

Hendricks Churchill

Better Homes & Gardens

Meet Our 2023 Color Stars: 10 Designers Expertly Decorating with Color

These interior designers are pros at confidently decorating with color, and their tips can help you do the same.

By Eleni N. Gage and Monika Biegler Evers

Photos: Interiors by Amanda Kirkpatrick, John Gruen. Portrait by Lesley Unruh

April 13, 2023



In the hands of Connecticut design partners Heide Hendricks and Rafe Churchill, architectural details like trim in bright colors against pale walls and ceilings put a fresh spin on classic farmhouse style.

Heide suggests approaching color as a curator. "Consider its impact on the shape and mood of a room. Color can be your ally in making up for inadequacies in lighting, size, even architectural details. It's a powerful tool in a designer's box of tricks," she says. "Painting the window sash or even just the slab of a door is great for colorful accents and not as expensive as painting the whole room."

Make sure the colors in one room are either a subtle or complementary transition to the next room so you don't feel jarred, like you've walked from one home into another.

Hendricks Churchill



Or try outlining the room in color. “We’re big fans of contrast trim. Color on the trim—even another color just slightly darker than the walls—outlines the room with a decorative, cozy layer without having to add more furnishings. I love an eggshell or semi-flat sheen for this because even if you paint the walls and trim the same color, you can get more depth with different sheens.”

Lastly, gather actual swatches of your fabrics, paint and wallpaper so you can see how they work together before committing. “Never trust designing only on a computer,” says Heide.

Heide's Favorite Paint Colors

“I’m a big fan of Farrow & Ball’s dark, rich aubergine called Brinjal as a substitute for black. Instead of white, using a soft light blue like Farrow & Ball’s Borrowed Light yields uncommon combinations. I also really love grays with soft violet undertones, like Farrow & Ball’s Dove Tail or Elephants Breath.”