

# OPEN HOUSE

JOY

Happiness at home—it's so simple and so essential. Editorial Director **Joanna Saltz** spoke with five creatives to learn how they design abundantly cheerful interiors and how their clients get in on the action.



**Joanna Saltz**  
@josaltz

**WANT TO TALK?**  
E-MAIL ME AT  
EDITOR@HOUSEBEAUTIFUL.COM

▶ **Joanna Saltz:** There's never been a more critical time to feel joy at home. But how do you achieve that through design?

**Keita Turner:** Art is huge for me. My mom is an artist, and I learned how to see color, pattern, and composition through her. I especially love original pieces, and I'm lucky to have a lot of hers.

**Lynn Kloythanomsup:** It's important for me to know the story behind a piece and who made it. That makes it all the more special and gives a lot more value to the piece, imagining the hours of creativity that went into it.

**Jo:** Absolutely. It makes a room feel fuller, as if you're in the presence of other people.

**Caroline Gidiere:** When I find

my flow—and lose track of time and space—is when I'm taking a fabric and looking deep at all the little different touches of color, and then trying to figure out a way to give each one of those colors a voice in the room. **I think of design in terms of music. Every instrument deserves its moment.**

**Leyden Lewis:** I'm always looking for validation in my clients' reactions. Nothing makes me feel as good as when, after all the construction dust has settled, a client takes pride in navigating their own space. It's a great feeling.

**Christopher Kent:** For me, joy comes from connection. Joy stems from nature. I am constantly in awe of the wondrous things I see on a daily basis. What I can bring to an interior



**Leyden Lewis**  
@leydenlewisdesignstudio  
Warm orange paint and art by Oliver Lee Jackson and Luis Flores lend a joyous spirit to this Hamptons poolhouse by Lewis.



from the colors in a bird's wing or a mandarin duck—that brings me joy.

**Lynn:** Joy for you is connection. For me, very similarly, it's community.

**Jo:** Joy comes from beyond all the *stuff*—which this industry



**Lynn Kloythanomsup**  
@landedinteriors  
Kloythanomsup, founder of Landed Interiors & Homes, had this banquette upholstered in a William Morris fabric for tea in the morning and wine in the evening.

SALTZ: ALLIE HOLLOWAY; HAIR AND MAKEUP: NINA SORIANO; STYLIST: STEPHANIE TRICOLA/HONEY ARTISTS; LEWIS INTERIOR: PRATYA JANKONG. KLOYTHANOMSUP INTERIOR: HARIS KENJAR; ILLUSTRATION: AGATA NOWICKA.

# OPEN HOUSE



**Keita Turner**  
@keitaturnerdesign  
Turner livened up the dining room in this Brooklyn apartment with a vibrant painted mural.

can get wrapped up in. What brings your clients joy?

**Leyden:** Sometimes I don't know until it's happening. I

didn't realize a client understood the composition of the architecture of the room, then all of a sudden they're repeating it back to me almost academically. Nature is not only



**Caroline Gidiere** @carolinegidieredesign  
Burnt orange throw pillows in Fortuny fabric add joy to this entertaining room by Gidiere.



**Christopher Kent**  
@studiocak

Shades of blue and a velvet platform bed set the mood in this Chicago bedroom by Kent, founder of Studio CAK.



something outside of ourselves but also this idea of community, a mutual understanding that we share in this thing we've created together.

**Keita:** I found out one client used to be a DJ. I said, "Maybe you need to pull some of that joy from your storage unit. We need a little area in the home where you can play your old albums." Music appeals to the senses, and his love of music wasn't reflected in his home.

**Caroline:** It's as simple as your client feeling seen. Their moment of joy comes from knowing you captured what they wanted.

**Jo:** Clients depend on you to give them something that feeds their soul! It's a wonderful burden to bear.

**Christopher:** Design is all about soul connection. We start with a narrative, and that narrative becomes a feeling. The joy that my clients feel is essentially a sense of, *Ah, I can breathe.*

**Lynn:** **Everyone loves to be heard and to be seen and to join a**

**conversation. We make space for that, and our clients take it from there.**

**Jo:** I love that. Now, what color instantaneously puts you in a better place?

**Keita:** My color of the moment is periwinkle blue. It just really makes me happy right now.

**Leyden:** It makes me crazy how much I love orange. It's metaphysical and spiritual. It's beyond words how comforting that color is for me.

**Caroline:** I was going to say the same! It doesn't get a lot of play in the design world these days, but I have orange all throughout my house. It gives a really soothing warm glow in the evening, and it's bright and cheerful in the morning.

**Lynn:** I'm going to cross the color wheel and say green. It's calming, it's natural, but it can also be acidic or deeply saturated and sophisticated. I love the versatility.

**Christopher:** Green is my go-to. It's grounding and affiliated with our heart chakra. Green allows us to pass love on to others.

