HOUSE of BLUES

Whether dubbed cobalt or navy, sapphire or azure, blue is by any name today's most au courant color. Why not invite it into your home?

By Brad Mee

CARMEL BRANTLEY



ROBERT BRANTLEY, BRANTLEY PHOTOGRAPHY

ROOM WITH A HUE: Designer **Susan Lachance** uses a palette of dreamy blues and creamy whites to infuse this Hillsboro Beach bedroom with tranquility. A Christopher Guy chandelier hangs above the light blue Cameron Jordan rug and elegant bedding fabrics by Kravet. Tile shell wall covering by Jeffrey Michaels shimmers with light filtered through Romo sheer draperies.

POWER TO SOOTHE: Proximity to water and a bold integration of indoor and outdoor living inspired the interior of this Boca home. In the kitchen, the **Marc-Michaels** design team used the calming color of blue water to soften the visual strength of the mahogany floors, Caeserstone countertops, and mahogany and stark white cabinetry.

First off, we have to say: Blue, you look amazing. These days, we see you everywhere, enriching rooms and outdoor spaces with shades ranging from dazzling peacock and dark indigo to tranquil sea glass and spirited turquoise.

So what's your secret? After all, you may be the most popular color worldwide, but you haven't always topped the list of haute hues for the home.

To uncover the source of your allure, we check in with some of the area's most talented designers; your personality makes their rooms pop. We also offer words of advice for choosing and using your many shades—plus, we present a selection of furnishings and fabrics that showcase your charisma. Along the way, we've discovered that when it comes to decorating with style, everybody's got the blues.



JERRY RABINOWITZ

PICTURE PERFECT: Performing as curator of a gallery hall in a Delray Beach home, designer **Kristin Rocke** framed the artwork (heavy on shades of blue) produced by her clients' children to create unity among the pieces. She then complemented the art with an azure blue geometric rug that accentuates the hall's colorful, playful theme.



KIM SARGENT

WATER WORKS: Turquoise garden stools and shapely outdoor upholstery furnish a poolside patio in Delray. The palette of blue and green gives the setting by **Marc-Michaels** a cool, serene vibe.



ED BUTERA

TAKE IT OUTSIDE: Assorted deep-blue tones, from navy to midnight, mix with paler shades and grays to help shape the "barefoot elegance" created by **Marc-Michaels** for this Fort Lauderdale loggia. Foldaway doors open to a light-blue interior, resulting in indoor-to-outdoor continuity.



ODE TO PAMPERING: To foster the look and feel of a luxurious spa, the **Marc-Michaels** team chose blue rather than clear glass to lend serenity to this Boca home's master bath. Blue John Richard vases, bamboo cabinetry and a Victoria and Albert tub adds to the retreat-like ambience.

CARMEL BRANTLEY

FIVE EASY PIECES (OF ADVICE)

Our interior experts offer the following tips when it comes to the use of blue.

1 "The worst mistake a designer can make when decorating with blue is when they let it get too dark; it becomes gloomy and stormy. You don't want a dark blue color to suck the natural light out of a room."
–Marc-Michaels Interior Design

2 "We try to stay with calm blues when doing bedrooms or bathrooms and push the envelope with bolder blues in the home's common areas."
–Susan Lachance

3 "Blue maintains its integrity no matter the value. Integrity intact, blue can still take on many moods: It can be arresting in cobalt or sapphire, stately in navy or admiral, ethereal in light clear shades, playful with a tint of violet, and contemplative in a grayed blue."
–Kristin Rocke

4 "Use a variety of shades of your favorite color–then add a splash of a contrasting color. Recently, I have been pairing cobalt blue and aqua with crisp white and taupe/beige neutrals, dark or white woods, then I add a hint of lime green to the mix."
–Sybil Maxson

5 "Use glass accents and accessories to introduce blue into a room; they can provide a beautiful reflective moment."
–Marc-Michaels Interior Design



"Today's blue is not the 'Baby Blue' of the 1960s. Instead, it is a tone of blue combined with light grey, giving it a more neutral feeling."
—Susan Lachance



ROBERT BRANTLEY, BRANTLEY PHOTOGRAPHY



WILLIAM WALDRON

WHITE HOT: A patterned rug in shades of gray and dusty blue grounds a white sofa and Vico Magistretti chairs. **Kristin Rocke** repeated tones of blue to foster continuity throughout this great room; comforting elements of wood help to warm the space.

