

CRAZY FOR

by Stephanie Lauritzen

# COLOR

FRESHEN UP WITH THE HOT HOME HUES OF 2008



**T**he home is your sanctuary, the most important place in the world, and you should enjoy living in it. Incorporating trend colors is a great way to do just that, because "they breathe new life and vitality into a home, making it a more inspiring and a happier place to live," says Lisa Finnin-Ciccoli of IKEA.

In 2008 there's a wide array of color families taking center stage, with a hue to suit everyone's style personality. Choose from the color options you love, grab a paintbrush and get ready to freshen up your spaces. ▶

Photo courtesy of The Rohm and Haas Paint Quality Institute



Photo courtesy of IKEA

Photo courtesy of Century Furniture

## Perfect harmony

The black and white trend is proving that ebony and ivory really do live together in perfect harmony. "The black and white combination is striking, clean and simple," says Debbie Zimmer of The Rohm and Haas Paint Quality Institute.

Black and white is a timeless combination that not only makes a statement on its own but also provides the perfect backdrop for virtually

any color. "It's hard to make a mistake with black and white," says Edward Tashjian, vice president of marketing for Century Furniture. "It's classic, stylish and versatile. It doesn't limit your options. You can have fun with it."

## Room Wise

The black & white trend is ideal for:

- dining room
- living room
- bedroom

## Expert Tip

In rooms where **people gather**, such as the **living room, kitchen or dining room**, keep the **colors warm** – sage greens and rich reds and golds.

—Melissa Galt, Melissa Galt Inc.



# Code of Color

Whether you prefer vivid or muted, bright or white, the following tips will help you integrate color into your home:

- **Choose colors based on the mood** you want your home to convey. For example, yellow can be energizing, while blue can be soothing.
- **Match colors based on a theme.** When paired with Aspen green, blues and browns create an outdoorsy feel. Yellow, orange and aquamarine can inspire a tropical, Caribbean atmosphere.
- **Break out your color wheel.** Color palettes work well when they include complementary colors, such as yellow and purple or blue and orange. If those color combinations are too bold for your taste, try muted, lighter shades of paint or incorporate a splash of color with accessories.

Source: Matt Czach, color expert, Whirlpool Institute of Fabric Science

## Rich and warm

"Bold colors from around the world, animal prints and decorative embellishments serve as the inspiration for this '08 trend," says Becky Ralich Spak, senior designer for Sherwin-Williams. Colors such as rich cranberry reds, deep eggplant plums, vibrant pumpkin oranges and sunny golden yellows will top the

list, according to Bruce Ekstrand of C2 Color.

"More than any other color, oranges bring people out. We laugh more in orange spaces and tend to be more playful," says Rebecca Ewing of Rebecca Ewing Color & Design in Decatur.



## Expert Tip

When choosing colors, **look at your closet.** People tend to **wear colors** they like or get **complimented on.** Surround yourself with **colors that make you feel good.**

—Ann Wisniewski,  
AJW Designs Inc.

## Neutral and natural

Think eco-friendly. "This trend is about the never-ending quest to bring the outdoors in," says Doty Horn, director of color and design at Benjamin Moore & Co. Colors include off-whites, sandy liners, brownish greens and deep chocolates, all reminiscent of earthy elements. "A well-dressed home includes soft, pale neutrals and sensible, grounded hues," Ralich Spak says.

Furniture and decorative items in this trend look more like the materials they are actually made from, with a lot of texture and natural imperfections showing through. "All things natural are seriously fashionable right now," says Jan Jessup of Calico Corners.

# Fabric Forecast

Plan to see four fabric fashions happening to furniture in 2008.

**1. Masculinity Madness.** "The same fabrics you might see on a well-dressed man also make for a well-dressed room," says Anne Hood, vice president of upholstery fashion for Century Furniture.

**2. Shiny Sophistication.** "Shimmery, specialized finishes are really hot," says Jan Jessup of Calico Corners. Metallics are warming up in 2008, Jessup adds. Look for coppery, bronze tones to prevail.

**3. Updated Old School.** Take supple leather and lavish fabrics and spice things up with fringes, tassels, trimmings and plenty of pillows.

**4. Eastern Inspirations.** All things Asian are in vogue. Bamboo will be at the forefront of this furniture trend.

## Room Wise

Neutrals & naturals are ideal for:

- family room
- kitchen
- bedroom

Don't be afraid to add pops of color into a mostly neutral room. "Like ginger between bites of sushi, neutrals act like a visual cleanser before moving to a more colorful room," says Jenny Warner of J. Thomas Designs Inc. in Atlanta.