



# spring COLOUR

Put beige on the back burner and celebrate the season by embracing a rainbow of hues

Text by Sarah Kerr.

**f**ashion runways the world over are currently more colourful than the crowd at a Lady Gaga concert. We've survived the dark, drab days of winter and now it's time to get frivolous, break the cookie-cutter mold of safe neutrals and allow your

clothing and decor to reflect your personality. Don't hold back from attention-grabbing lime, canary yellow, magenta, watermelon and turquoise. A colour splash is a sure-fire way to freshen up your home's interior for the sunny seasons ahead.

Photography by Chris Warnes/acpsyndication.com.

## colour cues

✦ **There's nothing less** inspiring than a totally taupe space, so step out of your comfort zone. Start by introducing pockets of colour with accessories and textiles that are easily swapped if you change your mind. You'll gradually develop an eye for colour and discover which shades make you feel happy, energised or relaxed.

✦ **Thanks to its timeless** appeal, a palette of black and white works perfectly with almost any other colour. A monochromatic backdrop helps to balance more vibrant shades – picture it teamed with turquoise...

✦ **One of the easiest ways** to add a new focal point to a room is with a great rug. Whether you choose a patterned or a plain design, the change is immediate – and feels wonderful underfoot.

✦ **Walls painted in neutral** shades such as putty or dark grey work well with bright furniture and accessories in fuchsia pink, sunshine yellow and aqua. Trust your instincts – if you love it, go with it.

✦ **Lime, white and black** is a combination that really says spring, but whatever colour scheme you choose, aim to be consistent

with your accessories. Once you settle on a colour palette, stick to it.

✦ **Interesting textures** add yet another dimension to a room. Think furniture upholstered with more than one fabric or a rug woven in super-chunky wool.

✦ **Use vintage furniture** in an unexpected way. Take Nana's old wing-back chair and reupholster it using a boldly patterned fabric. Antique furniture is charming in that it has a story to tell – write the next chapter by selecting a fabric that reflects your taste and the vibe of your home.

REMEMBER  
IT'S EASY  
TO REPAINT  
A ROOM,  
SO GO ON,  
BE BOLD!

## pretty pinks



Resene 'Bambina'



Resene 'Pale Rose'



Resene 'Sweet As'



Resene 'Glamour Puss'



Resene 'Material Girl'



Resene 'Smitten'



Resene 'Butterfly'



Resene 'Centre Stage'

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## sweet as candyfloss

Pink and purple are shades that tend to polarise people – you're either a lover or a loather. While purple can have an Asian energy, I adore hot pink and use it time and again in combination with lime and turquoise. In my daughter's room, ballerina pink, lime and white are the order of the day.

Despite any initial resistance from the man of your house, you'll find pink works in the main bedroom too. Cover a set of Euro pillows with hot pink pillowslips, then downplay the look with white linen and dark timber furniture. There's something 1930s about this combination – it's at once masculine and reminiscent of a bygone era.

TO NE  
DOWN THE  
SWEETNESS  
OF PINK WITH  
LASHINGS  
OF CREAM

## pinky promise

- + An all-pink room can be a warm and artistic addition to a compact, white-walled modern apartment.
- + Consider creating a feature wall using a floral wallpaper in a juicy watermelon shade.
- + Shades of pink combine with cream and apple green as effortlessly as they do in nature when the trees burst into blossom. Add these colours to a room using accessories such as cushions and rugs.
- + Add a strip of pink to your bathroom using mosaic tiles. Keep the cost down by pinpointing an area in the room that will require few tiles to make an impact; position them around or alongside the mirror or add a feature strip in the shower.

USE  
WALLPAPER  
ON JUST ONE  
WALL SO  
AS NOT TO  
OVERPOWER  
THE ROOM

## being green

+ It's not just the colour green that's in vogue, the act of being green is too. Increasing numbers of designers and manufacturers are focused on sustainability, and you can join their ranks by not buying new and instead giving old pieces of furniture a new lease of life with contemporary fabrics.

+ Collectables, pieces you've picked up while travelling, antiques and vintage furniture are both eco-friendly and fashionable. Add retro pieces to your space – anything that looks old will make a charmingly rustic and romantic statement this spring.

## spring growth

The best spring greens are grassy and lime-based hues. Lime combined with tangerine, turquoise and white, in stripes or geometrical designs, will make a real impact on a chair or a wallpapered wall. Or tone down the look by pairing it with grey and white for a crisp finish. Lime is a winner in children's rooms too. It combines beautifully with hot pink, white and turquoise for girls, and for boys try red, yellow, blue and white. Images from nature, such as birds and botanicals, continue to be popular designs for wallpaper and fabrics in all shades of green.

## gorgeous greens



Resene 'Spring Fever'



Resene 'Holiday'



Resene 'Impromptu'



Resene 'Limerick'



Resene 'Serenity'



Resene 'Home Run'



Resene 'Windfall'



Resene 'Robin Hood'

Available only from



the paint the professionals use

## mellow yellows



Resene 'Double Bianca'



Resene 'Melting Moment'



Resene 'La Luna'



Resene 'Southern Cross'



Resene 'Wild Thing'



Resene 'Spotlight'



Resene 'Hive'



Resene 'Tweet'

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## sunny side up

✦ **Always choose yellow** with one eye on the room's light levels. In dark spaces, yellow loses its glow and can become dirty and unappealing. But rooms that benefit from that magical late-afternoon wash of warm, golden light come alive with yellow walls. They sink into a mellow mood that's simply sublime.

✦ **Consider yellow for the walls** of your home office. Strong yellows are said to be mentally stimulating and promote confidence, helping to keep you performing at your peak. A lighter, brighter yellow can visually enlarge a small room – ideal if your office is on the pokey side.

ADD A LIVING TOUCH TO A YELLOW ROOM WITH AN INDOOR PLANT

Choose an artwork that complements your paint or wallpaper

## yellow fever

The next big thing for spring is yellow. An optimistic colour that's not for the faint-hearted, it's appearing as a tropical citrus shade – yellow that's zesty and crisp with an undertone of green. This pairs extremely well with tangerine. Lemon yellow is also on trend for spring 2012. It looks fantastic teamed with grey, or black and white.

If you're new to using yellow around your home, you might like to start small – consider introducing it in the form of an ottoman or chair. On the off chance you decide it's not for you, it'll only take a few metres of fabric to reupholster it.

NO OTHER COLOUR CALMS AND SOOTHES LIKE TRUE BLUE

## sing the blues

Blue is a shade that never goes out of style. It tops and tails our environment in the wide skies and shifting oceans, so you can't go wrong using it in a coastal country such as ours.

Aqua, cobalt, turquoise and sky blue are everywhere this season. These bold blues are key colours for the adventurous among us, and orange is the perfect partner – think orange canvas bean bags beside a sparkling blue pool.

Navy stripes combine well with lime, turquoise, white and red, adding a bold streak of colour to any interior setting. Blue works well in a living area, and if you make a point of selecting a shade with green or yellow undertones you'll avoid making the room appear cold. Turquoise walls are just the ticket paired with a soft red rug, or with a watermelon-coloured chair dotted with lime green and aqua cushions.

## beautiful blues



Resene 'Half Escape'



Resene 'Escape'



Resene 'Half Kumutoto'



Resene 'Hemisphere'



Resene 'Optimist'



Resene 'Seeker'



Resene 'Elvis'



Resene 'Whale Tail'

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the paint the professionals use