

SWIFT DESIGNS GUIDE TO

Selecting Your Colour Scheme

THE TRICKS WE USE TO GUIDE THE
COLOUR PALETTE FOR EACH
INDIVIDUAL PROJECT





What's the best way to select a colour scheme?

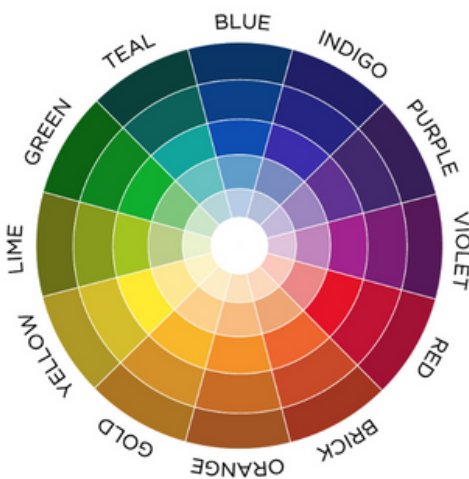
There are many things to consider when selecting a paint colour or colour scheme for a space. In this guide, I'll step you through the most important elements to consider, assisting you in this frequently asked question.

The first thing to consider is the fixed elements in your space, these are items that cannot be changed and which your new colour scheme will need to work with. Examples of fixed elements are benchtops, fixed flooring, fireplace stone/surround and fixed cabinetry. If you're selecting paint colours for a new building or you are stripping out the room to start again, select the colour and materials for these fixed elements first and then select a paint colour to coordinate with them.

The next step is to decide on a complementary colour scheme, or a monochromatic palette. Both complimentary and monochromatic schemes will work in almost every space, however they provide a different finished 'feel' to the space.

An Introduction to colour theory

Colour Wheel



A monochromatic palette is a series of colours that sit beside each other on the colour wheel. Black, white and grey combined, is a commonly known monochromatic colour scheme. Shades of blues, teals & greens together, or yellow tones like ochre with burnt pumpkin and brick are also examples of a monochromatic colour scheme. Neutral monochromatic schemes display less 'personality', making them more popular when you are trying to appeal to a wider audience.

Complimentary colours sit opposite each other on the colour wheel. Examples are; blue with orange hues; reds with greens; or purple with yellow. Complimentary colours can highlight a feature of a room and can make it more difficult to get the balance of colour right for the desired outcome. They also inject fun and a personalised style into a room.

Clean and Dirty Hues

Clean colours feel bright and fresh and when imagining a colour, most people will think of clean colours. These are derivatives of primary colours with no black or white mixed within them to dirty them up. Dirty colours feel muted, they are primary colours mixed with varying levels of black or white to create shade within the colour, then these are mixed together to create a new colour. Examples of a dirty green is a sage or kahki green, examples of clean greens are pea green or lime green. Both 'clean' and 'dirty' colour concepts are great, but they don't mix well within a single colour scheme.



Key tips for success

When deciding on a colour palette use the colours within an item you love for inspiration, it may be a piece of art, pottery or even a cushion or duvet cover. If there are many things you love, try selecting one that conveys a feeling you want in the room. Use this item to springboard the colour decisions for the space, remembering to work with the undertone colours of the fixed elements as mentioned previously. You can either select a paint colour with a complimentary or monochromatic undertone to the colour of the fixed elements.

Selecting a paint colour with the same/complimentary undertone as the fixed elements within the space will ensure they work well together. You can then select a similar or different shade (lighter or darker) to achieve the desired look you like.

If you select a colour that is monochromatic in it's undertone to the fixed element, it's important to change the shade of the colour used. If you don't it may look like you to tried to match the colour, but missed the mark.

Once you've selected your colours, repeat them elsewhere in the space. Use it on rugs or art, cushions or lampshades etc. Repetition helps your selections to feel purposeful and cohesive.

