

74 BHG | May 2023

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.

by ELENI GAGE produced by MONIKA EYERS





JESSICA AYROMLOO





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(ay 2023 BHG 75





# 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."

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

ESTABLISH

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!"



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 MARKD. SIKES

This Los Angeles designer makes waves with his oceaninspired color palettes and love of stripes.

NO-FAIL COMBO "A blue-and-white palette is crisp, timeless, and tailored. Everyoneregardless 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."

*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 KEL







# 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

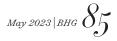
"To keep a palette flowing from room to room, add elements that create continuity by repeating hues-try pillows or lampshades."

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



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."





# 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

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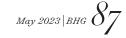
needs to be a white ceiling or molding or a natural-fiber carpet or black details to draw a line around the room, enough neutral relief to give your eye a rest."

# 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."





Known for turning classic spaces into anything-but-expected showplaces, this Upstate New Yorkbased designer is beloved for chic, cheery interiors with major color statements. Case in point: this iconic room with its bluelacquered 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

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STEENELT NEWTON



# 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."





88 BHG | May 2023





# jewel tones PETILAU

This Los Angelesbased 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

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."

> *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

**August** 

PHOTOS: (HERE & POF BRITTANY AMBRIDGE



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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."









FIND OUT THE DESIGNERS' TOP PAINT PICKS, EXCLUSIVELY AT BHG.com/ColorStars.

# clashing color JESŠICA 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."  $\blacksquare$ 





May 2023 | BHG 97