

living spaces

Article courtesy of Amy Lauerhass, Bexley resident, owner of Lauerhass Architecture

Color!



Don't Be Afraid To Be Bold!

A fresh coat of paint is the easiest and least expensive way to bring new color to your home. If you have an opportunity to retool the entire palette, that can have a dramatic impact on the look and feel of your home. It's important to establish the palette early in the process, because various products and materials will contribute to the overall color scheme. A few tips if you are going to embark on updating your home's look:

- **A Neutral Backdrop Equals Long-Term Livability** - Though we can add pops of color through furnishings and artwork, the walls and trim should stay fairly neutral. One simple way to create a cohesive feel is to use a consistent paint color on the walls of connecting spaces. Your home is sure to evolve over the years, and interior spaces may take on different purposes. This muted palette will provide a clean backdrop for those changes.
- **Light Has A Big Impact on Color** - Be extra mindful of how colors will look at various times of the day. The best way to preview paints is to apply them to the wall in two-square-foot sections and consider them against each other.
- **Flooring Is Like the Fifth Wall of the Room** - Many designers actually settle on the flooring first, because it sets the tone for the room in

such a big way. Hardwood flooring has become a design favorite because it helps tie spaces together in an open floor plan. Lighter species like maple and white oak create an airy feel, and darker species like walnut and cherry offer more elegance.

- **Pay Attention to Sight-Lines** - When you're standing in the one room, what other rooms will you see? If you have a view into the kitchen, the dining room and the foyer, then the colors for those spaces need to work well together. It can start to look too busy and confusing if you have a different color scheme in each room.
- **Choose Color Groups** - One way to increase the likelihood that a color scheme flows from room to room is to limit yourself to colors in the same temperature family. Some people will stick to a warm color palette — reds, oranges and yellows — or a cool scheme — grays, greens and blues. Another option is to select one or two colors and then use variations of it. If the main color is blue, you might select a gray-blue, a pure blue and a navy as you move from room to room. The same concept can be used for decorative accessories.
- **For Bold Colors, Use Accessories** - Accessories such as pillows, lamps or artwork are a less expensive way to introduce dramatic colors than purchasing a couch or rug in the same tone, and they're also easier to swap out should you tire of a color. Limiting bold colors to accessories also helps you avoid the shocking effect that can happen when a dramatic shade is painted on all four walls.
- **Use the 60-30-10 Formula** - Another way to create a cohesive flow from room to room is to think of the palette for your home as a math problem. Use a neutral base color that you really like as 60 percent of what you're going to paint for your interior. Your secondary color should be about 30 percent. Then you can do 10 percent in a bold accent color.
- **The Color Wheel** - A "color wheel" is an abstract illustrative organization of color hues around a circle, which shows the relationships between primary colors, secondary colors, etc. A basic rule of thumb is that using analogous (adjacent) colors on the wheel will create less contrast and a more calm feel, while choosing complementary colors (across from one another on the wheel) will create greater contrast and a higher-energy room. Understanding the relationships between colors will help you see why certain combinations have certain effects on you.

Isn't Your Home Worth It?



Lauerhass Architecture

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Having trouble getting started? Color evokes emotion. Think about places or views that make you feel content, and start to notice if there are certain colors that you can bring into your home that will give you those same feelings. Color preferences vary as much as personalities. Some folks love the bright and the bold, while others feel most secure surrounded by neutrals. The good news is that when it comes to color, there really is no correct palette. So get painting!