

# DESIGNERS TODAY

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JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2026

# DESIGN VOICES



A design from Megan Molten featuring chartreuse. Photo: Annie Schlechter

## Designers pick their own colors of 2026

We know the colors of the year chosen by color and paint brands - but we wanted to know which colors interior designers would choose as their own and why. Designers - including members of the Interior Design Community - were happy to share.

# Designers weigh in on the color for 2026

**Traci Connell of Traci Connell Interiors:** “Deep mink brown, which can be paired with aubergine — a combination I saw everywhere in Madrid’s fashion scene and again in this year’s Kips Bay Show House. Those two shades together create a level of sensuality and sophistication that feels incredibly current ... Mink and aubergine have a cocoon-like quality — they encourage people to snuggle in, relax, unwind or lean in for conversation.”



**Mary Stewart (left) of M. Stewart Interiors:** “Benjamin Moore’s Hale Navy is my favorite, followed by Simply White if I have to choose a white.”

**Kristine Teno of Teno Interiors:** “As a professional color consultant for the past 15 years, I would say we’re on our way to seeing a lot of reds. Last year, I noticed the trend that many paint companies were picking colors rooted in deep but muted purple, red and brown. And I think we’re still there. My pick is HC-64 (Townsend Harbor Brown) from Benjamin Moore.”

**Petra Boykoff of Petra Design:** “I’ve been seeing so many rich colors like burgundy, browns and deep blues... but anything that makes your heart sing.”



**Stephanie Lindsey of Etch Design Group:** “Nocturne Blue, a deep teal that brings a balanced tranquility. We’re seeing homeowners crave spaces that feel peaceful, and this color brings a grounding sense of calm while still making a statement.”

**Corey Damen Jenkins of Corey Damen Jenkins & Associates:** “Emerald green or sapphire blue. They’re joyful. Green carpets our planet, blue is the canopy of our planet. People right now need reasons to be optimistic.”



John McClain loves Behr’s color pick for 2026: Hidden Gem. Image courtesy of Behr.

**Haylie Curry of Styled by Haylie:** “I’d say a shade of green. It was EVERYWHERE at High Point.”

**David Santiago of Casa Santi:** “Honestly, Exuberant Pink from Sherwin-Williams is at the top of my list! It’s a bold, lively hue that immediately radiates fun and fashionable chic, igniting creativity and energy. Next, I’d highlight Sherwin-Williams’ Light French Grey, a warm, neutral tone.”

**Michelle Jacobson Design of Design Galaxy Group:** “My favorite Alkemis Paint color for 2026 is Talisman (27). We are doing much of a new client’s house in this calm, creamy taupe color. They wanted a color that attracted good vibes from all their family members, a color that didn’t scream clean-slate white.”

**Olivia Botrie of Dart Studio:** “For 2026, I’m feeling inspired by a deep, muted olive with bronze undertones — a shade that feels both grounded and refined. It carries a quiet strength and pairs beautifully with natural materials and warm metals.”

All headshots courtesy of the designers



A mink brown design from Traci Connell. Photo: Becca Lea

**Victoria Armour of Stil James:** “Farrow & Ball’s Hog Plum. It’s this bright, chartreuse-leaning yellow that manages to be bold and fun without ever feeling ‘too much.’ We’re actually doing a full kitchen in Hog Plum right now, and it’s confirming everything we suspected – when it’s balanced properly, it’s shockingly timeless ... People are moving away from safe neutrals and craving color with personality.”

**Michelle Burnett of Cush Interiors:** “Prussian Blue – I’m loving this and burgundy at the moment. Rich jewel colors.”

**Megan Molten of Megan Molten:** “SW 0073 Chartreuse. It’s happy and complements our coastal color palette of soft blues, greens and pinks. When people do coastal design the ‘safe way,’ they go all-white with soft, blue accents; green if they’re feeling crazy. I’m leaning deeper into those saturated tones, and a pop of chartreuse is fun and whimsical.”



