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Color your world

COLOR EXPERT ILLUMINATES HOW COLOR WILL ENRICH YOUR HOME. BY AMY BENTLEY

COLOR TRENDS in interior design change and evolve from year to year.

Many homeowners, however, don't really know how to incorporate color into their homes, or they fear introducing colors that won't match their existing furniture. In other cases, some home sellers believe it's safer to go with all white walls to attract buyers.

To answer some common questions about using color to add style and panache to your home, Southern California Home & Outdoor Magazine consulted with Denise Turner, a certified interior designer and international color and trend forecaster based in Alta Loma. She is one of California's foremost experts on the use of color in interior design and the psychology of color use.

Q: What are homeowners' favorite colors for interior design and decor?

Denise Turner: Blue is considered to be the favorite color of 35% of the world's population. It brings a tremendous feeling of peace and tranquility. However, I just spoke to a friend who is a sales manager for Frazee Paint. He says off-white is the most commonly sold paint color. But that's starting to change. People are getting more daring with paint. For \$50 you can change the color of a room. It's not a serious commitment. Bright colors for small kitchen appliances are popular too. I see every color of the rainbow now. People are starting to put playful and retro colors in their kitchens, like red, blue and turquoise.

Q: What drives the use of color in a room – the walls, the furniture or the window treatments?

A: Most homeowners don't have as many choices in sofa colors. I advise people to purchase the sofa and build off of that. Figure out your sofa fabric, and then buy ready-made window coverings that will coordinate with the sofa. The paint color can be last but it's the thread that pulls it all together.



An accent wall painted in a rich, dark color adds drama and brings this formal living room to life.

Consider the color

- **Oranges and reds** stimulate the appetite and work well in the kitchen - unless you are dieting.
- **Green** evokes a feeling of balance and harmony with nature. Green interiors reduce stress and make people feel secure.
- **Blue** brings a feeling of peace and tranquility. Navy blue is the color of authority in the Western world and is a bad color for someone who is depressed; it magnifies their "blue mood."
- **Brown** connects us to the earth and makes us feel safe.
- **Black** is the color of sophistication, power and mystery. Used as an accent, black adds drama and flair to any interior.



Denise Turner, ASID, CID, is an internationally recognized color and trend forecaster, certified interior designer and founder of The Room Turners (roomturners.com) and The Color Turners in Alta Loma. She is a national spokeswoman for the American Society of

Interior Designers and a member of the Color Marketing Group's Expert Speakers Bureau. Her redesign of an ADA-compliant master bath won the HGTV Designer's Challenge, which aired in October 2006. Contact Turner at 909.989.2395 or e-mail theroomturners@verizon.net.

Q: What colors are best to paint a home's interior for resale purposes?

A: You need to consider the neighborhood. It's a soft market right now and you don't want your house to stand out in a bad way. Stick to color cards at paint stores to put together your color palette. If you have a nice molding around the doors, paint the trim all in one color and the walls could be off-white or cream, if that works with the carpet, granite or tile. You don't want four rooms in four different colors. Buyers want to see things clean.

Q: When and how do you use color for an accent wall?

A: Warm colors come to you and cool colors go away from you. If you walk in your front door and the farthest room away is the dining room, and it disappears, you could paint that wall in a cinnamon or paprika-like color. People love those colors right now. Or, if you have a sofa that's a color you're not keen on, paint the wall close to the sofa an accent color in the same color family so the sofa won't stand out as much.

Q: How can you add color to your home if you are on a tight budget?

A: Buy a can of paint. An afternoon and a couple gallons of paint can make a big difference. It's color without commitment.

Q: What are good colors for children's rooms?

A: Let children pick out their own colors, something they feel good about. If they have pride in their room, they might take care of it better.

Q: Do you have to carry the same color scheme in every room?

A: No, but I like to see some continuity, generally in the flooring material. I like to see all the trim the same color.

Q: Finally, is there a place for white walls?

A: Yes, people like them. But pure white causes glare and eye strain. People won't stay in a stark white room for very long. Most people prefer off-white. **H&O**

Army Bentley is the managing editor of Southern California Home & Outdoor Magazine.