

MARCH 2020

House Beautiful

THE
Hottest Color
of 2020

IS NOT
WHAT YOU THINK P. 12

Bold New Ideas

THAT ARE ALSO
SMART
INVESTMENTS

A MICHIGAN HOME BY
DESIGN DIPLOMAT
COREY DAMEN JENKINS
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**Your Bathroom
Needs a Refresh.**

YOU DEFINITELY
NEED OUR SECRETS.

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OPEN HOUSE

TORONTO, CANADA

First things first: palette. **Editorial Director Joanna Saltz** sits with six Toronto designers to discuss how everything from geography to—eep!—confidence can affect the final color scheme of a room.



Joanna Saltz
@josaltz

WANT TO TALK?

E-MAIL ME AT EDITOR@HOUSEBEAUTIFUL.COM.

▶ **Joanna Saltz:** Okay, how do you build your palette at the start of a project?

Sarah Walker: We were taking a drive in the country last weekend, and I was struck by the corn husks that had turned slightly silver-gold in their dried state. And it was a sunny day, so blue sky. **Nature is always my starting point.**

Philip Mitchell: The way we start is generally the clients. Not because they say, “We want this color,” but usually they have art, sculptures, or antiques that they’d like to keep. So we try to build around those things.



A GO-TO PHILIP TRICK: PAINT A SHADOWY WALL SLIGHTLY LIGHTER, SO THE WHOLE ROOM LOOKS LIKE IT’S ONE COLOR.

Natalie Hodgins: Sometimes you walk in and know what the house is asking for. But I think the most important part is really listening to your clients and understanding what they’re after.

Jo: Is the client ever wrong?

Rania Ismail Cherry: It’s hard! There has to be a fine balance. We like to get a sense of who they are and what their ultimate vision is of the space, but we might tweak it. Reinterpret it. I direct them in a certain way so that all parties are happy.

Jo: Toronto has beautiful northern light. Does the city ever inform your color choices?

Anne Hepfer: Yes. We look at color obsessively at different times of day: morning, noon, and night. We just moved into a new office with a beautiful sample room, and we did a very large skylight. We can actually turn off all the lights and look at color.

Philip: In true light.

Sarah: In natural light.

Anne Hepfer
@annehepfer



FOR A GEORGIAN HOME, ANNE CHOSE BENJAMIN MOORE DOWNPOUR BLUE AND A VYCON CASBAH SILK WALLCOVERING IN MATCHING SHADES.

Philip Mitchell
@philipmitchelldesign



PHOTOGRAPHERS: ALLIE HOLLOWAY (SALTZ); TED BELTON (PORTRAITS);
HAIR & MAKEUP: NINA SORIANO (SALTZ); RONNIE TREMBLAY/PIM (DESIGNERS)

Heather: In pure light!

Anne: And the colors do change—a gray day versus a sunny day. But that's nice!

Natalie: I was just going to ask Anne if I could bring my schemes over sometime.

Anne: Anytime!

Natalie: Right now in Canada, it's dark at 5:30 p.m. In the summer, it's light until 10 at night. And as a designer, you really have to be cognizant of that. It might be July and 100 degrees out, but you also have to think, the client is going to be enjoying this home in February when it's 20 below zero and dark at 4:30 p.m.

Philip: We once actually changed the color of a wall in a living room ever so slightly. The house has a big porch that covers three sides of the room, so one side was always shadowed. The only way to correct it was to change that one wall color to a slightly warmer, more yellow hue. If we had explained that to the clients, they would have panicked—so we just did it. When you're in the space, it seems like the whole room is cream, and it looks great. No one ever knew but me.

Jo: That's a great tip! Do you feel like people have gotten more daring with color?

Anne: I think there's slowly been an evolution in Canada. People are becoming bigger risk-takers.

Rania: Canadians are very conservative, I find. Every time a client is like, "Okay, we'll do a color," it's blue. **Blue is a neutral to us; it's so safe.**

Heather Lewis: Many of our clients are too scared to take a risk. You have to convince them: "We're doing a custom space for you, so what your mother, friends, or neighbors have—that might not be right for your space!"

Natalie Hodgins
Sarah Richardson Design
@nataliehodgins



NATALIE CHOSE BENJAMIN MOORE'S DEWDROP FOR THE WALLS TO GROUND THE "JUICY" COLORS IN THIS BEDROOM.



Sarah Walker
@thecuratedhouse

Sarah: Right, sometimes people have to be reminded that this is who you want to be—this is the life that you're aspiring to.

Jo: What's your go-to neutral?

Sarah: I use black as a neutral a lot. Coal Black, from a nontoxic paint company called Fusion Mineral Paint. It's moody and nesty, warm and inviting.

Anne: I'm finding that a British racing-car green is the new black. I find that it can translate from room to room.

Philip: This is going to sound very, very boring, but beige. It has gotten such a bad rap for the longest time now! I just love that it's warm, that it's a neutral backdrop. You walk in, it's soothing, it's easy—it's right for a martini anytime.



TO COUNTER THE COOL NORTHEASTERN LIGHT IN THIS ROOM, SARAH PICKED A WARM WHITE: SHERWIN-WILLIAMS'S CREAMY.



"WE USE BENJAMIN MOORE'S SOOT ALL THE TIME," SAYS RANIA. "IF SOMEONE WANTS A TOUCH OF BLUE, WE FIND IT HAS A NICE BALANCE."

Rania Ismail Cherry &
Heather Lewis
@fohrdesignstudio

