



PAINT

Head Over Heels

Flirt alert! The very first colors these designers fell in love with will get your heart racing, too.



WINDSOR PINK
FINE PAINTS OF EUROPE

"This warm, calming pink, the shade of faded peony petals or the edges of a fiery sunset, had me at hello. Not too juvenile or too twee or too sweet, it acts like a neutral. In this library, its sophisticated undertones balance all the millwork and the hand-blocked linens. It makes you want to curl up, relax, and luxuriate on the window seat."

LISA THARP



FOGGY MORNING 2106-70
BENJAMIN MOORE

"I've adored this putty-blush color for as long as I can remember. It's a very emotion-steeped hue evocative of my childhood: It reminds me of quiet moments helping my mother put together her evening outfits, the ritual of choosing clothes and jewelry. Now I appreciate how it softens a room, giving it a hushed intimacy and a chic essence, and I return to its specialness constantly."

RICHARD OUELLETTE



CABRIOLE GRAY RL1115
RALPH LAUREN PAINT

"I admit this quicksilver gray came into my life by chance. A friend in search of the perfect gray paint asked for suggestions, and I recommended it off the cuff. I was stunned when I saw it on her walls: It was perfect, full stop. Very mercurial, it can shift from violet to taupe to pale white depending on the lighting. Amazing! Is it any wonder it inspired the color of my business cards and logo?"

BELLA MANCINI



ALABASTER SW 7008
SHERWIN-WILLIAMS

"In 30-plus years of design, I've tried and discarded literally thousands of whites. I even attempted to mix my own, creating ever more exotic combos and driving my painters mad. Trust me: Nothing compares to this. I've never seen anything like it—well, maybe the color at the horizon right as dawn breaks over the Aegean. I've dubbed it Jeeves, after the fictional butler: ever present, always discreet."

BENJAMIN HUNTINGTON



E7-53
FINE PAINTS OF EUROPE

"A few years ago, I spied this color on the library walls at an English country house and—boom!—immediate attraction. Confident and poised, it's a complex green that envelops you like a luxe cashmere blanket. In my new-build condo, it gave the dining and living rooms a richness and a history. Whenever anyone saw the rooms, the reaction was always the same: a dropped jaw, silence, then 'Wow!'"

WARE PORTER



CHOCOLATE CANDY BROWN 2107-10
BENJAMIN MOORE

"When I was a design student, I came across a photo of a Billy Baldwin room lacquered in this masculine brown, and I was a goner. So different from the 'pretty' colors I had been working with, it pulled me in and has never let me go. I've paired it with Hermès orange, pale blue, and pink, introduced clients to it, and even used it myself. I just repainted my home office in it—again."

SHELLEY JOHNSTONE



SAVANNAH MOSS 385
BENJAMIN MOORE

"My relationship with this acidic green started a quarter century ago. I recognized how independent and gutsy it was in the 1990s, and I never wavered. For my dining room I went all in, but it's also fantastic in modest doses and surprisingly approachable. With indigo blue or a cantaloupe color, it feels totally current."

AMELIA HANDEGAN



WIMBORNE WHITE 239
FARROW & BALL

"A confession: As a child visiting museums, I was just as captivated by the white paint on the walls as by the artworks. I am hopelessly, hypnotically obsessed with white—its mutability, its variations. This hue, with its slight tinge of gold, not yellow, is my longest-term crush. It's inviting, it's stimulating, it has dimension. And wouldn't you know, it's the most amazingly crisp backdrop for clients' art."

KATIE LYDON



LIGHT BLUE 22
FARROW & BALL

"It's hard to pinpoint exactly what shade of blue this is, which is why it has always mesmerized me. I prefer hazy in-between colors that are hard to define. A description that comes close is of an antique French chest that was once bright blue but has gradually faded and aged—beautifully—over decades. Bring in grays, plums, and tangerines, and it's beyond gorgeous."

BRITTANY STILES



POND SHIMMER BD-24
C2 PAINT

"I go way back with this intriguing blue-green: I wore it for my senior portrait in high school! It's one of the few colors I'm drawn to that isn't inspired by nature, unapologetically clean and modern. In the kitchen of my apartment, I combined it with geometric wallpaper and pure whites. If I were actually inclined to cook, I'd be thrilled doing it around this unusual hue."

MELANIE CODDINGTON



HAGUE BLUE 30
FARROW & BALL

"The intensity and ambiguity of this unique color has enthralled me forever. Marrying my two favorite hues, blue and green, its depth makes it almost impossible to nail down—and is the reason it can be teamed with almost any textile. It recalls the soulful greens and blues Van Gogh painted again and again, which are still relevant today. Timelessness is a hallmark of nuanced colors like this."

BRYNN OLSON



NORTH STAR SW 6246
SHERWIN-WILLIAMS

"There's a dreamy and wispy quality to this Cape Cod blue, the misty color along the New England shoreline on overcast days. I'm infatuated with it because even though it's subtle, it still packs a wallop—like a wave with an undertow. The way it instantly brings a room to life is uncanny, especially if it's a small space in need of oomph. It's unbeatable with emerald green."

EMILY CASTLE