bright ideas

Warm up this winter with sizzling hot colours

Text by **Alex Fulton**.

just because the days are shorter and the weather more gloomy, it doesn't mean that our interiors should be too. In fact, winter is the perfect time to brighten and lighten or embrace bold, saturated colours. Colour is a mood lifter and can spark positive emotions; when the sun isn't out surely this is a good thing! Browse through these images and you'll be inspired to create your own uplifting colour story.

Alex Fulton
interior designer

Bold gestures

✚ **Figuring out which colour** to paint your room is as easy as looking at what already surrounds you – maybe you have a favourite piece of art or a special cut of fabric that inspires you. Finding colour clues from things you already own is a great trick. The key is making the rest of the room work around your treasured piece.
✚ **Three colours** (fuchsia, mid blue and light blue) have been pulled out from a colourful artwork (pictured left) and repeated in the room with furniture and accessories.
✚ **Consider what else you** use this trick with: curtains, a duvet cover or even a fabric bedhead.

Feeling blue

✚ **Forget painting just one** wall – make the whole room a feature and show the world you mean business!
✚ **If you have skirting** boards paint them a bright white to help frame a room.
✚ **An alternative** is to use the same colour for the ceiling as the walls – this will make the space feel more cocoon-like and cosy.
✚ **Look to the opposite** side of the colour wheel to find your colour mate, in this case three tones of blue look especially smart teamed up with a cheeky mucky yellow.

A FABRIC HEADBOARD IS A GOOD STARTING POINT FOR YOUR COLOUR SCHEME

get the look

RESENE	'Centre Stage'
RESENE	'Submerge'

Other shades Resene suggests

RESENE	'Butterfly'	RESENE	'Divine'	RESENE	'Zephyr'	RESENE	'Captain Cook'	RESENE	'Whale Tail'
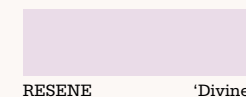
Black out

"Who says that you can't paint a room black? I certainly don't!"

✚ **Who says that you can't** paint a room black? I certainly don't! Treat black as you would any other colour.

✚ **If you can't bear the thought** of a true black then find a variation on the black theme and choose a 'nearly black' with a blue, green or brown base. When light hits it the undertone will shine through and add another rich dimension.

✚ **Want to try another** alternative to black? Try black chalkboard paint. It's functional and dramatic!

✚ **Be careful about adding** too much white to a dark room, as the contrast will make the space feel too stark. Add muted tones of grey, caramel and natural elements such as wood. Or, an alternative is to team it with bright and neon hues and then watch the whole room pop!

Photography by **Chris Warnes/bauersyndication.com** and **Maree Homer/bauersyndication.com**.

get the look

RESENE	'Spotlight'
RESENE	'Blackjack'

YOU WON'T NEED MUCH ART ON THE WALLS WITH A BOLD COLOUR SUCH AS YELLOW

Lemon fizz

✚ **A fully saturated colour** like yellow can have a knock-out effect teamed with black and white. All three colours are bold but can still sit well with each other. They are like having three headstrong personalities in one space, a combination that shouldn't technically work, but it does!

✚ **This is a scheme that** will need some bold elements to make it work; the key to its success is pattern and texture. Think graphic printed rugs, jute mats or a shag pile.

✚ **Black and white** patterns have big impact and can be toned down by playing around with scale. Mixing a large stripe with a mini polka dot decreases the drama to a comfortable level.

✚ **As black and white** can be flat, an easy way to add dimension is to use texture. Choose natural elements such as wool, cotton and wood.

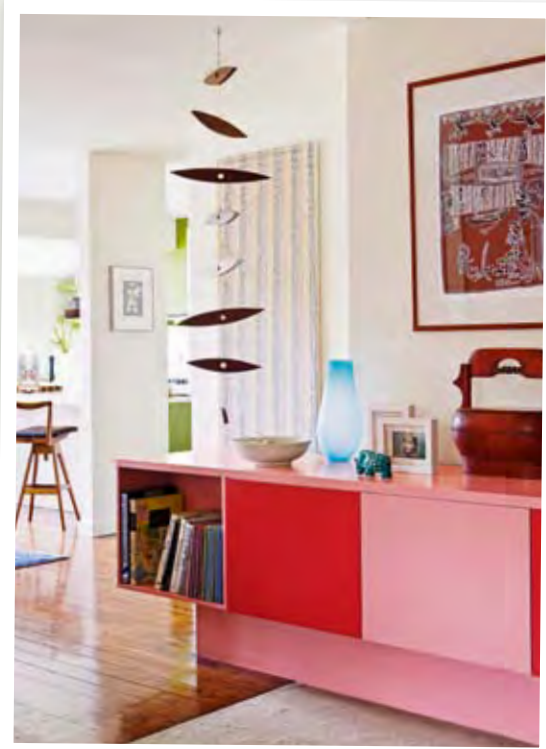✚ **Other bold colours** that look great with black and white are fuchsia and teal.

Other shades Resene suggests

RESENE	'Half Baltic Sea'	RESENE	'White Thunder'	RESENE	'La Luna'	RESENE	'Wild Thing'	RESENE	'Southern Cross'

"Some of my most original design stories have come from mistakes"

Add zest to your nest

✚ **White is alright, but adding** an eye-popping colour to a white space is one of the easiest and most effective ways to create impact without committing to a full wall.