If it's not possible to change the colour of a fixed element, repeat it elsewhere in the space (even if you don't like it). This makes the element less of a feature in the room. **Please Note** - We would only recommend this in cases where the home is to be sold soon or as a short term measure to improve the overall feel of the room. If you don't love it now, you won't likely love it when there's more of it in the space! Using this trick will reduce the impact the colour has within the room.



Here's an example of how to put this into practice...

When planning a space, start by thinking of how you want the space to 'feel', then select a colour style that suits that feeling. For example, I wanted a cosy feel in my own living room, so it's decorated in a moody palette with dark wallpaper on one wall and also on the main furniture pieces, this is contrasted with lighter accessories and wall colours to balance the dark hues. The colour palette was inspired by another wallpaper that I fell in love with, which I have used in an adjoining room. I've kept my ceiling light in order to reflect more light around the room and offset the moody palette.

Even though the living room palette is moody, I've selected a different feel for other rooms in the house, using coordinating colours throughout that reflect the 'feel' we were wanting to achieve in each space. Our moody palette is 'dirty' so the remainder of the house is also decorated in 'dirty' palettes. The palette includes deep grey and is accented with warm caramels and navy, this is an example of a complimentary colour scheme.

Are you still confused and need further assistance?

The Top Five Reasons our Clients Work with Us

To save money

When it comes to design, making decisions is hard! Indecision can cause delays to the project which can in turn cost thousands! We all know that mistakes can be costly, right?

By hiring a professional, you can get it right the **first time!**

Designers get trade discounts and some pass on preferential trade pricing on almost everything that goes into the interior of your space. We usually find that these these discounts outweigh the Consulting fees for our clients.

To save time

Selecting interior fittings, fixtures and furnishings can be overwhelming and also very time consuming.

If you are a busy person having an Interior Designer narrow down and select the best options for you is guaranteed to be a huge time saver!

To use our Resources and Contacts

There is a huge range of furniture, fittings and furnishings available, more than many people can even imagine! Designers can source items from trade only suppliers, so you'll have the option of exclusive items, making your home unique.

The benefit of having good trades relationships can make the difference between a stressful and a successful project - most designers have regular electrician, plumbers, joiners and builders they work with and trust to do reputable work.

To take advantage of our knowledge

Almost everything has a 'better' choice and your designer can explain the 'why'. Which paint colours will work and those that won't. Why some materials are more practical and worth spending a little more on or why your oven is better placed on the other side of the kitchen. Qualified Designers complete training covering everything from colours, to spatial layouts, to construction drawing - they are a valuable asset to the decision making process.

To create something that Wow's!

The wow factor is a blend of qualifications, experience and just outright talent! People often ask what our design style is - our answer, it doesn't matter what our style is, it's yours that we need to find!

Your Designer will create an overall vision for your space, based on your own style and ensure all the elements work cohesively together. They help you feel confident with your choices and above all, help you create a space that you love!



Okay, I think I need an Interior Designer

Congratulations, you're taking steps to ensure a successful outcome. By using the information in this guide, you're well on your way!

At Swift Designs, we specialise in providing comprehensive interior design solutions that cover everything from selecting the perfect finishes and fixtures to sourcing furniture and accessories. Our streamlined processes ensure that all necessary information is communicated to your tradespeople, ensuring a seamless and stress-free installation.

In addition to our design services, we also offer locally manufactured window treatments and furniture pieces which are exclusively available through Interior Designers and Architects. Our team works closely with you to create custom items that perfectly match your design style and fit your space.

We understand that finding the time to define your design can be a challenge, which is why we also offer video consultations to help guide you through the process.

Contact us today to schedule your free Discovery Call and discover how Swift Designs can help bring your interior design vision to life.

Let's Design

About the author; Treena Swift is the owner and Creative Director of Swift Designs. Respected in her industry, she is a fully qualified & award winning Interior Designer with a growing list of exceptionally happy clients.

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DEFINING INTERIOR DESIGN

