

House Beautiful

MARCH 2013

— the perfect —

WHAT YOUR
favorite colors
SAY ABOUT YOU

COLOR COMBOS!

AMAZING DESIGNER
paint tips
FOR EVERY ROOM



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SCAN THE COVER

Make a color palette. It's easy!

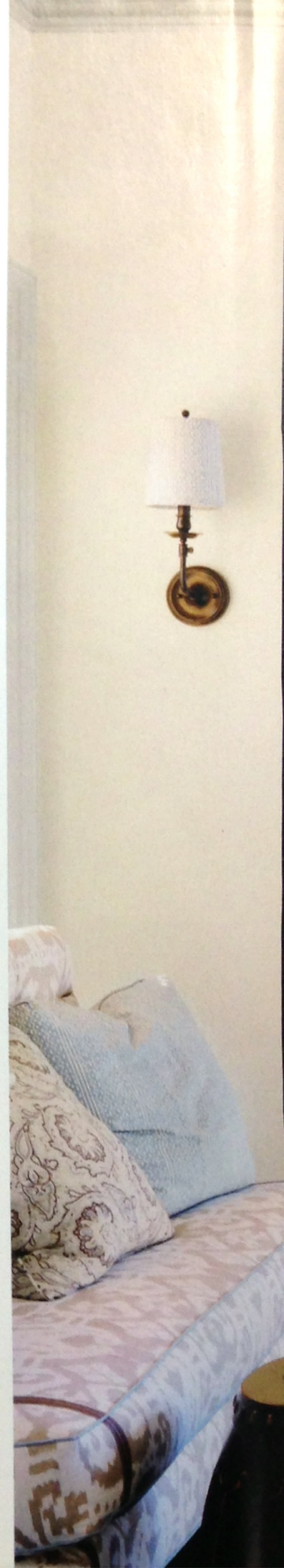
SEE PAGE 67 FOR DETAILS

||| THE PERFECT COLOR COMBOS! |||



fresh & young

THE SUBTLE HUES OF NATURE
CREATE A SOFT BACKGROUND
FOR PLAYFUL SHOTS OF COLOR



Interior design by LEE ANN THORNTON Interview by DYLAN LANDIS Photographs by THOMAS LOOF

Designer Lee Ann Thornton sifted a palette of sand, water, and rock for Jack and Morgan Melnikoff's seaside Dutch Colonial in Old Greenwich, Connecticut. Paint colors visually connect the gallery and the living room—in the former, the walls are Farrow & Ball's Pointing and the trim is a custom-mixed blue; in the latter, the scheme is reversed. The gallery's sofas are covered in Quadrille's Island Ikat. **LEFT:** Tulips play up the living room's purple accents.



Blue, the clients' favorite color, launched the living room palette. Thornton custom-mixed a "stony" hue that would look elegant at night and fresh in sunlight, then picked it up in the linen print upholstering the chairs (Pina in Windsor Blue on Tint from Quadrille) and another linen covering the sofa pillows (Cordoba Azul from Claremont Fabrics). She painted the sofa's legs off-white to keep the large piece light on its feet, and dressed it in Slubby Linen from Greenhouse Design. The warm brown of the sofa verges on aubergine, reinforcing the purple accents in the room.





WHAT THESE COLORS SAY

As tried and true as blue, you bring a no-nonsense attitude to most endeavors, and your strong belief in the things you undertake is often the key to their success. Coffee brown says you take your obligations seriously, are industrious, and value the respect of those close to you.

Kate Smith, Color Expert



FARROW & BALL
BORROWED LIGHT 235



FARROW & BALL
MAHOGANY 36



FARROW & BALL
SUDBURY YELLOW 51

DYLAN LANDIS: Orange! In the master bedroom! Did the clients see it coming?

LEE ANN THORNTON: No, it was one of those "Trust me, trust me, trust me" things. "We're not orange people," the husband said. It took some time to convince them. But there *was* that trust. And ultimately they *loved* that bench. They were so happy I did it.

Even with that orange—and hits of intense brown, purple, and blue elsewhere in the house—the overall feel is more like water, air, and sand.

The Hamptons were a big inspiration. We all wanted a beachy house. The clients asked me, "Have you seen the movie *Something's Gotta Give*?" I said, "Yeah, like 5,000 times." I like to think I decorate the way a Nancy Meyers movie makes you feel. You want to move right into her interiors. A soft palette lends itself to that: It's livable and approachable, and it's luxurious as well.

Are those blue walls in the living room meant to bring the sky indoors?

No, it was more about stone. It feels like a tone you'd find in a pebble on the beach in the Hamptons. It's a warm blue; it's a smoky blue. A lighter blue would have been like a baby's room, but this hue feels elegant. You can be there in the afternoon, or in the evening by the fire. That blue inspired the room scheme. I mixed it myself, on site, with the painter. Painters like to stay away from me—they're like, "Oh, God, here she comes." But there's so much riding on choosing the right hue.

Every room has sunlight pouring in—how did that affect your choice of colors?

