a room. Color can be your ally in making up for inadequacies in lighting, size, even architectural details. It's a powerful tool in a designer's box of tricks. Painting the window sash or even just the slab of a door is great for colorful accents and not as expensive as painting the whole room."

BORDER LINES

"We're big fans of contrast trim. Color on

the trim—even another color just slightly darker than the walls—outlines the room with a decorative, cozy layer without having to add more furnishings. I love an eggshell or semiflat sheen for this because even if you paint the walls and trim the same color, you can get more depth with different sheens."

SAMPLES MATTER

"Pull together actual swatches of fabrics, paint, wallpaper. Never trust designing only on a computer."



PHOTOS: (PORTRAITS, HERE & PAGE 75) LESLEY UNRUH, (BEDROOM) JOE N. GRUEN, (KITCHEN) AMANDA KIRKPATRICK

color lesson

"MAKE SURE THE COLORS IN ONE ROOM ARE EITHER A SUBTLE OR COMPLEMENTARY TRANSITION TO THE NEXT ROOM SO YOU DON'T FEEL JARRED, LIKE YOU'VE WALKED FROM ONE HOME INTO ANOTHER."

HEIDE HENDRICKS, *interior designer*

jewel tones
PETI LAU

This Los Angeles-based designer describes her signature style with a wink as “AristoFreak—an audacious aesthetic with daring richness.”

For interiors, that means rooms showcasing the colors of precious gems.

**TEMPERATURE
READ**

“You can mix jewel tones, but choose whether you’re doing warm or cool tones. Warm can be rusty carnelian orange with dark olive green; the cool side is sapphire and amethyst.”

GO BIG

“My favorite makeovers take a white wall to a rich, deep, dark blue or turquoise. It’s a massive change, and people are afraid, but then they really wow over it.”



PHOTOS: (HERE & PORTRAIT, PAGE 73)
BRITTANY AMBRIDGE

color lesson
“I LIKE TO HAVE LIVING SPACES BRIGHTER AND LIGHTER AND BEDROOMS MORE ON THE MOODY SIDE. I PUT ALL THE COLORS TOGETHER TO SEE HOW THEY COMMUNICATE.”
PETI LAU, interior designer



PHOTOS: (PORTRAITS, HERE & PAGE 74) ELLEN McDERMOTT, (ROOMS) ANNIE SCHLECHTER

color lesson
 “I LOVE COMBINING CITRUS TONES. THEY’RE EXUBERANT, FLATTERING, AND MOUTHWATERING.”

PATRICK MELE, interior designer



vibrant pastels
PATRICK MELE

This Greenwich, CT-based designer’s masterful use of juicy hues makes a sophisticated splash.

LET THE SUNSHINE IN

“Citrus tones are best used in rooms that are sunny and bright and have lighter floors so they create more of a calming effect. They’re great in garden rooms or breakfast areas.”

CREATIVE FRICTION

“I like taking two different tones of one color, like a mustard yellow with a citrine, a navy and a sky blue, acid and forest green, or pink and red. Two hues of one color create a great tension that can be soothing, sophisticated, and really impactful.”

ALL IN THE FAMILY

“To keep a palette flowing throughout a house, stick with a color family and use light, medium, and dark hues in a balanced way.”

color lesson

"A NEUTRAL COLOR STORY IS TIMELESS AND CLASSIC. MY RULE OF THUMB IS STICKING TO NEUTRALS THAT NATURALLY ARE OF THE EARTH AND USING GREENERY AS THE COLOR IN MY SPACE."

MIKEL WELCH,
interior designer



soothing neutrals

**MIKEL
WELCH**

Elegant, timeless, sophisticated—but never dull. That describes both the New York City-based designer and television host and the interiors he creates using earthy colors.

**FORM A
NARRATIVE**

"With neutrals, you have to have lots of texture; if not, they can go flat and boring. You want a combination of wood, metal, and especially textiles. Bouclé. Rich velvet. Different weaves in the same color. But the biggest thing is the mixing of texture and tone so when you line things up, they tell a story."

MAKE A PLAN

"I tell people to have a plan of action. Lay everything out, whether you're using PowerPoint or Canva, so you can see it on paper before you go and attack the room."



PHOTOS: (PORTRAITS, HERE AND PAGE 74) CARMEL BRANTLEY. (ROOMS) JOHN BESSLER



color lesson
“WHEN PICKING A
PAINT, LOOK
AT A FEW SHADES UP
AND DOWN FROM
YOUR CHOICE.
TRY THOSE OUT IN
THE SPACE TO SEE
WHICH WORKS
BEST WITH YOUR
LIGHTING.”

JESSICA AYROMLOO,
interior designer



clashing color
**JESSICA
AYROMLOO**

California cool?
This Los Angeles-based
designer's work is
more California
hot—vibrant spaces
that bring together
unexpected colors
in lively combos
that are surprisingly
harmonious.

THINK PINK
“Pink can change the
vibe of a space,
making it feel playful
and bold but elegant.
My favorite combo
is pink and green.
The pink softens the
green, and the green
grounds the pink.
I also love pink and
orange. They are
similar in energy, and
I like the tension
and excitement they
create together.”

ENSEMBLE CAST
“If you are using
different colors that are
all bold, you want
these colors evenly

distributed in the
room. If there is just one
bold color, you can
add softer ones that
recede against it.
I like to have at least one
color transfer from one
room to the next so
spaces feel unified.”

REPEAT YOURSELF
“If you have a few
different places where
the clashing color pops
in a room, your eye
can connect those dots.
With repetition, the
clash feels intentional
and balanced.” ■



PHOTOS: (PORTRAITS, HERE & PAGE 74) PAUL ROBERT FORNEY, (ROOMS) ANNIE SCHLECHTER