**Vicente Wolf of Vicente Wolf Associates:**

“It’s a color I call Deep Ocean (including hues such as Pantone’s Moroccan Blue and Benjamin Moore’s North Sea Green). It reflects where we all are right now. It talks about pressure, it talks about not seeing what’s in front of you and a fear that a big shark will come and eat you. But I think it’s a beautiful color. It’s very rich, but it has a density to it which talks about our times.”

**Jennifer Worts of Jennifer Worts Design:**

“I’ve developed a huge crush lately on Tonester Paints’ Black-Orange. Honestly, it stopped me in my tracks when I first saw it. I love its dual personality: it’s incredibly cozy and enveloping when applied in their matte finish, yet utterly sexy and glamorous in their semi-gloss finish.”

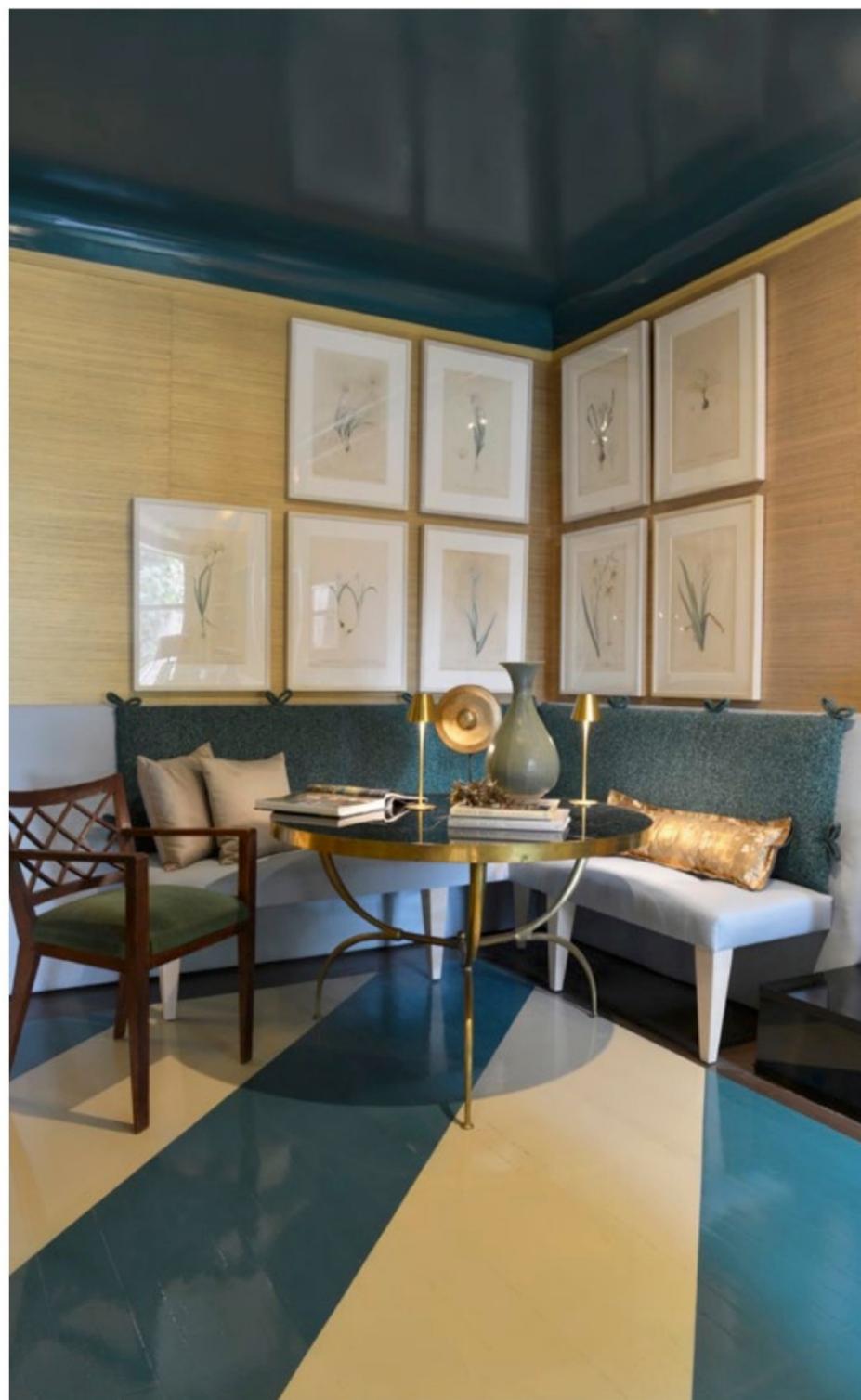


Photo: Vicente Wolf

Vicente Wolf’s room for Kips Bay New York this past fall, using Benjamin Moore’s North Sea Green.



**Julie Hardridge of Architexture Interiors:**

“RAL Glass Green (RAL #180 50 30) is a hue that shimmers between vibrancy and tranquility. For me, this color is more than a pigment. It’s a memory — of wandering warm Mexican beaches as a child, pockets filling with smooth green bottle glass tumbled by years of waves. Each piece felt

like a treasure, translucent and magical, holding tiny fragments of ocean-light.”

**Linnea Heaton of Touch Interiors UK:**

“It should be burgundy. All clothing fashion at the moment is burgundy and interiors usually follow fashion trends. Although, anything but gray for me.”

**John McClain of John McClain Design:**

“I’m actually loving Behr’s pick: Hidden Gem. I had my eye on it even before they announced it. It has this incredible depth, and the hue shifts in such interesting ways throughout the day, and it feels rich without being overwhelming ... It’s the kind of shade people can literally curl up in, which I think the world needs right now.”

**Jodi Warren of Jodi Warren Designs:**

“Deep saturated green like SW Evergreens.”

