

Design DIRECTIONS FOR 2023

Interiors experts offer their insights and predictions for how we will decorate, structure and invest in our homes over the coming year

The start of a new year brings with it many announcements of 'colours of the year' and forecasts for growing trends in decorating. While these fashions pervade our design choices, at *The English Home* we have always championed timeless style alongside additions that feel current and relevant for classic homes. Now, more than ever, given the economic climate and changes in how we live, it is important to highlight design

aesthetics that will be more than a passing fad and are worthy of investment to create a beautiful, considered home, for not just the current year, but many years beyond. From new colour schemes to simple updates to considering how and where we might spend the most time in our homes, we have asked interior designers, brand consultants and design directors for their insights into the design directions, products and considerations that will be important to us all. ▶

INTERIORS EXPERTS



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House Fabrics



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RICHARD MOORE
Design director,
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**RUTH
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Creative director,
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1838 Wallcoverings



RUTH WEBBER
Creative director,
Bert & May



**FRANCESCA
WEZEL**
Founder and director,
Francesca's Paints

COLOUR MOODS

One of the most significant factors in decorating is changing colour schemes. The colour choices we make have a huge impact on the final feel of the scheme. Though many 'colours of the year' are hailed, we find that changes to popular colours evolve over a long period with a general move towards certain palettes that remain in the zeitgeist for a few years. Grey in cool forms was a mainstay of the last decade, but the latest launches are seeing a move towards warm tones, including a revival of cream.

Charu Gandhi, founder of Elicyon, echoes this sentiment, "I think we're going to see a purposeful shift away from the 'greige' tones we've become accustomed to and begin to see saturated pops of colour finding their way back into design schemes. My key shades for next year are earthy tones like sunset orange, brick red, yellow, and golden ochre. These richer, brighter colours will offer a nice contrast to more neutral aesthetics with their warmer tones and help keep a space feeling vibrant."

'Colours that connect us with nature and the outside world will also be dominant in 2023. Bringing a sense of the outdoors in helps to ground us and has a positive impact on our mental well-being'

FRANCESCA WEZEL, founder, Francesca's Paints





WARMING UP

These warm base colours will be seen in many guises, from calming creams to a rich palette of reds, pinks, oranges and browns, allowing people to be bold and experimental while being confident in combining colours. Colour consultant for Graphenstone, Betsy Smith, says, “Gone are the days of painting an entire room one colour. The power of colour to change perceptions and alter our moods will take a central role in the home.” She adds that combining colours will marry experimental influences “with more familiar grounded colours – think pops of coral, orange and vivid red against a soothing natural, earthy palette.” (See page 130 for a striking example of this in action.)

Fired Earth’s creative director, Colin Roby-Welford, comments, “Warm and uplifting shades of saffron and terracotta are really having their moment in the sun. These versatile palettes are perfect for everything from exotic spa-style bathrooms to relaxed yet welcoming hallways.” Though one of the ‘hot’ colours for the year is touted as magenta, we are seeing this toned down into earthier reds that will have a lasting resonance in homes. Earthborn Paints new colour for the year is a rich burgundy named Lady Bug, which interior stylist for Earthborn, Laura North, cites as “surprisingly adaptable – pair with a soft pink for a romantic feel or go bold and playful with similarly saturated hues.” ▶

ABOVE Warm tones of saffron are set to be popular. Woodwork, Bengal £28.50 for 1l GrafClean Eggshell; walls, Lovat, £23.50 for 1l GrafClean Matt, Graphenstone
LEFT A chic scheme by Elicyon featuring a layered palette of the warm tones Charu Gandhi predicts will dominate interior decorating for 2023.
FAR LEFT The Postcards from Barra collection features calming colours inspired by the Scottish landscape. Traigh, £35 for 1l Eco Emulsion, Francesca’s Paints