

Decorating Lesson | Color

DOMESTIC BLISS

Bolds + Neutrals



Bolds

Ankasa's St. Tropez pillow in Mango, \$313, at Haveli, Miami. 305-667-2929. Clarence House's Lola Embrasse Galactique tieback. Judy Ross's runner, from Holland & Sherry.

Bold color—it's what everybody wants, but not everybody knows if they can live with it. If you love the idea of strong hues, but are afraid of turning your decor into what San Francisco interior designer Steven Miller calls "an angry fruit salad," consider taming today's emerging colors like emerald, chartreuse, and purple by pairing them with neutrals. "People feel like they have to be revolutionary with color, and neutrals are a great way to navigate this impulse," says interior designer Alexa Hampton. Neutrals don't begin and end with boring beige. Jet-black, mushroom, smoke, and a host of chic, mutable tones stand up to the wildest colors, creating inviting, nuanced combinations. "If you're afraid of color," says decorator Stephen Shubel, "start with a neutral background and make the room shine by layering color on top in clear, bright strokes." Earthy textures can operate as neutrals, too. Use natural materials like shells, gilt, plaster, and worn leather, which add depth and relax the high contrasts. Still not sure?

The following seven pages contain some of our favorite decorating schemes, along with tips and sources for everything from carpets to chandeliers to help you mix knockout color with glamorously laid-back neutrals.



Neutrals

Sherwin Williams' Magnetic Gray, \$38 per gallon. sherwin-williams.com. Huntley ottoman, \$1,225, at eliteleather.com. American Leather's Vanessa chair, \$1,199, aufurniture.com.

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