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COLOR YOUR WORLD

FAMILY HOME SPECIAL

Bright hues,
cheerful patterns,
and lively
furnishings create
a fun background
for family life.

By Kathy Henderson

Photography by Ray Kachatorian



SHADES of INSPIRATION

7 experts share easy ideas for injecting color into your home.

SUSAN SARGENT creates vivid collections of furniture, textiles, and accessories for her home-furnishings stores in Boston and Manchester, VT. She is the author of *The Comfort of Color* (www.susansargent.com).

- Before updating a room, photograph it from every angle, and study walls, windows, floors, and furniture. Gather paint chips and photos from magazines to see which colors you respond to most often. If you aren't ready to make a big change, add a few colorful accents like pillows, lamps, or a rug.
- Refresh wood furniture (beds, bureaus, chairs, stools, even a piano, as shown below right) by painting it a cheerful color.
- Combine colors with the same level of brilliance—terra cotta and dull green, for example, or bright orange and bright yellow.

BARBARA RICHARDSON is director of color marketing for ICI Paints, including the Glidden and Ralph Lauren brands (www.glidden.com).

- Cut paint chips apart and look at them surrounded by white. When you've narrowed your choices, buy a quart each of two different colors and use them to paint two large foam-core boards per color. Place the painted boards at right angles in the room; move them to different positions at various times of the day to test the light and see how the colors look with your furnishings.

ALEXANDRA ANGLE is co-owner of *Aqua Vitae Design* in Los Angeles, a firm known for its inventive use of color (www.aquavitadedesign.com).

- In a child's room, combine neutral walls with bright furniture. Maine Cottage offers 40 colors of beds and dressers, including Mango orange, shown below left (www.mainecottage.com).
- If you're nervous about painting an entire room a vibrant color, paint only the wall behind the bed.

CLARE DONOHUE, owner of *One to One Studio* in New York City, specializes in kitchen and bath design and offers clients color consultations (www.121studio.com).

- In general, go with lighter colors in rooms that get lots of sunlight, soothing colors like blue gray in rooms with shadowy light, and "museum" colors (taupe, olive, red) in rooms with little natural light, such as a foyer.
- Rather than painting ceilings white, use a lighter version of the wall color. For baseboards and trims, a contrasting color can be a lively alternative to white. (Sage green trim looks pretty with butter yellow walls.)
- Have fun with paint in your child's room: Try unexpected colors like periwinkle blue

or raspberry pink; use chalkboard paint inside a molding "frame" on the wall; paint a checkerboard pattern on wood floors.

DOTY HORN is director of color and design for Benjamin Moore paints (www.benjaminmoore.com).

- Identify your favorite colors by looking at things that are precious to you: a work or art or keepsake, even a sweater you wear often. To help picture colors on a wall, go to the Personal ColorViewer on benjaminmoore.com and try various combos in a virtual bedroom, living room, and bathroom.

CARL D'AQUINO is a partner in *D'Aquino Monaco*, a New York City design firm with a painterly approach to decorating with color (www.daquinomonaco.com).

- Make sure the colors you use in adjoining rooms work well together. If a foyer is painted in cobalt and light blue stripes, the living room might be a lighter blue, followed by the dining room in a more dramatic blue. The colors used can be different, but the goal is to feel drawn from room to room.
- Don't be afraid to cross the color wheel for accents: pinks and greens, reds and blues, yellows and violets.

LEATRICE EISEMAN, director of the Pantone Color Institute, consults with corporations on color trends and packaging. She has written five books on color, including *Color Answer Book* (www.pantone.com).

- Give kids a voice in choosing the color of their room. Like adults, they develop an emotional attachment to certain colors, and they'll be happier in a space with shades they love. **Q**



JUCY! Orange furnishings pop in a kids' room by Aqua Vitae Design. Right: Susan Sargent uses color everywhere, including the piano.

