

CONDO LIVING

What's not to like about blue?



PAUL SEMKULEY
**LIVING IN
STYLE**

The countdown has finally begun! There are only a couple of more weeks before we see the first day of spring. The sun is shining more often and we are all anticipating the sounds of little sparrows chirping, the trickling of the winters snow dripping down our eaves trough and the first little buds of crocuses in our gardens and lawns.

The January and February blues are soon to be behind us, but really, we should embrace the blues.

Blue is one of the most favorite colours for most people. It provides nature's perfect backdrop for all other colours. It is the bright cheerful day-sky and the heavenly crepuscular night sky.

As one of the hottest trends for interiors this 2014, the colours will

range from deep saturated and mysterious indigos and navys, to saturated vibrant shades of peacock and colbalt. Nothing will be pale or delicate. Blues are complex and have many meanings.:

- Dark Blues: trust, dignity, intelligence, authority.
- Bright blue: cleanliness, strength, dependability, coolness.
- Light (sky) blue: peace, serenity, ethereal, spiritual, infinity.

When we began conceptualizing the tone for this project, we wanted to create a mysterious yet elegant space. "Move over white walls, we're going to be adding drama and glamour!" I said.

Blue was a perfect choice for our clients. For the living room, we chose a taupe grey, Fort Gerry Grey from Para Paints, that would provide the depth and richness of dark walls without closing it in. The trim and ceiling

was kept white to add contrast.

The wall paint choice allowed us to enhance the luxurious hues of the navy velvet sofa and club chair, while contrasting with the natural beauty of the neutral oatmeal linen occasional chairs.

The area carpet was a later find that encompassed an array of our blues in the room including colbalt, Prussian, azure and Cerulean.

Wheat, cream and a hint of flesh pink are present in the decorative pillows, books and accessories.

Adding understated glamour and sparkle to the room was done through a variety of metals.



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I adore working with metallics as they provide the best contrast to darker tones.

Chrome nail heads were used on the backs of the neutral occasional chairs and the tall bamboo inspired Meurice floor lamp from Jonathan Adler. Custom stainless steel side tables are topped with chrome infused polycarbonate Kartell Bourgie lamps by famed Italian designer Ferruccio Laviani (we love how he has taken old world baroque charm and designed it with new world materials). The artwork is reminiscent of the Group of Seven; a beautiful graphic depiction of our wonderful northern Canadian landscape. Even if it is of the winter sky, there is a sense of tranquility and stillness that brings grandeur and hauteness to the room.

As we really liked the direction of where this dark mysterious blue was going, we decided to carry this tone into the master

bedroom. Bedrooms in my opinion are meant to be dark, alluring and intriguing.

As with most bedrooms I design, the focal point is the headboard wall. Having a soft white ultra suede headboard to work with, the room needed some extra interest and drama. With several choices floating around, we agreed upon a stunning Phillip Jeffries silver metallic grass cloth, woven with dove grey and navy.

Complimenting the wallpaper, the walls were painted in St Boniface, a greyed navy, from Para Paints. The bed is dressed with a custom navy, periwinkle and blue striated duvet cover, dark grey coverlet, euro and pillow shams, a dark navy and indigo geometric fitted sheet, and a single periwinkle hotel stitched flat sheet.

The final touch to the bed are two velvet suzani pillows with colbalt blue dominating the pattern. The layers of colour, tones and textures are inherent to great design and styling. Flanking the bed are two white gourd lamps from Jonathan Alder,

adding contrast and brightness. The custom drapery panels, from floor to ceiling, offer a big bold graphic element to the room.

So what's not to like about blue? It has so many possibilities, depending on what hue you choose and how you incorporate it with other similar or complimentary hues. The best part about using blue in all its forms — furniture, fabrics, wall treatments and accessories — is that everyone looks and feels good with it. Don't let it bring you down. Rise above it. Let it lift your spirits, calm your nerves, and inspire your dreams.

— Paul Semkuley is principal of *Re:Source Lifestyle*, a Toronto-based interior design firm that combines art, fashion and design to offer unique styling solutions. Visit www.resourcelifestyles.com.



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