

# ELLE

THE  
STYLE  
MAGAZINE  
FOR YOUR  
HOME  
APRIL 2016

# DECORATION

## GET THE LOOK

*Revealed! The decorating tips and tricks  
behind the most inspiring homes*

### EAST MEETS WEST

Why Scandi + Japanese design  
= the perfect style fusion

### RAINBOW THERAPY

How colour can make you happy

### THE NEW MAXIMALISM

Why extreme luxury is taking  
the world by storm



## DESIGN DETAILS

*Love Stefano's daring colour scheme? He tells us more about the inspiration behind his bold, blue walls and striking red floor*

### THE INSPIRATION

The house is right on the water. I wanted to bring that indoors by using a particular shade of blue: it was a natural choice. I love this colour – for me it's both warm and calm, which is a nice combination. The distressed effect applied to some of the walls (right) reflects the movement of the water.

### THE COLOUR

My relationship with colour is almost maniacal. I see and record everything in terms of colour – at home and at work. I took the shade in the living room from an old piece of fabric, as well as the original tiled flooring, which struck me as being like huge carpets. I employed a painter/artist, who adjusted the colour directly on the walls. The base is a bespoke shade of Farrow & Ball blue ('Stiffkey Blue' is a good match; £39.50 for 2.5 litres), but we mixed lots of paints together and added artists' pigments to achieve this particular hue.

### THE FINISHES

I used water-based paints throughout much of the house, in a combination of different finishes. Some of the walls in the living room have a 'concrete' effect, a look that was achieved organically – the artist mixed my chosen blue paint with plaster and then applied it directly to the wall with a spatula to create a base that resembles stone. The other walls in the living room have a flat finish; I've used the same two techniques in the bedroom.

### THE UNEXPECTED ELEMENT

I decided to use bright red resin for the floor in the studio. I chose such a bright shade because I wanted it to pop against the graphic motifs and black-and-white colourways of the wallpaper and furnishings.



## EACH ROOM IN THE APARTMENT REPRESENTS A VISUAL EXPLORATION OF TONE AND TEXTURE



## INSIDER GUIDE TO LIMEWASH

We adore the depth and texture on Stefano's living room walls. You can achieve a similar effect at home using this artistic finish. Here's how

**What is limewash?** Characterised by an imperfect flat finish and surface 'glow', limewash is made from calcium carbonate, a naturally occurring mineral found in limestone and seashells. 'The beauty of limewash is the structure of these calcite crystals, which refract light in a completely different way to other paints,' says Bronwyn Riedel, co-founder of Bauwerk Colour, modern lime paint experts.

**The benefits** Aside from aesthetics, limewash is also an environmentally friendlier and healthier option to conventional paint. No harmful toxins or chemicals are used in its production; 'it works with nature rather than against it,' explains Riedel. Importantly, it allows your walls (and you) to breathe easily.

**How to apply it** Limewash can be applied to rendered brick or plaster, but with the correct undercoat it can also be used on pre-painted walls. For further tips on applying limewash, check out the informative how-to videos on [bauwerkcolour.co.uk](http://bauwerkcolour.co.uk). **ED**

### Our pick of the latest spring colours in a limewash finish

From top 'Nigella' blue limewash paint, £22.50 for a litre, Bauwerk ([bauwerkcolour.co.uk](http://bauwerkcolour.co.uk)), 'JW4' pink limewash paint, from £62 for five litres, Francesca's Paints ([francescaspaints.com](http://francescaspaints.com)), 'Deadly Nightshade' grey limewash paint, £16.60 for a litre, Bert & May ([bertandmay.com](http://bertandmay.com)), 'Basalt Secco' limewash powder, £48 for a kilogram, Kalk Litir ([kalklitir.com](http://kalklitir.com))



Homeowner Stefano describes his study as a 'laboratory of materials and colours'



## 'ORANGE IS THE HAPPIEST COLOUR'

FRANK SINATRA, MUSICIAN

From left 'Soho' rug in Zinnia Orange, from £995, Designers Guild ([designersguild.com](http://designersguild.com)). 'Air' armchair by Jasper Morrison for Magis, £103, Nest ([nest.co.uk](http://nest.co.uk)). 'Ottoman Divinia' sofa, from £2,141, Ligne Roset ([ligne-roset.co.uk](http://ligne-roset.co.uk)). 'Star Jaffa' cushion by Lewis & Co, £65, Trouva ([trouva.com](http://trouva.com)). 'Labyrinthe Chevron' blanket, £590, Hermès ([hermes.com](http://hermes.com)). 'Métiers' side table, £7,540, Hermès ([hermes.com](http://hermes.com)). 'Ruutu' vase by Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec for Iittala, £79, Skandium ([skandium.com](http://skandium.com))  
**Backgrounds, from left**  
'Morocco' limewash paint, £17.17 for one litre, Francesca's Paints ([francescaspaint.com](http://francescaspaint.com)). 'H Link' fabric, £210 per metre, Hermès ([hermes.com](http://hermes.com)). 'Dots' wallcovering, £139 per 8.5-metre roll, Arte ([arte-international.com](http://arte-international.com)) ▶

