Around THE BLOCK

The color block, that is. Today's interiors are moving from minimal into a luxurious era of full-tilt color. Designer Kristin Rocke weighs in on how to apply it like the pros.

BY MEGAN BARTHOLOMEW

GONE ARE THE DAYS OF "COOL-GIRL" NEUTRALS—today's designers are embracing all sides of the color wheel and using color theory techniques to deliver the ideal doses of pigment for every space. Kristin Rocke of K. Rocke Design shares a few Dos and Don'ts for the color novice ›

PHOTOS BY CASEY HALLIDAY



DO Introduce Color In Layers

"To my eye, layering color creates a lot of interest and depth and makes a room feel much more sophisticated," Rocke says. When working with multiple colors, Rocke recommends treating the palette like a cast of characters. Select one color as your 'main character' and give it full saturation. Then, give your other selected colors supporting roles in the space—small appearances in accessories, artwork, etc.

DON'T Bank on Basic Combinations

According to Rocke, interior designers are branching out from achromatic (or neutrals-based) and monochromatic palettes in favor of more technical, color-blocked triad combinations. Though embracing color may feel like a big leap, Rocke reassures earth tone lovers that it's an easy step up. "You can still use your same favorite neutrals," she explains. "Terra cotta, for example, is still very present. But instead of pairing it with just a warm white, get adventurous—mix up the palette with a green or yellow as well."





DO Repeat Colors Around the Room

Once you take the plunge and select some daring shades, it's important to apply them strategically. To help guide the eye through a space, include your bold color selection in multiple iterations throughout a room. "It doesn't have to be a repetition of the exact same shade," Rocke says. "It can be a graduation—variations in shade and undertone can bring in a lot of character to a space." Alongside major appearances in furnishings and on walls, repeat your colors in accents such as pillows, display objects and art pieces.

(TOP DOWN) PHOTOS BY SCOT ZIMMERMAN; JOYELLE WEST; SCOT ZIMMERMAN

DON'T Shy Away from Colorful Furnishings

Often, homeowners opt for neutrals when it comes to major pieces like sofas, stoves and even wall colors. Rocke encourages a braver approach: "Having your main stage be in color takes you into the color story in a much more meaningful way." A great way to draw the eye, go bold with a brightly-hued statement piece complemented by smaller accessories to match your palette in accents such as pillows, display objects and art pieces.



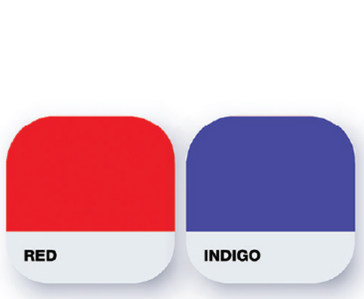


DO Rely on a Designer's Eye

At the end of the day, the best way to successfully infuse color into your space is to employ the help of a designer who can help you branch out without overdoing it. "Finding a designer who is really adept at the use of color will allow you to use more of it," Rocke explains. "That's something cultivated through experience and training the eye."

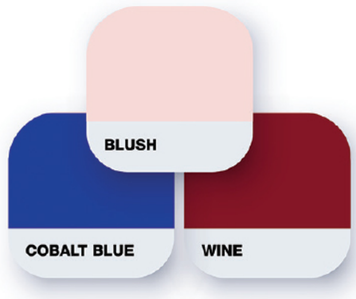
(TOP DOWN) PHOTO BY SCOT ZIMMERMAN; COURTESY OF K. ROCKE

K. ROCKE'S FAVORITE COLOR PAIRINGS



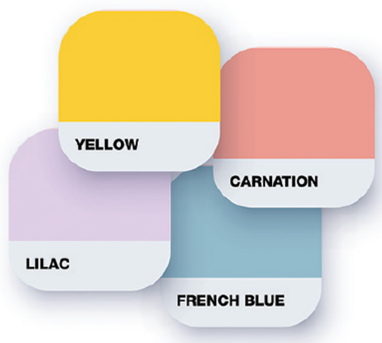
RED AND INDIGO

A classic dual pairing, selecting two colors separated by one degree on the color wheel.



WINE, BLUSH AND COBALT BLUE

Cool-toned and romantic, reminiscent of rich tapestries and ripe berries.



LILAC, CARNATION, FRENCH BLUE AND YELLOW

Joyful, warm and exuberant



TANGERINE AND OATMEAL

High-energy orange, grounded by a warm, earthy tone.