



A decorative finish by Mikii Youngbauer uses leaves gathered from the woods surrounding the home to make imprints into the texture of the paint.

Photo courtesy of Mikii Youngbauer

## Personalize your paint job

Sometimes we need more than straight color to convey who we are. That's where **Mikii Youngbauer** comes in. A muralist and decorative painter, Youngbauer's work is the ultimate expression of personalization.

With decorative painting and faux finishes, Youngbauer can make a room look wild with a cheetah print painted on the wall, or aged and warm with a finish that resembles old stone. Tell her what mood you want and Youngbauer can invoke it.

"It gives a lot more interest to a surface," says Youngbauer, "and can give an interesting glance at a person's likes and personality."

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# Pick your paint

## What your home's colors say about you

By Amanda N. Wegner

History has long shown us the significance of color. In the Middle Ages, royalty donned robes and gowns in shades of blue and black; bright, flashy colors were associated with the devil. But by the Elizabethan era, bright, bold colors were all the rage as the price of dye—the brighter and bolder, the more expensive—dictated status.

People attach symbolic significance to certain colors, and color in the home is no different. As such, choosing the right color for your home is an important task.

"The colors you choose for your home tell visitors a great deal about you," says **Terri Fiez**, owner of **Designer's Showcase** in Verona.

Color, says Fiez, has a direct impact on mood. Years of color-response research, in both the home-design industry and holistic health, show that certain colors

elicit specific and often strong responses. It's up to the homeowner to parse out what response they want to elicit.

Here's what the colors say:

**Red:** In the home, red has impact. It empowers, stimulates and dramatizes. Red is great for a play area or workout room. It also is thought to stimulate appetite.

**Pink:** Represents sharing and is delicate and intimate. Cotton-candy pink is good for little girl's rooms, but try blue- or mauve-based tones in common areas.

**Orange:** Brighter, lighter tones are happy, exciting and inviting; darker tones are luxurious and exotic. Orange, adds Fiez, implies affordability.

**Yellow:** This color is uplifting, energizing and promotes communication. Good for brightening small spaces, like a drab, unlit foyer or home office.



Orange tones on the walls can imply happiness.

Photos courtesy of Sherwin Williams



**A room with brown walls can make you feel comfortable and content.**

somber. On the other hand, though green is thought to be a cool and calming color, a refreshing, warm apple green can be very energizing.”

To choose a color, “be inspired,” suggests Tracy, by other décor, a favorite piece of art, article of clothing or something else. Chances are these are the colors you’ll want in your home.

While you may want each room to have its own personality, Fiez cautions about using too many colors. Colors should flow from room to room, and “your home should not resemble the largest box of crayons.”



*Poppy red, sunshine yellow and peacock green—freelancer Amanda N. Wegner has tried all three of these colors in her bathroom and still isn’t content. Next up: golden wheat.*

**Green:** Calm, fresh and secure; encourages emotional growth. Works well in almost any room, especially the bedroom.

**Blue:** Similar to green, it’s tranquil, comforting and serene. Some research indicates blue may suppress appetite, so use in the dining room or kitchen at your own risk.

**Purple:** Purple, notes Fiez, creates mystery, encourages imagination and is somewhat spiritual. Darker tones are luxurious and sensual. Lighter hues exude comfort and reassurance. Most adults prefer to steer clear of purple, but it’s a good choice for children’s spaces.

**Brown:** Comfort, contentment and friendliness. Dark browns are nice for inti-

mate spaces, like the bedroom. Lighter neutral tones like taupe, ecru and mocha are good choices for neutral areas like the kitchen and living room and for hallways and other areas that tie rooms together.

**White:** Pure, clean and expansive.

It’s important to remember, however, that there are many tones of a single color.

“(For instance) there are warm greens and cool greens,” says **Mare Tracy**, owner of **ColorScapes Interior Solutions**. “So a color will produce calm if it is a cool or muted tone. It is somewhat relative though. Yellow is thought to be a warm color which, in general, it is, but I’ve seen some golds that have so much green in them they felt very

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