



"White moldings brighten up darker shades of red," says Branca, who designed this space.

How to use red

- 1 First, give it a trial run: Paint one wall and see how it looks. Love it? Cover the rest. Or if that's enough, you've got an accent wall.
- 2 For an upscale effect, "mix reds with a chocolate brown," says designer Alessandra Branca, who sprinkled it into the room at left with fabrics and a bordered sisal rug.
- 3 Or bring a mod vibe with a pop of shiny red, whether as a glossy paint on a side table or a patent-leather ottoman.

ROOM, TOP: PATRICK CLINE; ROOM, BOTTOM: MEGAN THOMPSON; FROM BE YOUR OWN DECORATOR BY SUSANNA SALK; KNOBS: GREG MARINO/STUDIO D; PAINT CANS: JESUS AVILA/STUDIO D; OTHER STILLS: COURTESY OF MANUFACTURERS.

THIBAUT JEANSON; FROM BE YOUR OWN DECORATOR BY SUSANNA SALK.

Color therapy for your home!

TO TURN YOUR HOUSE INTO THE HAPPIEST POSSIBLE PLACE, THROW OPEN THE DOOR TO A FRESH GREEN, A RICH PURPLE, OR THE PUREST SKY BLUE. WHATEVER COLOR YOU DREAM IN, WE CAN HELP YOU MAKE IT HAPPEN. BY ASHLEY NIEDRINGHAUS

Imagine this: You walk through your front door at the end of a blech-y day, and before you even kick off your heels, your mood just... lifts. That's what some color can do for you. Big splashes of paint, clusters of bright accents, even one well-placed rug can make you feel cheery and relaxed. "Color instantly and effortlessly stimulates the parts of our brains that

are connected to emotions," says Susan Biali, M.D., who specializes in stress management. "Bright colors, like a yellow or poppy-red, release serotonin and make us feel good just like *that*." Grab inspiration from the rooms on these pages, plus the doable designer tricks and seriously pretty merch—not a single piece of it over \$100!



Ceramic knobs, \$7.96 for 4; worldmarket.com.

Tullsta chair, \$99; ikea.com.

DESIGNER PICKS

Benjamin Moore Poppy 1315

Sherwin-Williams Gladiola SW-6875

Clark + Kensington Two Lips



Balance a bold crimson with light woods and neutral accents.



Pillow, \$80; dwellstudio.com.



Table lamp, \$43; wayfair.com.

Side table, \$99.99; homegoods.com for stores.



Peony wallpaper, \$79 for 9 yards; urbanoutfitters.com.



"White sheets give a clean, crisp look to super-bold wallpaper," says Melissa Ruffy, the designer of this bedroom.



Reflection pool wallpaper, \$17 per square foot; eskayel.com.

How to use blue

1 This color works with *everything*. On its own, blue is lush and calming. But it's also a strong anchor for bright red, yellow, or green accents. 2 Got a small space? Upbeat hues like cobalt and cyan are perfect for making it look bigger and brighter. 3 Navy makes for great accents, but it can darken a room. "Softer blues work well in any light," says designer Anthony Baratta, who did the bedroom below. "I use it all over—bathrooms, dining rooms, everywhere!"

DESIGNER PICKS

- Sherwin-Williams Danube SW-6830
- Benjamin Moore California Breeze 757
- Sherwin-Williams Sapphireberry 2063-60



Love the upholstery here? Get a similar look by placing a blue bench at the foot of your bed.



Side table, \$79; urbanoutfitters.com.



"Never paint the wood doors in a blue room," says Suzanne Kasler, who designed this space. "Let them stand out like a piece of decor."

ROOM: SIMON WATSON. PILLOW: ALISON GOOTEE/STUDIO D. OTHER STILLS: COURTESY OF MANUFACTURERS.



Hang art with blues that are a shade or two darker than your walls, says designer Bunny Williams, the genius behind this living room. "It creates contrast but still feels like it belongs together."

ROOM, TOP: PETER MARGONELLI. ROOM, BOTTOM: THOMAS LOOF. FROM BE YOUR OWN DECORATOR BY SUSANNA SALK. STILLS: COURTESY OF MANUFACTURERS.

