Selecting Ceiling Colors

Look up! Have you forgotten something?

By, Denise Turner, ASID, CID, CMG

Color Turners

Ceilings represent one-sixth of a room’s space, but far too often they are forgotten. They are either ignored or get nothing more than a coat of white paint. Now, there’s nothing wrong with white ceilings. In fact, for years, white was considered to be the only choice for ceilings, fortunately that rule no longer applies today.

However there are situations when white is the perfect color solution. But if you dare to step outside your color comfort zone, you will add drama and excitement to your interiors, so consider using color on your ceilings.

THINGS TO CONSIDER:

- Typically, ceilings lighter than the walls feel brighter and more spacious. White overhead tends to disappear calling our attention to the furnishings and walls.
- White ceilings also offset highly saturated wall color, making the walls look crisp.
- Darker ceilings visually lower the space; evoking a cozy intimate interior.
- Consider a mono-chromatic color scheme by painting your ceiling the same color as the walls. Depending on the hue, it could be very soothing color scheme. Painting the walls and ceiling the same color makes your job easier; you won’t have to tape off the molding at the ceiling line.
- Like all the other colors in the room, the ceiling needs an echo, other elements in order to integrate it into the scheme. Such as cabinetry, carpet, window coverings, furnishing, otherwise the room will feel unbalanced.
- What’s the best white? Pure, non-tinted white can look too stark and clinical. Nippon Paint offers a large range of cool and warm whites, so select ones with the warm or cool undertones you’d like to bring into your room.
- Here’s a fail-safe way to get the perfect ceiling white. Dilute the wall paint with non-tinted white in a ratio of about 80 percent white to 20 percent wall color. The diluted color will still relate well to the wall color.

Ceilings + Walls

- Architectural details such as molding or casing make it easier to know where to stop and start color.
- The ideal situation to change colors is when one plane or flat surface meets another.
- If a room is oddly shaped and or has multi planed ceilings, carry the wall color across the ceiling. It will simplify the shapes and unify the space.
- Regardless if you show off the crown molding or other trim with a contrasting color, paint them to blend in depends on your personal preferences.
- Highlighting the trim and crown molding accents architectural details, calling attention to their shape.
- White ceilings offset darker wall colors. Dark walls look crisp and sharp making the ceiling feels lighter. If the walls are a light hue, they expand the space; white ceiling opens the space even more.