It didn't. A room will only be sunny in the day, not at night, so I don't let sun dictate what I do. Instead I decide on the feeling I want a room to evoke and choose my colors accordingly. In the living room, for example, we wanted a place where the family could relax with their children, celebrate a holiday together, and entertain. Tactile, warm, soft, fresh, young, some luxury—that was the feeling. So I used lighter colors, for freshness, with chocolate and purple accents, for warmth and depth.

Why purple?

A jewel tone makes this beachy environment a little glamorous and rich. Purple is my go-to color, one of my new favorite staples. It's my new red. There's purple in the pillows, purple in the cashmere throw. The brown sofa is so warm it reads as aubergine, and it brings out all the purple accents in the room.

You made this kitchen for a family, not just for a cook. Jack and Morgan Melnikoff have three children under the age of three, and when we walked in this house and saw an area for a banquette, I immediately envisioned her kids crawling all over it. I did it in a faux leather so it couldn't get ruined. It's become *the* spot, with a farmhouse table. They have dinner there sometimes. And the rattan counter stools remind me of the Hamptons.

The master bedroom is almost all the color of sand. Actually, the bedroom is more of a mineral tone. It was the builder's color—we saw it and said, "Done!" And with the wall-to-wall carpet that room is a cocoon. That's where the dark nightstands and the pop of color come in. They all aid in keeping the room from just drifting away. Having a subtle, peaceful bedroom is the priority—but you must use dark woods and a shot of color to define the space. Was the scrolled bed meant to imbue that serene cocoon with sensuality?

That bed reads as glamorous to me, more than sensual. We had it custom-made—the pleats, the buttons, the tufting—in this soft fabric that felt like a light cashmere. And having the side rails upholstered meant we didn't need a dust ruffle. That kept the lines clean.

You hung a lantern fixture in the master bedroom. Isn't that more expected in a formal, public area like an entry?

It's just like driftwood! I was thrilled when I found it. It's not every day you can use a lantern of that size. But with the raised ceiling—and the fact that it was like driftwood—I screamed with delight, I was so happy. It really makes the room.

I know you're intoxicated by that rush chair in the master bath.

The fabulous Ralph Lauren chair! It's what I was most excited about. It creates an island atmosphere; you can imagine yourself in the Bahamas. I made a terry-cloth cushion so you can sit down after the bath—it's a little spa corner. I was evoking a beachy feel, with coral we bought in the Hamptons. The grass-cloth wallcovering looks like sand. Sand, smoke, stone, mineral—those are elusive hues. What's the trick to getting them right?

Take inspiration from nature, from leaves and flowers and rocks. I think of a stone at the beach, and how it says "blue" to me. Tan, I think of driftwood. Go to the paint store looking for the hue that inspired you.

PRODUCED BY DORETTA SPERDUTO

RIGHT: On dining room walls, chocolaty grass cloth—Sisal in Sable from Clarence House—adds intimacy. The "driftwood" ceiling is a faux limed-oak wallcovering, Nobilis's PBS 32. With its round shape and strong profile, the David Iatesta Severn table from John Rosselli helps govern the room, which has architecturally corners. Cushions on the custom dining chairs, in Sari Sea from Raoul Textiles, inject a touch of Caribbean turquoise; Thornton repeated the hue in the custom-painted Paul Ferrante wood-bead Angelo chandelier. She applied jute trim to the chair cushions to pick up the chairs' cane backing. "With the sisal rug and matchstick blinds on the doors," she says, "the room just keeps saying 'dunes, beach.'"







Thornton painted the kitchen walls an atmospheric Farrow & Ball blue, Borrowed Light, making that the kitchen's theme. She chose a light-blue hemp print, Petite Fleur by Kerry Joyce, and used it to curtain the cabinet doors, upholster the bench, and cover the cushions on the counter stools. 1. In the bar section of the family room, a Kerry Joyce linen on a custom love seat adds a dose of deep blue. 2. An Elizabeth Eakins stair runner embraces every hue in the house's palette. 3. Because the Melnikoffs' three young children gather at the banquette, Thornton covered it in wipeable faux leather—Weathered Leather by Innovations.



WHAT THESE COLORS SAY

Wrapping yourself in an atmospheric blue helps you balance an active life with a need for quieter moments.

Optimistic orange boosts emotional energy and may strengthen your innate ability to know who is the right person for a task.

Kate Smith, Color Expert



FARROW & BALL
SKYLIGHT 205



FARROW & BALL
SAVAGE GROUND 213



FARROW & BALL
RED EARTH 64



1



2



3



4

To add punch to the master bedroom, Thornton upholstered a bench in an orange linen, Tuska/19 from Malabar. The John Robshaw print on the throw pillows reinforces the orange theme. The bed is upholstered in Stella Sand from Lulu DK. Lantern and nightstands from Mecox Gardens. 1. Poppies in the master bath echo the bedroom's accent color. 2. Roman blinds are trimmed in Oxford Border in Glacier/Snow, from Samuel & Sons. 3. On sconce shades, Claremont's Nepal ties together the bedroom's hues. 4. Bathroom walls are covered in Stark's Princess Najwa grass cloth. Ralph Lauren's Joshua Tree chair is a spa touch. FOR MORE DETAILS, SEE RESOURCES

