



COLOUR O U N S E L

PLAN YOUR
NEXT PAINTING
PROJECT WITH
COMPLETE EASE
AND COLOUR
CONFIDENCE

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There's an oft repeated decorating mantra: only buy what you love, and it will all work together. For the colour confident, that may well be true, but putting together a harmonious scheme is not always intuitive. To achieve cohesion, the first step is to look beyond each hue's obvious upfront colour and assess its undertones. "Everyone has been in a space where something just looked wrong, but you didn't know why," says Judith Briggs of Colour Consultants Australia. "It happens when the undertones aren't compatible or are not related on the colour wheel."

Revealing the undertone of coloured paint is achieved via the same process as determining those of white paint (as described by Dulux's Andrea Lucena-Orr on page 67). That is, take several swatches of a similar colour into natural daylight and their undertones will emerge. Knowing the undertones will help you pull other colours into your scheme and to coordinate with the tones already in place, such as on flooring. Jarrah boards, for instance, have an obvious red undertone. Others are more individual - think oak, even if whitewashed - and could be more yellow, green, or pink. Choosing a wall paint with a harmonious undertone to all your room's elements is the key to creating a room that makes you happy.

TRICKS OF THE EYE

Visual colour tricks work by playing with our sense of space, and are achieved by using advancing and receding colours. When walls are painted in specific colours they seem to come towards you. "As a general rule, light colours advance and dark colours recede," says interior designer Carolyn Burns-McCrave. "One of the best tricks I was ever taught is that by painting a room close to black, you visually lose the corners – the room's boundaries are blurred." >



"WE *visualise* SO MANY NATURALLY OCCURRING COLOURS, FROM SUNSETS TO STORMING SKIES, SO OUR BUILT *environments* SHOULDN'T HOLD BACK – CLEVER USE OF BOLD COLOUR CAN ALTER OUR INDOOR LIVES"

~ MATTHEW BIRD, STUDIOBIRD





FIVE TIPS TO KICKSTART A COLOUR PALETTE

1 Look to nature What do you see outside your window? For example, is there emerald-green foliage, grey-toned bark or soft coral blooms you could reference? Bringing in the outdoors might be the answer.

2 Get the balance right Lean on the 60/30/10 rule, where the main colour is used on 60 per cent of the room (walls and larger pieces, perhaps a sofa), 30 per cent goes to the secondary colour (rugs, curtains, some cushions), leaving 10 per cent as an accent colour for accessories.

3 Pin down your style What colours or decorating styles do you love? Start thinking broadly, referencing magazines and going online to build virtual moodboards. Pinterest and apps such as *House Rules Powered By Home Beautiful* are a good place to start. You will soon see a pattern emerging and be able to pinpoint your likes.

4 Work with fixed colours Window treatments, flooring and fireplace materials may already be set in stone. "Determine the undertone of each and build your palette from there," advises Judith Briggs.

5 Choose your paint colours last "If building a new home, choose flooring and tiles first, then build your colour scheme around those, as these have limited colour ranges," explains Judith. "Since there are thousands of paint colours on the market, you will always be able to find a perfect match, so choose these last."



"PURE WHITE IS CALM AND *uplifting*; SOFT PASTELS ARE SOOTHING; DEEP, RICH COLOURS FEEL *mysterious* AND REASSURING"

~ WENDE REID, FORM AND COLOUR

LIGHT EFFECTS

Both natural and artificial light will affect paint colour, so it's wise to grab a few test pots and paint large swatches to view in the room you will paint. Even the colour of sunlight changes throughout the day, explains Celina Clarke of ISM Objects. "Morning light is at the blue end of the visible light spectrum and afternoon light at the warmer end of the spectrum, where orange and reds feature," says Celina. "If you have a great deal of morning sunlight, it may be best to avoid choosing colours that are in the cool range as the interior may feel too stark."

When it comes to artificial light, incandescent globes are fondly remembered for their warm, golden glow, if not their heat output, and are still, for many, the benchmark for mimicking soft sunlight. Early replacements, such as halogen, CFLs and LEDs, didn't quite kindle the same tones but have come a long way. LEDs are now the designer's bulb of choice for their longevity, efficiency and quality of light. "As with all technology, the improvements have happened quickly and the lamps are improving and reducing in cost," says Celina.



“REFLECTIONS FROM OUTSIDE CAN AFFECT *wall colour* – THINGS LIKE A TERRACOTTA ROOF NEXT DOOR CAN THROW AN ORANGE *tinge* ONTO YOUR WALL”

~ JUDITH BRIGGS, COLOUR CONSULTANTS AUSTRALIA