

the best-selling modern homes magazine

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colour insight

DESIGNER SUSSY CAZALET TALKS TONAL SCHEMES AND FOCUSING ON FEELINGS TO FIND THE PERFECT SHADE

I tend to think about how I want a room to make me feel when I'm choosing colour.

There isn't one perfect way to pick the ideal shade, but by aiming to capture feelings, the design experience and the space become more personal.

Everyone's obsessed with Pinterest for inspiration but it can be overwhelming.

I've watched clients scrolling through hundreds of images trying to narrow their options. The pictures are beautiful – but that's because most colours, when used well, will look good. The magic comes from making them look great in your home.

When I pick a colour, say a beautiful terracotta, I'll wrap the room in it.

I'll then use light and dark variations to create a soothing and harmonious tonal scheme. You can add accent colour through plants and objects.

Using lots of different hues in the same space sends my brain into overdrive.

I always ask myself, 'Can the eye travel peacefully through the space or is it distracted by lots of hectic colours?' If my eyes can take in the room at their own pace, I'll feel calm. The room will also feel more spacious, as there'll be fewer contrasts.

For a similarly spacious effect, vary the texture in tones of the same colour.

Again, the room will feel bigger because your eyes won't be darting around trying to take in all the details. In my kitchen, I've used a high-gloss terracotta from Papers and Paints on my cabinets and a chalky clay-like matt emulsion from Francesca's Paints on the

walls. The textures slightly differentiate the colours and make them look more interesting.

Creating a tonal scheme starts with samples – lots of them!

If you can paint them on your walls, do. Then sit with them for at least 48 hours so you can see how they look in the different kinds of light. It's important to see the colour when the sun's out and when the weather's overcast.

I love blue – but not in grey old England.

It leaves me feeling cold. I'm always trying to create a warmer feel, as if I'm in an Italian villa. So I err towards the terracottas, ochres, sandy colours, burnt siennas – in other words, earthy hues.

I don't like using colours that are too dark.

I feel as though the walls are closing in. But dark tones are handy for hiding imperfections. Recently we decorated our London flat and the walls needed lots of work to make them suitable for a light colour – we went for white. We could have saved time with a darker shade, although we love our white walls.

I'm guided by the architecture when picking a white.

My flat is quite modern; I don't have architraves and amazing old floors, so I went for a modernist white. For a more old-school feel, try a white with yellow, ochre or stone undertones.

Don't rush when choosing colours for your home.

People panic and think, 'I just need to get it done!' – and suddenly they're living with a colour they don't like. Take your time, try out a few ideas and, above all, focus on how you want to feel.

the edit

(From top) Travertine absolute matt emulsion, £48.50 for 2.5ltr, Little Greene

Dune 45 II eco emulsion, from £27 for 1ltr, Francesca's Paints

Jongul natural paint, £51 for 2.5ltr, Edward Bulmer

Terracotta Tile perfect matt emulsion, £52 for 2.5ltr, Designers Guild

Country Grey chalk paint, £21.95 for 1ltr, Annie Sloan

Beetlenut pure flat emulsion £51 for 2.5ltr, Paint & Paper Library

green living

START THE NEW YEAR WITH A
MORE ECO-FRIENDLY LIFESTYLE



original eco

It's been 25 years since Francesca's Paints became one of the very first British brands to offer sustainable paints, and the collections have simply gone from strength to strength. One of the most popular eco-friendly products is the highly sustainable Limewash (plastic-free with zero VOCs) and it creates an on-trend, mottled effect. Another of our favourites is the water-based, wipeable and breathable eco-emulsion which, as well as being solvent-free, even has a delightful citrus fragrance. What more could you - or the planet - ask for? Wall in Moss eco-emulsion (Tenth collection), from £27 for 1ltr. francescaspaint.com



love your leftovers

London-based fashion brand Phoebe Grace has found a creative way to make the most of its unique print designs. A new collection of seven cushions has been created using leftover fabrics from its garment ranges - a welcome way to keep materials out of landfills. Mix and match a couple of prints with plain coloured cushions for a stylish bedroom scheme. From £75 each, phoebe-grace.co.uk



CHIC CHARCUTERIE

The values of design studio Mark Lowe are underpinned by sustainable and honest design. Joining its range of handcrafted lighting and furniture is the new Edward collection, which has hit the top of our wish lists. Handmade in small batches from FSC-certified oak, the terrazzo-handled boards come in two shapes, one perfect for chopping and the other great for creating a cheese and charcuterie board. Even the terrazzo composite handles are made with a handmade eco resin from recycled offcuts. Charcuterie/Cheese boards and chopping boards, £60 (marklowe.co.uk)