



COLOUR PHILOSOPHY

BY PAUL SEMKULEY

If there is one element that challenges people when they try to decorate, it is colour. Not knowing how to use it correctly can make or break your room. Colour is one of the first things people see when they enter a room. It can be on the walls, furniture or the accessories. It brings instant mood, style and atmosphere to the room, while also enhancing the architectural and design elements.

Finding inspiration for using colour in a space can come from many things- a beautiful silk gown, a piece of natural rock or wood, or the painting or piece of art that you love. This can be your “jumping off point” and provide you with the color foundation necessary to build your room.

Being inspired starts your journey into creating a beautiful and well thought out room. All colours can be changed or enhanced to create nuances of colour through tinting, toning and shading.



Paul Semkuley, principal of re:source lifestyles, a Toronto-based Interior Stylist, combines his love of art, fashion and design to offer a unique decorating point of view. With an extensive client base in Toronto and the GTA, the firm incorporates the client's existing collection of furniture and family treasures in unique and unpredictable ways. Paul transforms his client's aspirations for new living spaces, into homes that far exceed their expectations.

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TINT: Any colour with white added creates soft, youthful and soothing colours.

STONE: Any colour with black and white added creates a “greyed down” colour. These are the most pleasing to the eye. They are complex, subtle and sophisticated.

SHADE: Any colour with black added creates deep, powerful and mysterious colours

Choosing the right hue for your walls can take your room from calm and serene to bold and energetic. Painting a room is the easiest and most cost effective way to introduce change or simply update your surroundings. Wallpaper is also considered a colour treatment for walls and ceilings. It not only provides you with colour, but can also bring texture and pattern to a room or hallway. Consider it as a feature wall to create a focal point while adding an additional design element to the room.

Advancing colours such as red, orange and bright yellow will make a room seem smaller and more intimate. Blue, green and violet are cool and soothing. In the right settings, colours can be mixed, coordinated, combined or juxtaposed to create a contrast that is pleasing and stimulating to the eyes and senses.

Upholstering larger pieces of furniture with neutrals (not necessarily beige) gives you a clean foundation to build your room. One can easily update and change the colours of the room through the use of decorative pillows, glassware, ceramics, found objects and artwork. These all begin to add layers to your room, giving it a well curated and manicured esthetic. If you’re willing to take a risk, do one chair or smaller piece of furniture in the room to give it the unexpected “bang” of colour. With several tints, tones, and shades, there is myriad of colours to choose from.

Draperies are also a great key element to any room, as they frame the windows. They can either be bold and patterned, which will provide additional drama to the room, or they can take a step back and be soft and similar to the wall colour, bringing a unified look to the room without bringing too much attention to them.

Whatever colour you choose to work with, remember that it must please you and make you want to be in that room. Not all rooms need to be full of colour, nor do they need to be subtle and subdued. Take the one colour you love and start to build on it. And when you’re not thinking about it, throw in a colour you wouldn’t ever dream of... it might just be that colour that will bring you and your room to life!