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Denise Turner loves color. Owner of The Room Turners in Rancho Cucamonga, she is a member of the American Society of Interior Designers and the Color Marketing Group, a non-profit organization that consists of 1,300 color designers who forecast color trends for major industries. Colors are coordinated into families so they complement each other, she says.

"Remodeling is a major investment. By having colors relate to each other across the industry, tile and carpet designers, for example, will be better equipped to find samples that work well together," Turner says. Even so, finding the perfect match isn't easy. One mistake people commonly make is taking a fabric sample or paint chip to a store and trying to match the color under fluorescent lights.

"Take the paint sample outside and look at it in natural light. Better still, buy a quart and paint a portion of your wall. See how the color looks in the room with your own lighting and furnishing and at various times of the day," she says. Or if you don't want to experiment with the actual paint, try taping together several of the larger paint chips and tape them to the wall for a similar result. Turner says events in the world help to shape paint colors. She was on the panel that was scheduled to meet in the fall of 2001.

"9/11 changed everything. Before, we were leaning toward colors that were a little brighter and somewhat cheerful. But by the time we got to the conference, the earth tones were prevalent. We wanted to be subdued, surrounded by the comforts of nature. That's persisting," she says, which is why brown, a very warm and grounding color, is the new black, she says. "It's a rich, dark chocolate, refined brown. Related colors in other tones and shades are also part of the trend, as are blues. Blues, the color of tranquility—the sea, the sky—is very strong," says Turner, who will be featured this fall on HGTV's "Designer Challenge."