**Erin Hackett Nordholt of Hackett House Studio:**

“A serene, understated beige (think Farrow & Ball’s Joa’s White No.226 or Sherwin Williams’ Canvas Tan, SW 7531). It’s a neutral that has softness and warmth, and it feels far more calming than a cool-toned white. This is not a color meant to command attention. Instead, it invites you to add elements of texture, pattern and personality to create a perfectly layered space.”

**Cate Gutter of CWG Design:**

“Pantone 19-1941 TSX: Raspberry Fudge, a deep, velvety raspberry that feels joyful, moody and a little bit decadent all at once. Raspberry Fudge instantly warms up a room: beautiful on a velvet sofa, delicious in a powder bath or surprising and stunning on a kitchen island. It’s confident without being loud, romantic without being sugary.”

**Rachel Cannon of Rachel Cannon Limited Interiors:**

“Bright, poppy red. Think British red. Fire engine red. It brings warmth and sophistication without the heaviness of darker jewel tones. We’ve been living in this beige and white cocoon for so long that color feels electrifying.”



A room design using red from Rachel Cannon.

Photo: Kim Meadowlark



**Libby Langdon of Libby Langdon Interiors:**

“Benjamin Moore’s Amazon Soil (#2115-30). It’s a beautiful rich burgundy with brown undertones and I’ve used it for years. It’s got tons of depth and it works well with so many different wood finishes. It looks fabulous with blush tones, tans, grays. It’s so beautiful and versatile!”

**Nicole Roe of R. Nickson Interiors:**

“Sherwin-Williams Black Bean SW 6006. We recently painted the ceiling and trim of our new design studio in this shade, and it has completely transformed the space. Black Bean is deeply nuanced and it shifts beautifully throughout the day. It pairs effortlessly with the brass and bronze tones we use often.”

**Kelsey Matyas of Kelsey Deirdre Designs:**

“Ruby Dusk: a deep, browned-down red that feels both neutral and undeniably sophisticated. I love that it has this ‘aged like a fine wine’ feeling – almost a soft Bordeaux. It adds depth without overwhelming a space.”