

Decorating 101

by **Terrie Forrest**
Window Treatment
Specialist
Grauer's Paint & Decorating



Looking to freshen-up a living space? Painting a new home? Redoing a paint project that didn't go as planned? Whatever the reason you're looking to pick up a brush, Grauer's Paint and Decorating Center is here to ensure that you have the resources and tools to plan every aspect of your project.

Bring out the best in your space with a great coat of paint designed for flawless, easy coverage. Our selection of paint colors available in Benjamin Moore's Regal Select paint is specifically chosen to do just that—bring out the best in your home, along with your furniture and accessories. You can find the full array of Benjamin Moore paint colors at Grauer's Paint and Decorating Center.

Orange is THE Color for 2012

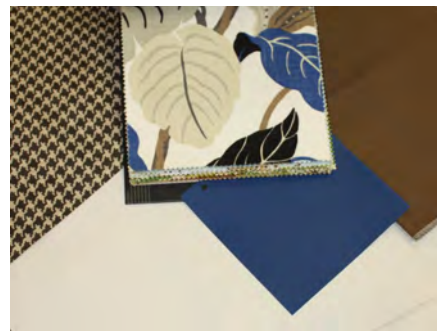
Whether you are using orange as an accent color, or incorporating it by adding vibrant wallpaper, balance all that color on the wall with soft blues and yellows. Use textured or solid fabrics for your largest items, such as the sofa, bedspread, or window treatments.

Blue, the Jewel of the Sea

Blues gained popularity in 2011 and continues to be red hot in 2012. From sparkling sea-glass blue to colonial blue-grey, blues are suitable for all living spaces, being a naturally soothing color that is loved—in one iteration or another—by almost everyone.

A blue wall tends to make a room feel larger. This is important to know if you have a small room that you want to expand rather than make it more intimate and close.

You can mix and match warm and cool colors with purpose and meaning to advance your design goals and make a room more interesting. The blue walls in this bedroom (below) are expanding away from the viewer and the yellow accents are advancing toward the viewer.



We are also seeing more deeper shades of blues hitting the textile markets. Navy blue is coming back paired with rich browns. Again, mix florals with geometrical patterns such as hounds tooth, large stripes, brocades and chevron patterns.

Green, from Farm to Forest

Greens, ranging from celery and asparagus to fir and fern, allow homeowners to bring the comforting feelings of the world outside into the world within.

The vibrant color green and lavender reads fresh in any combination of colors. Just a hint will add life to a space. Try using a vibrant floral wallpaper and mix in a few solid, textured or geometrical fabrics to make the room a pretty and serene space.

Black and White

The classic combination of black and white isn't just for Cape Cods. You'll see much more of it in all sorts of settings, from contemporary apartments to historic homes. Wallpaper is a great way to add pattern and freshen the interior with something smart and stylish.



Say NO to White Ceilings

Paint the ceiling a shade lighter than the wall color to visually raise it and avoid a jarring stop-start effect. Or go a shade darker to bring it down and add coziness.

Bring the Outdoors In

For those who are opting for a tranquil and spacious sunroom, consider utilizing calming blues and greens as part of your sunroom color scheme. Popular garden motifs and the concept of "bringing the outdoors inside" highlight a soothing color scheme that is comprised of a soothing blue and green color palette.

Paint Tips

High quality Matte or Eggshell finishes provide superior washability, but with a softer sheen.

Benjamin Moore Kitchen & Bath or Aura Bath & Spa, provide a mildew resistant coating and is a good choice, since high moisture contributes to mildew growth in those areas.

Two schools of thought for testing a paint color before taking the plunge:

- 1) Paint the wall that gets the most natural light. If you like it in the amplified light, it should work on the walls.
- 2) Paint a piece of foam core, then move it around the room to see how it looks in different light and against trim.

We recommend purchasing the pint sized paint samples to try it on the wall. Use two coats of paint for good coverage and paint the sample in a corner of the room, because paint may look different on each wall.

Now Tie it Altogether!

- When choosing colors for a bedroom, pick out the bedding first and go from there.
- Follow the Rule of Three: When you pick a color, use it at least

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three times in a room, such as the pillows, a blanket on the bed and as an accent color on the window treatments.

- Choose patterned fabric. In 2012 patterned fabrics will take center stage, with increased interest in hound's tooth finishes, lacy designs, and bold color blocking techniques. In some cases, pattern will be the main decorating feature in a room; in others, it will provide a subtle, textured backdrop for fine furnishings and artwork.

- Using pillows and accessories is a smart way to tie in colors that don't match perfectly—just a small dose will do the trick. A richly detailed throw pillow in the master bedroom introduces playful color variations based on the home's color palette.



all photos in this article are complements of Hunter Douglas



Choose the Perfect Window Treatments. Three of design's heavy hitters—fabric, texture, and pattern—come into play when you're selecting the perfect treatment. But choosing the type of treatment your room needs is the first order of business. We make it easy:

Bare windows are rarely the best choice when decorating a room. Window treatments—whether pleated, puddled, or plain—add fluidity and softness to a room's hard edges, and in terms of practicality, they add privacy and light control. They also can help conceal a room's flaws or accentuate its charms.

A valance is a casual treatment that works well for family areas such as the kitchen, breakfast room, and bathroom. In rooms where privacy isn't an issue, the valance can hang alone. When privacy is a concern, the valance easily pairs with a hard treatment, such as a blind, shade, or shutters.

Enjoy More Style, Warmth, and Savings

Promises, promises...every year as the days get shorter and the temperatures start to drop, we vow to make our

homes warmer and cozier. Increasingly, we're also looking for ways to do that while lowering our heating needs, as rising energy costs are affecting everyone's pocketbook! A cozy room is synonymous with a stylish room, an inviting place where you can relax and entertain family and friends. Few things instantly transform a room with style like the just-right window fashion and you want the perfect window fashion to rate as a highly energy-efficient product. Hunter Douglas Duette window fashions are an extremely effective way to conserve energy at the window. Not only do their insulating qualities help to keep rooms warmer in the winter, their ability to diffuse and disperse light deeper into a room means less need for electrical lighting.

Three of our Favorite Products

1) *Duette Architella Honeycomb Shades* (above). Almost 30 years ago, in 1985, Hunter Douglas created the first highly energy-efficient window covering—soft, durable Duette honeycomb shades. Since then, Hunter Douglas has expanded its honeycomb collection of products. Duette Architella is the latest—and the greatest of these. It features a patented “honeycomb-within-a-honeycomb” design and is Hunter Douglas' most energy-efficient window fashion, reducing



energy loss at the window up to 50%. Along with providing superior energy efficiency, it also offers sound absorption, has crisper pleats and features truer colors. You're sure to find a color to make a beautiful design statement in all of your rooms!

2) *Vignette Modern Roman Shades* (above left) will give your room a rich, warm, cozy feeling. Be sure to look at the newest innovations available in a stunning 4" or 6" contoured fold, these shades feature rear fabric air pockets that trap air for enhanced energy efficiency at the window.



3) *NewStyle Hybrid Shutter* (above right) with a wide selection of louver sizes, including 2 1/2", 3 1/2", and 4 1/2". We recommend the larger size for a bigger view-through to the outside and for letting more natural light into your room. You'll love the versatility of these shutters—and, oh, what a statement they make, both inside and outside!

We hope you find our recommendations helpful and remember: If you have questions, please call, send us an email or stop by our showroom.

R&A

WINDOW TREATMENTS

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PAINTS & STAINS

Benjamin Moore

Two women are shown in a paint store, looking at color swatches.

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