

Color Trends for Today's Interiors

Choosing a color for any interior is tricky business, and with a partner it's even stickier because color evokes emotion and no color looks the same to every eye in every light. In fact, "All colors are equal," claims artist and color consultant Illia Barger. "To the human eye, all the colors of a room impact one another, so in order to pick the right colors, you need to look at how the space is used, furnished and lighted because they all impact the final color output." But the question still remains: what are the hot color trends for 2008? That answer, too, is relative, but here are some indicators for understanding the latest color trends.

Each era seems to have its signature colors. The harvest gold and avocado of the 1970s gave way to cream and mauve in the '80s, followed by peach and seafoam in the

'90s. Today, the trend is toward chocolate with shades of turquoise, but none of the experts would settle on just one choice. Much depends on where you live, your furniture style and the feeling you want in a space: Tranquil? Comfortable? Opulent? It appears that along with the trend toward eclectic furniture pairings, color too has a range of options.

That theory also holds true at The Fabric Loft in Lahaska, PA. Lisa Shull's homey shop displays bolts of fabric, drapery trim, decorative hardware and samples of the latest color palettes for interior design that delight the eye and tantalize the fingertips. "Furniture fabrics now trend toward muted tans, gingers and pewter, with flecks of deeper colors in the pattern," she said, flipping through a book of sumptuous fabrics. "And spicy colors such as paprika, cinnabar and cinnamon add drama to the draperies and valances." She also points out the change in Sunbrella fabrics, once available only in primary colors for patio furniture, which are now being offered for indoor use in new textures such as chenille and in the beige, black and brown family of colors.



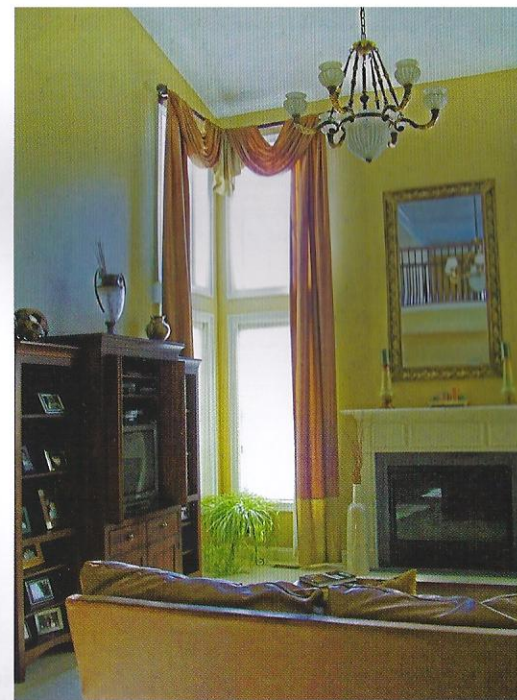
Artist and color consultant Illia Barger uses her paintings to explain her theories on the use and combinations of color for interiors. Photo/Glenn Race



This living room ensemble is upholstered in Sunbrella brand fabric made by Glen Ravin, Inc. The plush textures and soft tones of their residential fabrics are very different from the traditional canvas fabrics used for outdoor cushions, but have the same performance features—easy to clean, long lasting and water repellant. Contact Fabric Loft for more information. Photo courtesy of Glen Ravin, Inc.

Contemporary furniture continues to favor spa-mineral colors in soft blue-greens and tans with emerging elements of browns and fresh greens of all shades for the background and accessories. And Benjamin Moore's *Color Style* magazine presents three distinct color groupings for three different homes: one in sunny, modern Miami, another in woodsy Connecticut and the third in a glamorous urban locale. But all of these colors may be passé next year, so to anticipate the next hot colors, take heed of one designer's advice: "Look at what's being shown on the fashion runways, because eventually those colors come to home furnishings."

But for Illia Barger, a color's trendiness is not the issue. What matters is how she feels when she enters a room. "I want to feel ahh, I like this room." And that occurs when the values and intensities of a room's colors—the walls, furniture and accessories—are in relative balance. That's how to achieve the desired effect. And that's what makes an interior really "cool". ♥



The muted tones of the golden walls in this living room are balanced by the spicier hues of the coppery leather sofa and faux-silk draperies. Photo courtesy Fabric Loft