# The Designer's Guide to PAINT

Foolproof ways to add more color and personality to your home. *By Kristin Tablang*

**Design:** Taylor  
Anne Interiors  
**Paint:** Citron,  
Farrow & Ball



# The Best Colors for Every Room



**Design:** Carmel Greer  
**Paint:** Peach Blossom, Benjamin Moore

## LIVING ROOMS

Neutrals allow the art to pop, while warm tints energize.



Slipper Satin, Farrow & Ball  
"A great neutral that feels fresh and modern."  
—Jean Liu



Black, Keim  
"It looks like a different shade on every wall."  
—Ray Attanasio



Russet Rust, Asian Paints  
"Mellow and dramatic."  
—Krsnaa Mehta

CARMEL GREER: STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG, FIONA LYNCH; AMELIA STANWIX, KEITA TURNER; KELLY MARSHALL.

**Design:** Fiona Lynch  
**Paint:** Rich Biscuit, Dulux



## BEDROOMS

Easy on the eyes, earthy colors create a soothing and tranquil environment.



Brompton Road, Mylands

"Calming and perfect for a restful space."  
—Russell Whitehead



Pink Ground, Farrow & Ball

"The pale blush gives a soft, warm glow."  
—Jonathan Berger



Pitch Blue, Farrow & Ball

"Romantic and sultry."  
—Mally Skok

## How Much Paint Should You Buy?

$$\text{Total Square Footage} \div 400 = \text{Estimated Number of Gallons You Need}$$

**Round Up!** You can always return what you don't use.

### Tip! Waterproof Your Walls

Not all formulas are impervious to water. To prevent cracking in a high-humidity room, opt for a paint with high elasticity (most satin finishes and glossier will do).



**Design:** Keita Turner Design  
**Paint:** For similar, try Keepsakes, Glidden

## KITCHENS

Clean, organic shades make for an inviting and appetizing space.



Oyster White, Sherwin-Williams  
"Perfect for walls and cabinetry."  
—Jeff Andrews