✚ **An inventive way to** add colour to a white room is to use existing furniture. Or select a piece that has an interesting shape or form, then emphasis this by spray-painting it a bright colour.

✚ **Drawers and doors are** easy objects to section off and paint different colours. Be creative and experiment – some of my most original design stories have come from making mistakes.

✚ **Try painting in different** tones of your favourite colour – this only serves to increase the wow-factor you'll get from transforming an old piece of furniture.

✚ **Make the walls your canvas.** If you can't commit to one colour then try painting the lower third of your walls as a modern take on the old-fashioned dado rail.

Photography by **Damien Pleming/bauersyndication.com, Dan Magree/ bauersyndication.com** and **Nick Scott/bauersyndication.com.**

Opposites attract

✚ **The colour-blocking** trend is not going away and that makes me very happy. It's such an effective way to add a colour statement that isn't wishy-washy or boring.

✚ **The key is to commit** to colours that spin your wheels. Don't stop at your walls either, add strong tones to your furnishings too.

✚ **Create a story** by choosing three strong colours. Use these in every inch of your room; bring them out in rugs, lighting, side tables and accessories.

✚ **Be unexpected.** Choose a cowhide rug in electric blue, repaint an old-fashioned side table in a bright orange or re-upholster an old armchair in cerise pink.

MIMIC THE SAME TONES THROUGHOUT THE ROOM - RED LIPS, RED COUCH, RED FLOWERS

get the look

RESENE	'Flashback'
RESENE	'Knock Out'
RESENE	'Seeker'

Other shades Resene suggests

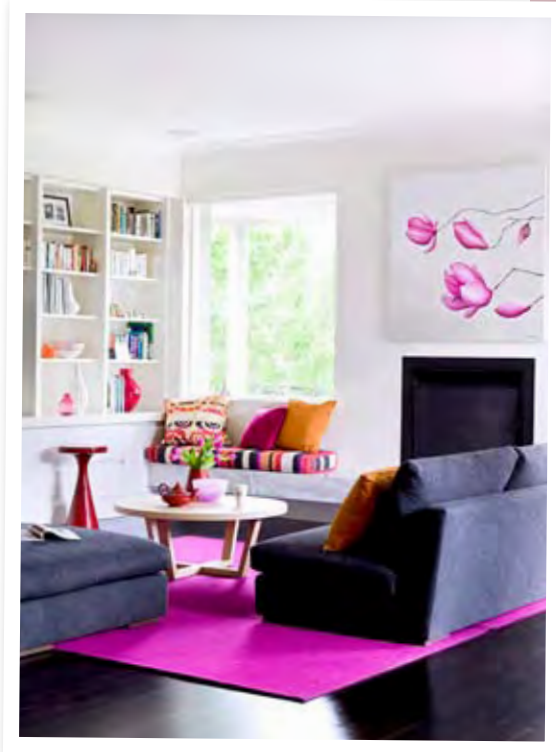|				
RESENE 'Daredevil'	RESENE 'Guggenheim'	RESENE 'Zion'	RESENE 'Galliano'	RESENE 'Kumutoto'

Blues and green should be seen

✦ **Pick two colours** that sit side by side, like blue and green, then choose an outsider such as a bright yellow and use that colour to add an unexpected surprise to your space.

✦ **Strong colours** need to be teamed with strong design elements such as a variety of fabrics, or fun groupings of objects.

✦ **Ground the space** with a dark colour on your couch and add a variety of different tones with cushions and rugs.

✦ **Don't stop** with paint, let the colour sing out with your accessories. Stick to the same tones but mix it up with different textures such as ceramics, glass, paper and steel.

> TO ACHIEVE THIS LOOK KEEP BIG TICKET ITEMS LIKE THE SIDEBOARD AND COUCH NEUTRAL

get the look

RESENE	'Quarter Bianca'
RESENE	'Pretty in Pink'
RESENE	'Kaitoke Green'

Pretty in pink

✦ **Don't discount soft** colours as they can be equally as striking as bold colours.

✦ **Instead of painting** your walls a standard white, try a using a hint of pink – it will set you apart from the Jones and make you instantly cool and edgy.

✦ **Add a masculine touch to a pastel space** with a strong hue like the 'colour du jour' emerald. It's unexpected but it works.

✦ **Adding heavy colours** such as black and navy to a soft pastel space could be the difference between a room feeling so-so or go-go!
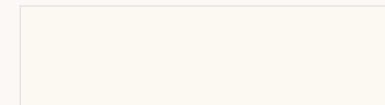
White out

✦ **White is the perfect** canvas for other colours to shine. If I'm unsure of the direction I want to head with a room I'll always start with a white room. It's the equivalent to a blank sheet of paper and a great start to the fun process of adding layers of colour.

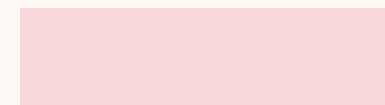✦ **White reflects light** so it makes a room feel larger.

✦ **When adding colours** to your white space, limit them to a three or four. Some styled rooms may look haphazard but the designer has carefully chosen a team of colours and worked within those boundaries.

Photography by **Chris Warnes**/bauersyndication.com and **Mark Roper**/bauersyndication.com.

Other shades Resene suggests

RESENE 'Glamour Puss'	RESENE 'Bambina'	RESENE 'Renew'	RESENE 'Windfall'
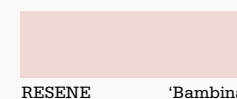
Resene the paint the professionals use