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# 3 Steps to SELECTING COLOR with confidence

By Celeste Jackson

It can be overwhelming when you open a fan deck with an average of 1,500 colors. Do you think that might be why most people simply default to white? Yet, color is the element that can take a room from ordinary to extraordinary and it is simple to commit to because it can easily be changed. If you take the proper steps you can select color with confidence so you can surround yourself with colors that you love and enrich your daily life.



The first step is to understand how color affects us and what colors work best in certain rooms. In general, warm colors in the yellow, orange and red family tend to stimulate energy levels. While blue, green and violet tones calm and soothe us. For those reasons it is best to use warmer tones in areas of your home where you want to encourage more activity like a kitchen, office, playroom or a room where you gather

with family and friends. Cooler tones are best in rooms where you want to promote relaxation such as a bedroom, bathroom or wherever you want to unwind.

The second step to the selection process is finding an inspiration piece to use in the room. It can be a piece of artwork, an area rug, a fabric to be used on upholstery or window treatment, even sports memorabilia from your favorite team. Whatever it is it should be something that makes you feel good!

An inspiration piece that has more color gives you more choices and a variety of colors to play off of for surrounding rooms. It also gives you more opportunity to introduce warm and cool tones and to utilize a variety of fabrics for furnishings. When selecting your fabrics the rule of thumb is to use a larger scale pattern like a floral or paisley and complement it with a smaller scale geometric like a diamond, check or plaid. Stripes always work well for a third pattern and a solid is a great way to break up the patterns and keep it from looking too busy.

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Utilize your inspiration piece to start selecting colors. The fan deck is designed to help you select the proper shade of color. Always pay attention to the colors surrounding the one you are looking for so that you know what the blending color is. If you are one shade off your color takes on a totally different hue.

The third and final step is to order larger samples. I recommend that you order 2 swatches of 2-3 shades to narrow down. Tape them up in different areas of the room you are planning to repaint. Observe how the light changes the color morning, noon and night and on a cloudy or a sunny day. Now you can narrow it down with confidence. I will warn you that everyone that walks in that room will have an opinion so remember color affects everyone differently and this is your inspiration.



Several years ago I was working with a couple on the main level of their home. In the living room they had a beautiful piece of art that they had selected before I was hired. Working with this piece I selected a rich egg-plant color for the walls in the living room. On the day that the room was being painted I called the husband, who worked out of their home to follow up on how it turned

out. He asked me if I could stop by. So, I asked him if he was unhappy with the color. He told me that the painter thought it was too dark so he suggested a brighter purple. Since his wife was at work he went along with the painters' suggestion. I asked him what he thought about the purple. He said "It looks like it belongs in a teenage girls' room. What should I do?" I said, call the painter and schedule him to come back in the morning to repaint the room with the color we had selected then start cooking a really nice dinner for your wife. When the room was finished it was stunning!

When your room is being painted do not start second guessing your selection. If you have taken all the proper steps you will be pleased with the results once everything is in place because your focus won't be strictly on the walls. I guarantee that you will be selecting color with confidence more and more each time.

*Celeste Jackson has a passion for design and an exceptional eye for detail. This winning combination is reflected in the wide variety of styles she applies to her interior design projects. ■*

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