

The Popular Colors of 2009

If you want to design a new home, you of course want to know the latest trends in colors for the interior and exterior as well, whether it is just touching up the trim for your windows or painting an entire room. The proper colors can set the mood of a new home nicely, even if it is not fully furnished. So what is the latest for this year?

According to Jaime Stephens, the Color Marketing Group's executive director (<http://www.paramuspost.com/article.php/20090204142616352>), purple is king right now, ranging from grayed-out violet to a plum purple and pansy purples. Other color trends for 2009 that forecasters predict include "blue as the new green," with ocean and sky blues that recall the serenity of nature being especially desirable.

However, this advice does not mean you should go out and purchase every hue of purple and light blue available at your local paint store. For example, if you are painting outside the house, naturally you will want to choose colors that are compatible with your neighborhood. Another expert advises you to follow these procedures when choosing exterior colors for your new home (<http://www.paramuspost.com/article.php/20090204142616352>):

- If you want to make a tall house seem shorter, coat the top a deeper tone than the bottom. This method also works when the lot on which the house sits is small and you want to reduce the visual size of the house.
- Using a dark color to outline windows and trim makes a house look smaller. A lighter color on the trim makes a house look larger.
- Consider the direction the house is facing when designing a color scheme. A house that faces east or west has no shade and may be too bright, calling for a cool color. On the other hand, a house that faces north and is in the shade may need a warm color.
- Color ideas can come from many places. Consider using a color you like from the inside of your home or pick up a color from exterior stonework or perhaps flowers and plants.

For interior colors, another expert (<http://www.squidoo.com/interiorpaintcolors>) recommends that you consult catalogs, magazine photos, and paint and fabric swatches of the latest popular colors to determine which will work best for each of your rooms. Think of the color of the flooring and carpet when deciding what works best, along with the available lighting for the room. Obviously, using a dark color in a room with no windows would not be a great idea of setting a pleasing mood.

Finally, if you are living in a neighborhood with a homeowners association, you must keep in mind to follow any guidelines in its covenants regarding exterior paint, unless you want to face fines and possible court proceedings. The same note applies even more if you are in a designated historic district neighborhood, which there are several in the Triangle.

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