Think of your closet as an inspiration. If you wear blue a lot, use it in your home!" —Bunny Williams



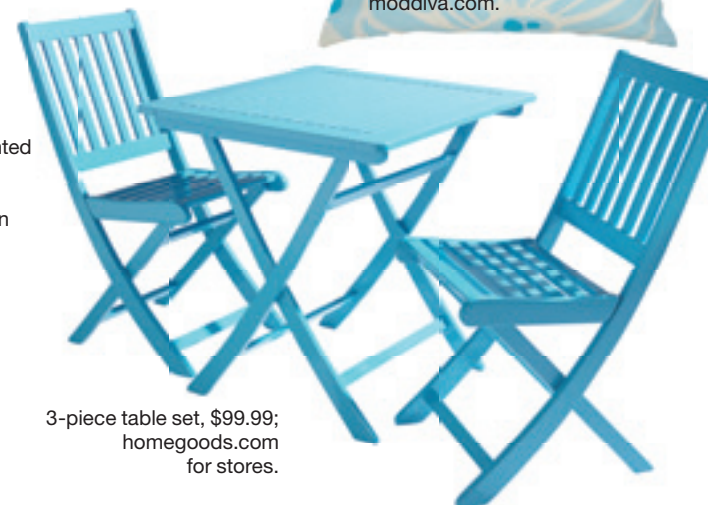
Marimekko pillow, \$24.95; moddiva.com.



Glass lamp, \$50; pier1.com.



Hand-painted dishes, \$12 each; shopterrain.com.



3-piece table set, \$99.99; homegoods.com for stores.



Designer Colleen McGill's tip for replicating this look: Paint your existing cabinets with a super-high-gloss lavender-blue.



Loon waste basket, \$50; johnrobshaw.com.



Oval terrine, \$45; lecreuset.com.



Don't be afraid of a really deep purple, says this room's designer, Steven Gambrel.

Parsons chair, \$99; homedecorators.com.

Quartz rug, \$84; dashandalbert.com.



Dark floor? Go with a lighter purple on the walls.



Banner pillow, \$70; laylagrayce.com.

How to use purple

1 Purple can stand on its own, but if you're dying to add in another hue, pair it with hunter green (which looks rich) or coral (for a playful contrast). 2 Testing out the monochromatic look? Add interest by mixing in different textures, like a velvety couch or silk lampshades. 3 For a more elegant, understated vibe, skew toward grayish purples and eggplants. They're brilliant for a dining room, living room, or even a chic, not-your-standard office.

DESIGNER PICKS





Gumdrop lamp, \$99; landofnod.com.



Balance it out: Fairley used an equal number of green pieces on each side of this room.

DESIGNER PICKS

Benjamin Moore Citron 2024-30

Sherwin-Williams Lime Rickey SW-6717

Clark + Kensington Southern Glow

For a subtle (but not boring!) effect, choose a yellow with a slightly beige undertone.



How to use yellow and green

1 Mixing patterns is surprisingly easy: Prints, geometrics, and stripes are all fair game if the yellow or green tones look good together. 2 Not into painting? Designer Tobi Fairley, who did the room above, adds color by covering 20 percent of the room in bright accents like chairs, curtains, and clusters of knickknacks. 3 Dark floors balance out a sunny yellow space. For green, anything goes—including a white rug!



Sunburst mirror, \$99; ballarddesigns.com.



Garden gate pillow cover, \$44; cwonder.com



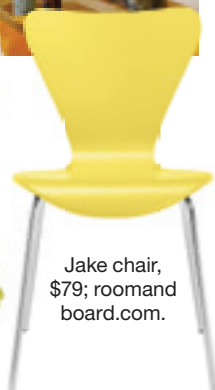
Modular storage unit, \$99.95; cb2.com.



Wire garden stool, \$39.99; homegoods.com for stores.



Argo citron throw, \$95; blisslivinghome.com



Jake chair, \$79; roomandboard.com.

ROOMS: FROM TOP: NANCY NOLAN, MATTHEW MILLMAN, LAMP: STOOL, THROW: ALISON GOOTEE/STUDIO D, OTHER STILL: COURTESY OF MANUFACTURERS.