

# Express yourself in color

## FINDING YOUR PALETTE



CHERYL CHENAULT

COLOR IS EVERYWHERE. Even dreams come in color. Each of us has favorite colors. Color moves us in ways both obvious and subtle to conjure memories and elicit emotions. But are you one of those afraid to show your “colors” in your interior design decisions? Is color a dilemma for you? Just how do you create an interior palette that expresses your personality in the colors of your identity to take a room beyond the basic use of this aesthetic, color?

Over the years, I’ve helped dozens of clients select colors, both interior and exterior. And what surprises them most is how an exploration of their favorite colors may mean ignoring popular trends. Give yourself permission to develop your own color palette, and choose colors that you like and will enjoy living with. Creating a look for your interior is much easier once you reveal your true colors. Here are a few tips to keep in mind.



### COLOR DEFINES

Color commands attention. Choose colors that express your individuality and personal style. Color profoundly affects your attitude and emotions throughout the year. Create artful rooms that infuse everyday activities and inspire you personally.

*Osborne & Little’s “Maharani” curtain fabric and “Balyan” chair fabric are available through interior designers. [osborneandlittle.com](http://osborneandlittle.com)*



### COLOR SINGS

Color enhances everyday visual experiences. Look for opportunities to color the inside of your home with curious and unusual items that surprise, delight, and brighten your mood.

The "Beaded Flower" chandelier by Canopy Designs Ltd is 13 inches wide-by-17 inches high. [canopydesigns.com](http://canopydesigns.com)

### COLOR MATTERS

Dramatic, calming, or relaxing. There's a spectrum of colors to choose from. Select specific colors that meet your goal. Set your intention for the room and consult a paint deck to explore options.



### COLOR ACCENTUATES

Don't be afraid to select colorful furnishings to contrast with neutral tones. A spot of vivid color is the perfect way to add excitement against softer background colors.

"Hourglass" table from Bungalow 5 in Spring Green lacquer. Made of pine and wood veneers. \$288 [bungalow5.com](http://bungalow5.com)

### COLOR REVEALS

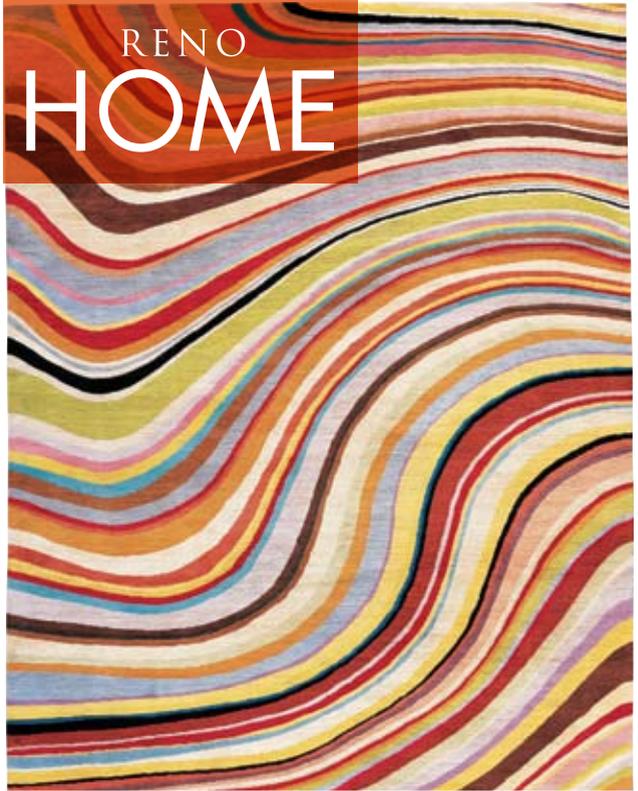
Different seasons call for different materials. Align your décor with subliminal cues throughout the year. Use small items such as pillows with innovative trimmings, braids, fringes, or cords in specific colors to exude character and reflect your seasonal choices.

Assorted trims from Osborne & Little's "Kediri" collection are available through interior designers. [osborneandlittle.com](http://osborneandlittle.com)



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# RENO HOME



## COLOR ENGAGES

Color stimulates interest and adds dimension to a room. Because of its subjective quality, select colors that capture imagination and engage attention. Don't be afraid to repeat, layer, and mix colors to add depth to your interior.

*"Swirl" area rug by Paul Smith for The Rug Company. 9-by-6 feet \$5,760. [therugcompany.com](http://therugcompany.com)*

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## TIPS FROM CHERYL

- Bright colors lift our spirits and inspire optimism. They seem to transcend our everyday reality.
- Warm colors such as red, orange, and yellow add excitement and visually more toward you in a room, while cool colors such as green, blue, and violet are tranquil and visually recede.
- View potential colors in the room where they will be used (not in the paint store) with natural daylight and in the evening under artificial light.
- Create flow from room to room and carry your preferable palette of colors throughout your home. The colors of an entire home should work together.
- Color is the most economical way to transform an interior.
- Ensure you have adequate and appropriate lighting for your room. Only through changes of light and dark can we perceive form.