



How to choose a color scheme

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Few things can spruce up a drab house as new colors on the walls. Colors are one of the most important tools an interior designer work with. When a color is right, it will make you feel good in the space. Colors have a huge impact on a room and can truly transform a space. It can make a room feel larger, or smaller, warm, or cold. It can make a room feel more intimate and cozy, or larger and airier. When selecting new wall colors, it is important to ask yourself – *how do I want to feel in my space?* Do I like to be embraced by the room, or do I want the room to feel light and airy? What one person like, might be completely wrong for someone else. When I meet new clients for color consultations, I always take some time getting to know that person before we start the color selecting phase. I also analyze the amount of light in the space, and, if the home is lived in, what the furniture and accessory pieces look like. Ideally, I will also help the client select not only the wall colors, but the entire color scheme for a house or a room.



Before



After

The power of color

Here are my 6 top advice for finding a color scheme that works for you:

1. Think about your favorite color in general

Take some time to think about what colors that generally makes you feel good. Look at what colors you like to wear. You can even think about what type of landscape and season that inspires you. For example, if you usually dress in neutrals and black, your favorite vacation is a week on the beach, and summertime is your favorite season, most likely you will feel good in a room filled with light sandy neutrals dressed up with blues and greens or maybe yellow.

2. Find a main color.

When you have reflected over your favorite colors, the next step is to find the main color for the home. My recommendation is usually to make this color a neutral. Neutral does not only mean beiges or tans, but can be a neutral yellow, green, or something else that you like. This color is the color that will be repeated throughout hallways and will also usually be used in some of the main rooms, such as the family room and/or dining and living rooms.

3. Use the color wheel.

The color wheel provides for many different color schemes, but these two are the easiest to work with: **Complementary color scheme**, which uses colors that are across from each other on the color wheel. Examples of these color schemes are blue and orange, green and red, or yellow and purple. Generally speaking, the complementary color scheme works best in formal areas of a house.

The other one is the **analogous color scheme**, which uses colors that are right next to each other on the color wheel, such as yellow and green, blue and green, or red and orange. This color scheme works best in the more private spaces, such as family rooms and bedrooms.



Bad color choice



Good color choice

4. Colorize vertically.

It almost always works to decorate a room from dark to light vertically. Using this method, the floor will be darkest, and going up, the colors should get lighter. Think about nature, and how the ground has the darker values, the trees has the medium values, and the sky has the lightest values.

5. Use the 60-30-10 rule.

What this means is that you should use 60% of one color in a room (typically the walls and a little bit more), 30% of another color (typically upholstery and window treatments), and 10% of an accent color. Try it – it works!

6. Always use some black.

This is so easy, and it really works! By always adding something black to a room all the other colors will be enhanced. The room will feel more elegant and defined.

Color is a powerful tool that can completely transform your space. If you are tired of your off white walls, or live with colors that you don't like, call or email me to schedule a 2 hour color consultation for only \$160. I will also add a first ½ hour that is complementary, during which I would like to get to know you and your style preferences. Changing your colors, or adding colors to a white space, can change your life!



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Ellinor Ellefson of Elle Interiors specializes in residential interior design and small commercial spaces. She believes that great spaces are for everyone and that you can achieve style and good looks while sticking to a budget. Ellinor has won several awards for her designs, and having built on her education, experience and expertise in Europe as well as in the United States, she brings a wide perspective to all her designs. Whether you need help with colors, a large remodel, or just a few hours of expert advice from an experienced interior designer - she can help! Ellinor Ellefson offers a first time free 1/2 hour consultation to all new clients, call her today at 602-751-1178 or visit her website at www.elleinteriorsaz.com. to find out more or to schedule an appointment.

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