



## Effective Use of Colours to Decorate

### ♥ Use the 60-30-10 Rule

- 60% of a dominant colour (walls)
- 30% of a secondary colour (upholstery)
- 10% of an accent colour (accessories)

### ♥ Choose a Colour Scheme

- Complementary Colour Scheme - Complementary colours are across from each other on the colour wheel, such as red and green, blue and yellow, or purple and orange. Rooms decorated with a complementary colour scheme are more formal.
- Analogous Colour Scheme - Analogous colours are next to each other on the colour wheel, such as yellow and green, blue and violet, or red and orange. Rooms using an analogous colour scheme typically are more casual.

### ♥ Black is always in fashion (as an accent)!

- By adding a black element you clarify and enhance all the other colours in the space.

### ♥ Use Nature as your inspiration

- Choose darker values of colour for the floor (ground), medium values of colour for the walls (trees and mountains) and light values of colour for the ceiling (sky).

### ♥ Pull From a Pattern/Inspiration Piece

- To help you choose a colour scheme, look at the colours in the largest pattern in the room first (drapery, upholstery fabric, rug or a large artwork) then choose colours based upon that piece.



### ♥ Flow the Colour (from room to room)

- In order to create a flow of colours from one room to another, simply choose a colour you're using in one room and restate it in a different way in an adjoining space.

### ♥ Consider Contrast

- High contrast (eg. black and white) enhances the formality (tuxedo) and low contrast/monochromatic (eg. cream & beige) introduces soothing qualities to a room

### ♥ Get Emotional/Cultural With Colour

- Decide on what emotional impact you want the room to have. The impact should reflect the activities being performed in the space eg. choose red to enhance appetite, blue to enhance sleep etc.
- Colours also have cultural connections eg. Chinese = red is good fortune and joy

### ♥ Use Seasonal Colours

- Seasonal colour variations are a painless way to choose colors. Fall colours such will create a calm and subdued space, perfect for resting. Spring colours are more uplifting and will impart a fresh look to a room.

### ♥ Live With Color Before You Decide

- See what the colour looks like in the different kinds of lighting used in that space and at different times of the day. The direction the room's windows face (where the natural light is coming from) will also impact how a colour appears in the room.
- Pay careful attention to how the colour looks during the times when the room will be used the most.