





Green and royal blue, plum and gold... This year homeowners in search of feel-good factor are making bolder colour choices in the home, writes **Alexandra Goss**



**W**hen you have spent as long staring at your own four walls as we all have this year, it is little wonder that the hot trend for the months ahead is making those surfaces as vibrant as possible. Grey is gone, beige is banished as walls, fabrics, flooring and furniture become a kaleidoscope of colour, helping us to feel inspired, hopeful and safe.

“Coronavirus has made us look differently at the way we live,” says Joa Studholme, Farrow & Ball’s colour curator. “Amid the pandemic we need things to make us smile and using colour in our personal spaces is the perfect way to cheer us and help us forget about the outside world. Homeowners are certainly

becoming braver: stronger colours are being used not only on walls but on ceilings and woodwork in the most imaginative ways.”

A popular choice is green. “Greens reinforce our connection to nature and create the perfect welcoming start to the journey through your home, making them perfect for hallways,” Studholme explains. Greens can create a striking statement in the kitchen, too, with bespoke manufacturer deVOL creating schemes in everything from pea to emerald.

Dulux has also taken inspiration from the enduring, stabilising qualities of nature in its choice of paint colour of the year 2021: Brave Ground, a deep, warm brown that evokes the earth, while Arte,



**COLOUR AND LIGHT** Clockwise from top left: Rainbow motif at a showhome designed by Vesta; Rathbone Square penthouse interiors by Echlin; Aura by Benjamin Moore lifts the walls; royal blue on the ceiling, by Vesta Interior Design



the wallpaper brand, has designed multi-coloured Wildflower papers to echo the feeling of running your hands through flowers in a field. Sensual paint colours such as pinks can even make you look better, claims Nicole Salvesen, co-founder of interior design firm Salvesen Graham. "Pink is incredibly flattering for a dining room, especially with a slight sheen. This will make your guests look radiant and youthful – something we all need after months of pandemic-induced worry!"

Given the current restrictions, colour is a way of travelling the world without leaving our front door. "As well as boosting our mental health, we now long for our homes to be a reminder of places we visited," says Petra Arko, founder of design

studio Bergman & Mar. The palette for an apartment she created at the Terrace collection at the Lillie Square development in Earl's Court is inspired by sunnier climes: the burnt orange and pops of Yves Klein blue seen in Morocco; the striking shades of white seen in Greece; the warm yellows of Provence. Launching this autumn through Savills and Knight Frank, prices start at £830,000.

Rainbow patterns, reminiscent of the tributes to key workers, can work beautifully even in the most grown-up interiors, as Gemma Roberts, senior interior designer at Vesta, demonstrated in a show home she designed for, as do richer, darker tones such as royal blue and plum. "Reminiscent of the





Renaissance period, this trend is making its way back into our homes, adding drama and a luxurious feel,” says Helen Shaw, UK director at paint firm Benjamin Moore. “Rather than making a space feel closed in, if carried out correctly these dark colours can add character and cosiness.”

Striking shades can even help a property stand out from the crowd, says Peter Wetherell, chief executive of Wetherell, who was recently instructed to sell a £5 million Mayfair flat with eye-popping interiors. “This apartment showcased old-fashioned décor yet it had a fantastic reception with buyers. It was refreshing and authentic, opposed to the neutral grey colour palette you could expect in most modern Mayfair apartments,” he says.

For those who want to dip a toe in technicolor, consider painting skirting boards, door frames or the inside of cupboards in a dazzling hue to give a pop of brightness. “Alternatively, start with a few accents such as accessories, cushions, rugs and artwork,” says Richard Angel, co-founder of interior design studio Angel O’Donnell. Georgia-Rose Ford, senior interior designer at Accouter Design, introduces colour through piping on curtains or blinds. “It’s an effective



**GREEN SCREEN**  
**Above:** The uplifting green deVOL kitchen in the home of food writer Rachel Koo. [devolkitchens.co.uk](http://devolkitchens.co.uk).  
**Left:** Roger Oates Design stair runner in Masai Emerald, [rogeroates.com](http://rogeroates.com)



way to create a timeless look, rather than creating a huge block of colour, which can become dated fairly quickly," she explains, while Emma Sims-Hilditch, founder and creative director of the eponymous design house, recommends reupholstering furniture or cushions in patterned or bright fabric. "Mixing and matching different patterns in the same room is a great way to play with colour and texture," she says.

Interiors stores are full of sumptuous shades to bring an instant refresh this season. Take Soho Home's art deco style Manette bed in navy velvet or stair runners such as the Fitzroy Bright or Masai Emerald from Roger Oates Design. Charlie Marshall, founder of Loaf, has noticed customers becoming bolder. "Gone are the days of 'greige'. You can really lift a room by introducing a new hue and we're seeing warming rust and clay tones, mustards and blues coming through."

When designing a colourful scheme, Fiona Barratt Campbell, founder of Fiona Barratt Interiors, advises collating a Pinterest board to see how the colours, textures and patterns will fit together. And while you should avoid anything too lurid, ultimately, the colour code is down to you. "Most importantly, choose colours you love," advises Tricia Guild, founder and creative director of Designers Guild. "Too often people opt for a blander scheme for fear of colour, and the result is a uniform space that will bring no joy." ■

**RICH SHADES**  
**Above:** Strong paint colours on the walls of Ed O'Donnell's Brixton hallway make an inviting entrance. [angelodonnell.com](http://angelodonnell.com)  
**Right:** Soho Home's Manette bed in navy velvet £3,095, [sohohome.com](http://sohohome.com)