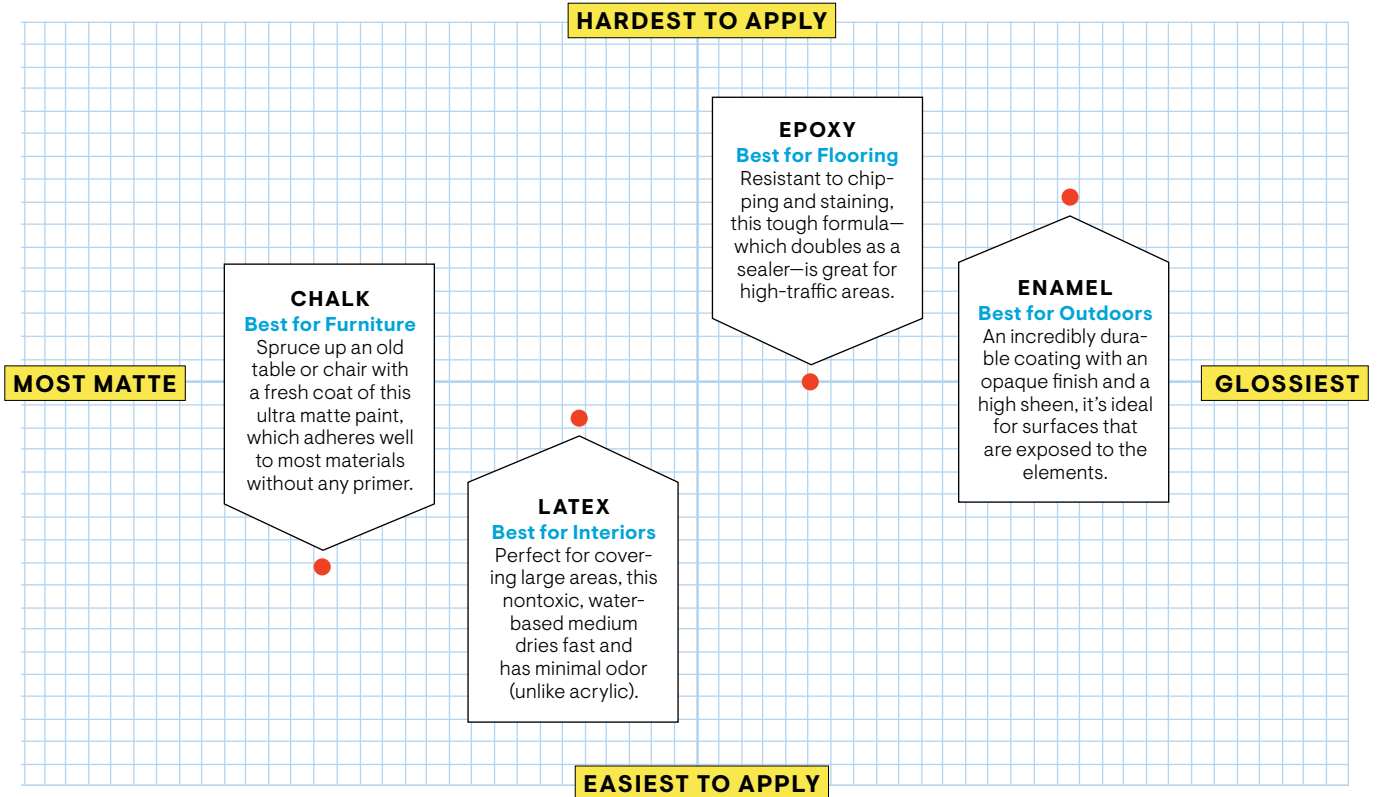


Dutch Door Green, Fine Paints of Europe  
"Rich and timeless."  
—Swati Goorha



Dew Drop, Sherwin-Williams  
"A very uplifting color."  
—Andrew Brown

# Which Formula Should You Use?



Genius Fix!

## Brush On a Pattern

Apply a dollop of paint over a Mylar stencil to create a cool motif on any flat surface, says veteran decorative painter Pauline Curtiss. "Use a level or tape line to make sure everything lines up," she advises. Browse hundreds of patterns, from tile-inspired to botanicals, at [cuttingedgestencils.com](http://cuttingedgestencils.com).



Design: Amber El-Amin  
 Cabinet paint: Pitch Black, Farrow & Ball

**Tip!** To enhance the wood grain instead, try a **ZAR** stain by [UGL](http://UGL).

## How to Paint Wood

Tricks for making it stick

### FURNITURE

Before you begin, wipe down the whole piece with warm water and let it dry. Apply filler to any large dents or scratches, and then use a hand sander to smooth all the surfaces.

### CABINETS

Remove all doors, drawers, and hardware, and sand the surfaces you will be painting. Use a tack cloth to brush away any dust before applying the first coat.

### FLOORING

Begin by cutting in around the trim, then carry the paint line in the direction of the floorboards. Finish with a top layer that is specially formulated for floors. (Don't sand the final coat!)



Design: Nestor Santa-Cruz  
Paint: White Dove, Benjamin Moore



*"I love Portola's Birdie in the Roman Clay finish, which adds movement and depth."*  
—Francesca Grace



*"Farrow & Ball Drop Cloth plays very well with other colors and patterns."*  
—Kirsten Blazek



*"Farrow & Ball Setting Plaster works beautifully with old wood furniture."*  
—CeCe Barfield Thompson



*"Benjamin Moore Classic Gray creates a sense of tranquility."*  
—Alice Arterberry

NESTOR SANTA-CRUZ: GORDON BEALL. M. LAVENDER INTERIORS: JANET MESIC MACKIE.

## How to Choose a White Paint

### FOR DARK ROOMS

With their barely-blue undertones, cool shades make rooms feel airy and spacious. "They're perfect for bathrooms and larger spaces, especially when there's a lack of natural light," says Molly Torres, owner of DATE Interiors.

### FOR GALLERY WALLS

Medium tints are great "when you want a bright but still warm look," says designer Lauren Waters. These shades are ideal for showcasing art, since they don't influence how the eye perceives the piece.

### FOR COZY NOOKS

"Warmer tones lend themselves to cozier spaces like offices or dens," Torres explains. Another pro tip: "If the floors are a warm color, then I go toward a creamier white," shares Linda Hayslett, founder of LH.Designs.

Design: M. Lavender Interiors  
Paint: Black Forest Green, Benjamin Moore



## Make a Small Room Feel Huge

Dark colors are enveloping and limitless. "Use the same color on the trim, walls, and ceiling," Torres advises. It's striking and moody, particularly in compact spaces.

## The Real Color of the Year?

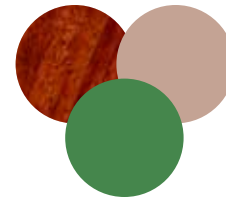
In 2022, nearly every major paint brand chose to honor a shade of green as its Color of the Year. But why? **“Green is known to have a soothing effect, especially in interiors—which is so important as we emerge from the pandemic,”** says Leatrice Eiseman, executive director of the Pantone Color Institute. “It is Mother Nature’s most ubiquitous neutral, working in tandem with every other color.”



A speakeasy-inspired lounge by BrookInteriors blends Art Deco, Eastern World, and bohemian elements on a background of *Clare Dirty Martini* for an opulent but casual atmosphere.

## How to Decorate with Green

Color maven Annie Sloan shares secondary hues and materials to pair with her most-loved verdant paints.



