

## PAINT BY NUMBERS

We asked designers if they had go-to colors for certain rooms of the house. Though they were quick to point out that a home's lighting, both natural and ambient, and architecture—and of course, a client's personal preferences—should dictate, they shared some of their favorite shades by space.

### KITCHEN

SHERWIN-WILLIAMS  
SNOWBOUND

"Great when working with white marbles."

—Samantha Fisher,  
Samantha Fisher Interiors

### DINING

LAVENDER

"Dining rooms are what I like to think of as the more 'theatrical' room of the home, so I usually go for a color on the walls."

—Josh Pickering,  
Pickering House Interiors

### BEDROOM

BENJAMIN MOORE  
MOONSHINE

"I love calming soft blue grays for bedrooms, especially this one for its mercurial feel."

—Susan Bednar Long,  
S.B. Long Interiors

### GUEST ROOM

SHERWIN-WILLIAMS  
DELFT

"It's a nice guest room color, and I also have it in my home studio."

—Denise McGaha, Denise  
McGaha Interiors

### OFFICE

SHERWIN-WILLIAMS  
GREENBLACK AND  
IRON ORE

"We love drama in home offices! We've used several shades of black with green or brown undertones and we paint the whole room."

—Michelle Lynne,  
ML Interiors Group

### DOORS

FARROW & BALL  
DOWNPIPE

"A fantastic color for doors." —Hillary Littlejohn,  
HLS Design

# Color Theory

Asking a designer to pick their favorite color is like asking a parent to choose a favorite child.

"I love them all," says Mary Anne Smiley of Mary Anne Smiley Interiors. They do, however, admit to reaching for certain shades and pairings more frequently than others. Combinations that came up time and time again in our survey included blues and greens as well as classic black and white. As stain-grade wood has made a resurgence in homes, so too have natural tones like camel, cognac, and terracotta. As is true for all design, color choices are intensely personal to the people who call a space home—their sensibilities, preferences, and even ages, as Alice Cottrell Interior Design's Alice Cottrell notes: "I think color is important for homes with children. Color creates a happy home for them."

## THE MOST CLASSIC NON-COLOR COMBO:

"When in doubt, black and white is the answer! It works in neutral interiors, as well as colorful interiors."

—Janelle Burns, Maestri Studio

"Weaving a touch of black throughout a home can make any space feel elegant with a hint of drama—like perfectly applied eyeliner."

—Michelle Lynne, ML Interiors Group

SOME SHADES ARE SOLO ACTS. BUT SOME HUES DO THEIR BEST WORK IN PAIRS. A FEW FAVORITE DESIGNER-APPROVED PARTNERSHIPS:

## Group Projects



### PRIM TRIM

"I almost always paint the trim a lighter shade than the walls. The ceiling is the same color as the trim." —Barry Williams,  
Williams Design, Inc.

### WHITE-HOT

"If I need a slightly off-white: 1/2 formula Benjamin Moore Linen White 912."

—Charlotte Comer, Charlotte Comer Interiors & Collectibles, Inc.

"A deeply saffron color that looks beautiful with brass trim." —Hillary Littlejohn,  
HLS Design

CERAMIC PAINTERS PALETTE (PENNYLEASTUDIOS/ETSY)

### FOOTNOTE:

Designers like SETSTUDIO's Jennifer Little and Meredith Ellis of Meredith Ellis Design namechecked Domingue as a new favorite for paints, plasters, and washes. Products from the Houston-based line are not only ultra-durable but contain no synthetic ingredients or chemical additives, meaning it's easy on your home and the environment.