

Anticipation

Bordello

De Janeiro

High Society

Heartbreaker

Wot Eva

High Country

Wild Thing

Geneva

All paint colours from the new Resene The Range 2007.



Your summer approach to interiors should focus on serenity, simplicity and spaciousness. Pastel colours provide all of these with aplomb. Serenity is achieved by the low impact that pastels have on your senses and the seeming coolness of the environments they create. Simplicity is realised by how easily pastel shades complement each other and work with darker or lighter hues. And spaciousness results from pastel's low tonal strength: they're close enough to white to inherit its magical ability to expand the bounds of space.

The tranquillity that pastels evoke is largely thanks to their visual link with nature. Think of powder blue skies, pink blossom trees, or the serene shades of green we see in the garden. For this reason, they work well in settings that relate to nature like rooms that look on to gardens, or in naturally derived furnishings like floral patterns, woodwork or wicker.

Importantly, pastels work as well as background extras as they do as star of the show. Whether as a barely-there wall colour or a stylish accessory feature, pastels can be all things to all people. While an entire overhaul using a symphony of pastels may be just what you're after, your interior look can be more simply updated with the addition of pastel accessories and soft furnishings. Easily instituted for the summer months and then archived until next year, pastel fabrics are available in an endless array of patterns and prints. Stripes, florals, prints and plains, in any or all of the pastel colours combine to create a surprisingly harmonious look. And if the odd table top, dresser shelf or section of wall needs a feature, there's also a great diversity of pastel homewares around today.

In paint, pastels can be used for everything from whole walls to highlighted features like doorframes, window trims and dado rails. The pastel range of colours shares a similar strength of hue, explaining how easily they co-ordinate; mix 'n' match is a pastel colourway's middle name. With that said, there's no reason that, in the right hands, you can't play with bolder pastel shades for great effect and it's these bolder and more saturated versions that signal our pastel fashion direction, according to leading colour forecasters. As pale pinks turn to beetroot and mint becomes lime, the increased intensity of colour lends interiors a fantasy feeling that's energetic and surreal, without being saccharine.

Pastels make formal rooms feel friendlier and neutral tones feel more alive. Ideal to tie colours, textures and patterns together, pastels are the diplomats of the colour spectrum. Serene, judicious and inherently relaxed, pastels are easy to work with, easy on the eye and extremely easy to live with. **JARROD HABERFIELD**

FOR SMALLER ROOMS OR HOUSES, USE:

- only one or two pastel shades throughout
- simple pattern combinations or one pattern only
- large, expansive uses of colour (eg. wall, architrave, window surround and picture rail all the same colour)

FOR LARGER ROOMS OR HOUSES, USE:

- multiple pastel shades
- pattern on pattern, mix 'n' match
- intricate or complex uses of colour (eg. powder blue wall, white architrave and skirting, lemon picture rail)

PALES IN COMPARISON

SPRUCE UP, COOL DOWN AND BLISS OUT THIS SUMMER WITH THE WHITER SHADES OF PALE.



Ladder, clown tapestry and stool from Provenance, letters from Madder & Rouge.