RHAPSODY IN BLUE: Vivid blues and assorted patterns define rich fabrics by Stroheim in this Boca living room, while a custom area rug in deep blue defines the sitting area. Silvery blue walls adorned with custom molding by Hamlin Woodworks perform as a near-neutral backdrop to **Susan Lachance**'s elegant design.

WHAT THE PROS KNOW

Paint may be the quickest path to refreshing your rooms. Designers offer a selection of favorite blues that lead the way.



PADDINGTON BLUE 791

Benjamin Moore

"The bright and inviting color looks intriguing when used in a room or on a feature wall. It is so versatile and can be used in a traditional house or an ultramodern one." **–Sybil Maxson, Brown's Interior Design**



QUIET MOMENTS 1563

Benjamin Moore

"It's clean, fresh and soft. It has remnants of the sky and reminds me why they used to paint the ceilings of porches this color. ... It's the highest-used color in our firm today." **–Marc Thee, Marc-Michaels Interior Design**



ADMIRAL BLUE 2065-10

Benjamin Moore

"It's very grounding and stable, making it perfect for an office and exquisite when paired with rich, dark millwork." **–Kristin Rocke, K. Rocke Design**



TWILIGHT BLUE 2067-30

Benjamin Moore

"It offers an artisan complexity, making it fabulous in a dining room. Flowers and food look stunning against it, and it creates a romantic moody backdrop." **–Kristin Rocke, K. Rocke Design**



TRADEWIND SW 6218

Sherwin-Williams

"It is a powdery, soft blue; when paired with crisp white trimwork, it creates a very fresh look." **–Susan Lachance, Susan Lachance Interior Design**



ED BUTERA

AQUA'S ALLURE: Vivid coloring in the lacquered cabinets led **Sybil Maxson** of **Brown's Interior Design** to select mosaic tiles in blue and pearlized tones for her Boca client's bathroom. Mirrored walls and crystal lights add to the room's glamorous vibe.



"The best way to introduce blue is on the ceiling with a very light sky blue, or a grayed down blue."

—Marc Thee, Marc-Michaels Interior Design



WILLIAM WALDRON

ON THE DARK SIDE: Kristin Rocke paired rich, dark blues with black to create an engaging "clubby look" in this Delray living room. Light blue Bernhardt wingchairs, along with vibrant art and pillows, pop against the deep tones of the walls and overdyed rug.



Grayson chair, Crate & Barrel, Boca Raton





Caterina chandelier, Jayson Home, jaysonhome.com

Turquoise rivulets chandelier, Anthropologie, Boca Raton



Blue agate table, Matthew Studios, matthewstudiosnyc.com

DIVE RIGHT IN

Are your rooms looking a little parched? A shot of blue can quench the thirst of any space needing a splash of oh-so-cool style.





Arper peacock saari sofa, ABC Carpet & Home, Delray Beach

Marina lamp ensemble, Anthropologie, Boca Raton



Ink supernova pillow, ABC Carpet & Home, Delray Beach



Cambria votive, Z Gallerie, Boca Raton

Scarlett bed, Z Gallerie, Boca Raton





Holly Hunt lens table, hollyhunt.com



LOCAL CONTACT INFO

MARC-MICHAELS INTERIOR DESIGN
850 E. Palmetto Park Road, Boca Raton
561/948-1282
marc-michaels.com

SUSAN LACHANCE INTERIOR DESIGN
1001 Clint Moore Road, Suite 100,
Boca Raton
561/241-3800
susanlachance.com

BROWN'S INTERIOR DESIGN
Designer: Sybil Maxson
4501 N. Federal Highway, Boca Raton
561/368-2703
brownsinteriors.com

K. ROCKE DESIGN
Designer: Kristin Rocke
801/274-2720
krockedesign.com

ART AND ACCENTS: Soft white trim and Tiffany blue walls combine to give this Boca dining room by **Marc-Michaels** a fresh, inviting feel. Blue and white ginger jars not only punctuate this space with rich color, but also give it a well-traveled feel.

LAURENCE TAYLOR