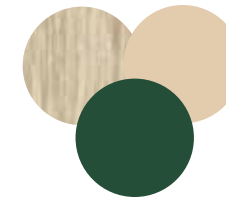
SCHINKEL GREEN  
+  
PIRANESI PINK  
+  
MAHOGANY

“Neutral colors pair well with vibrant greens,” says Sloan. Marry them with rich textures, such as velvet or mahogany.



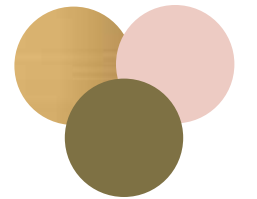
CHÂTEAU GREY  
+  
CAPRI PINK  
+  
STONE

Bright pinks and muted gray-greens go hand in hand. Combined with marble, they create a glamorous feel.



AMSTERDAM GREEN  
+  
OLD OCHRE  
+  
WHITE OAK

Dark greens mix wonderfully with warm pastels, Sloan says. Pair them with pale, golden woods for a sophisticated look.



OLIVE  
+  
ANTOINETTE  
+  
BRASS

Earthy pinks complement mossy greens, as if plucked from the natural world. Gilded accents add to the charm.

## Enhance the View

Walt Disney Imagineering formulated a color, *Go Away Green*, that magically blends unsightly objects into the background at their theme parks. Borrow the idea! A pale gray-green will cloak less attractive features, like old fences or electrical equipment, or simply make architectural elements one with the view.



Nurture Green, HGTV Home by Sherwin-Williams

Design: Amanda Lindroth Design  
Paint: Southfield Green, Benjamin Moore



BROOKINTERIORS: SEAN LITCHFIELD. AMANDA LINDROTH: BJÖRN WALLÄNDER. MAHOGANY, STONE, WHITE OAK, BRASS: GETTY IMAGES (4).

# 4 Cool Wall Painting Techniques

## DECOUPAGE

This simple artform involves using a water-based sealer (e.g., Mod Podge) to decorate with paint and pieces of paper or fabric. "To avoid wrinkling, apply the gel medium, place your pieces on the wet surface, and let it completely dry before adding the final coat," says decorative painter Haleh Atabeigi. Top it off with a matte or glossy finish.



Curtiss tapes off wide strié lines to create a gingham pattern.



Decorative painter Pauline Curtiss, founder of Patina Designs, combined three Benjamin Moore shades—Sabre Gray, Castle Walls, and Greyhound—to create this colorwash effect in a room by Dane Austin Design.

## STRIÉ

French for "streaking," this semi-advanced technique—which calls for taping your brush to a pole to create long, vertical lines—imitates the look of linen, adding warmth and sophistication to any space. Pro tip? "Let gravity do the work," Atabeigi says.

## RAG ROLLING

Perfect for powder rooms and other small areas, this straightforward method produces a soft, textured effect. Use a rolled-up cloth to apply paint or remove glaze, forming a pattern on the surface. Less is more, says Atabeigi: "Resist the urge to overdo."

## COLOR WASHING

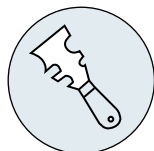
Create an inky appearance by applying a glaze over a paint color in a circular motion using a soaked rag or sponge. "Start with an eggshell finish, since flat absorbs the glaze before you can manipulate it," Atabeigi advises. Wet the wall first if you're in a dry climate.



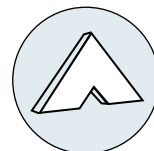
**PAINT SPRAYER**  
Work four times faster than with a roller using the Airless Magnum X5 paint sprayer by **Graco**, \$339. [homedepot.com](http://homedepot.com)



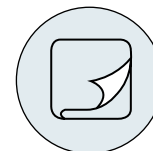
**PAINTER'S TOOL**  
This 15-in-1 gadget includes a chisel, scraper, spreader, can opener, and more. **Husky**, \$13. [walmart.com](http://walmart.com)



**DOOR STACKERS**  
A nifty space saver that lets you paint multiple cabinet fronts or shelves in one go. **Stak Racks**, \$80. [stakracks.com](http://stakracks.com)



**SAFETY DROP CLOTH**  
Rubberized traction keeps this floor protector firmly in place. **CoverGrip**, \$13. [amazon.com](http://amazon.com)







“Turquoises and teals are the perfect bridge between blues and greens,” says Arianna Cesa, a color specialist at Benjamin Moore, whose Spectra Blue is the perfect daring backdrop to the antiques in this room by Lydia Pursell.

## The Boldest Bestsellers

Behold the most dramatic and eye-popping colors flying off the shelves.



True Teal,  
[Kilz](#)



Carnaby Yellow,  
[Annie Sloan](#)



In the Pink,  
[Sherwin-Williams](#)



Hague Blue,  
[Farrow & Ball](#)



Red Gumball,  
[Glidden](#)