



It all adds up

COLOUR IS ARGUABLY ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF THE DESIGN PROCESS. IT SPEAKS FOR WHO YOU ARE AND SETS THE MOOD FOR YOUR HOME. WHETHER YOU CRAVE RELAXATION, GLAMOUR OR HAPPINESS, THESE THREE COLOUR COMBINATIONS WILL GET YOUR CREATIVE JUICES FLOWING.



DEEP BLUES

For those who wish to build a warm and welcoming space, let navy, cornflower and deep ocean blues set the tone. Pair them with creams and whites to offer relief from the dark and moody depths; half neutrals and half rich colour is your rule to keep the space balanced.

EMERALD

Add a touch of 1920s glamour with this rich hue. Pair it with gold, white and black to keep it luxe but modern, and incorporate a mix of Art Deco inspired piece ometric shapes. Go for accents of green cushions on a taupe couch or make the couch your emerald hero.







VIVID COLOUR

Inject some fun back into your decor with this vibrant trend. Featuring bold pinks, blues, yellows and oranges, this style brings warmth to any home. Add pop-of-colour homewares like lamps, cushions and side tables to a raw timber room and liven the place up instantly. A blue-pink-yellow-orange colour combination will make any room feel like summer.





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Thanks to his role on Channel Nine's The Block and vast experience as an interior designer, Darren Palmer has become an influencer in the design industry. We decided to pick his brain on how to make an impact with colour, the next big design trends and where people usually go wrong with their interior design...

WHAT ARE YOUR TIPS FOR CHOOSING AN INTERIOR COLOUR SCHEME?

Write a brief considering who will live in the space, what it needs to do, what the absolute inclusions are, what your maintenance and cleaning constraints are and any must haves or must nots. The brief will also take into consideration the desired mood. Your mood then will inform your colour scheme.

When creating a colour scheme lay out all of your choices together so that you can see what works and what doesn't. The scheme should look like a family of colours that complement and contrast with each other. If something looks wrong when you lay out your swatches it will look wrong when it's in your space.

When you've locked down your colours in swatch form get paint samples and

paint them onto A3 or A4 pieces of white card. Give it two coats of paint to see the proper strength of the colour. Putting the colour on boards allows you to move the colour around seeing it in different light and against different interior finishes and materials to see how they change or adjust. Also, painting swatches onto walls will create the issue of having to sand them off or give extra coats of paint to cover.

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVOURITE COLOUR SCHEMES THAT WILL BE ON-TREND THIS SPRING?

Colour schemes that satisfy your brief and your own personal tastes and feelings that work together in your environment and geographical location are more important than working with hard and fast trends. Trends come and go but if it works for you that's what matters.

WHAT WILL BE THE NEXT DESIGN TREND FOR THE HOME?

Apparently there was a lot of colour in the Milan Salone Di Mobile, as well as marble making its way onto all sorts of objects from dinnerware and cups to tables, lighting and décor objects. Individuality is what's hot in contemporary interiors so diversity, ingenuity and showing personal style are the key.

IF YOU LOOK BACK TO YOUR FIRST EVER DESIGN PROJECT, WOULD YOU STILL LOVE WHAT YOU PUT TOGETHER?

I have and I do. My first design project ever was my own apartment, which I sold to some friends of mine who live in it to this day. The decisions made ten years ago still work as well now as they did then with the solutions made to correct layout, light and flow being as valid and useful as they ever were. All in all it was a great first project, proven I think by its inclusion in the renovation issue of Belle at the time.

WHERE DO PEOPLE NORMALLY GO WRONG WITH INTERIORS?

No brief. No visual guide or reference. No budget. No planning. No timeline.

All of those things are necessary for a successful project and can easily be overlooked in the rush to get the job done but will save you time and money in the long run.

WHAT'S THE NUMBER ONE THING EVERY HOME NEEDS?

Soul and life. A beautiful art gallery space is one thing but a beautiful, soul-filled homely space is what really makes you happy to live in it.







1

DON'T RUSH IT Resist choosing your paint colours before the colour scheme is fully planned out from flooring to furniture, even cushions. Paints are inexpensive and can be custom-made, so you'll always find a shade to suit. Gather some swatches and draw a colourful plan so you can see your ideas on paper before they come to life. Don't feel you need to follow the colour wheel; do some research, and choose combinations you know you've always been drawn to. Plan to layer different depths of hues, for example choose a dark colour for the walls, neutral tones for the larger furniture, and then light, happier shades for the soft furnishings. If you're looking for a simple solution, try using one colour in varying shades. Lastly, keep an open dialogue with your builder or interior designer to help make informed colour choices.

2

LIGHTING MATTERS

Natural and unnatural light will effect the appearance of your colour scheme. If the room receives less natural light, consider a warm and bright room to create an inviting space. Find out which way your rooms will face (north, south, east or west) as this will also affect the tone of natural light. Also, take care with selecting light bulbs; incandescent lights will omit warm, amber tones, fluorescents will give off a blue light, whereas halogens will appear quite white and are the closest resemblance to natural light.



3

LINK YOUR SPACES

While you should plan for your rooms to complement each other, an identical colour scheme won't always suit the entire house. Vibrant and light may work perfectly in the living spaces while soft or deep tones are calming and will work better in the bedroom. Try selecting a 'hero' colour to carry throughout the home and then select different colours for each room to match it. Incorporate your 'hero' colour subtly in furnishings or in bold statements like a feature wall.

There's no set colour selection for the home.
You need to do what feels right for you. But if you're feeling lost, we've put together three rules to help you get past the planning stage and into your new home sooner.