

BHG COLOR STARS

We're tickled pink to introduce our 2024 class of *Color Stars!* These design geniuses expertly wield hues from the bold to the barely there to create unforgettable spaces that set a mood.

Each expert has a true gift for working with color, but there's no need to be green with envy—here, they share their wisdom with us. Consider these tips hues you can use.



HILARY MATT



HEIDI CAILLIER



COREY DAMEN JENKINS



KESHA FRANKLIN



JESSICA DAVIS



ARIEL OKIN



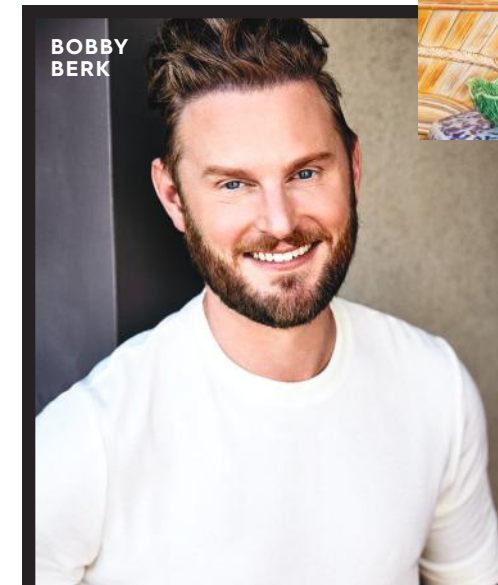
LEAH RING



MANDY CHENG



DABITO



BOBBY BERK

PHOTO: (BOBBY BERK) MAX MONTGOMERY/COURTESY OF BOBBY BERK



color blocking
DABITO

Designer, artist, influencer, and author of *Old Brand New* (which is also the name of his design firm), Dabito brings an artist's eye to interiors, skillfully color blocking to turn rooms into masterpieces.

ROCK THE BLOCK
 "For me, color blocking is just contrasting color, creating a negative space and a positive space: a white wainscoting on the

bottom and yellow on the wall or painting the ceiling a different color than the walls. I also love painting just the door or just the baseboards."

MAKE IT YOUR OWN
 "If a color combination is too recognizable, I've got to pivot, tone down the colors, or amp up something to make the tension a little bit different."

EASY ON THE EYES
 "Deeper tones feel more elevated and easier to adapt. When paint has a little more black or gray in it, it becomes a bit more neutral and not as in-

your-face as a hot pink or neon yellow."

PERFECT HARMONY
 "Once you have your palette, tie all the spaces together by sprinkling similar colors in each room."

OFF THE WALLS
 "It's easy to color block with furniture by picking a solid-color sofa and playing with warm and cool contrasting colors. For example, choose a couch in a warm hue like yellow and pair it with an accent or coffee table in a cool hue like green."

color lesson
 "I ALWAYS TELL PEOPLE TO PLAY WITH WARM AND COOL TONES—THAT PLAY OF CONTRASTS IS ONE OF MY FAVORITE WAYS TO BRING COLOR INTO YOUR SPACE."

DABITO,
interior designer

color lesson

"I JUST LOVE THE CONTRAST OF A BLACK AND WHITE PALETTE. IT'S A POP BUT NEUTRAL AT THE SAME TIME. IT'S THE PERFECT BALANCE."

HILARY MATT, *interior designer*



black and white
**HILARY
MATT**

What's black and white and gorgeous all over? A room by this New York City-based designer. In her hands, the classic combo takes a thoroughly modern turn.

BLACK'S BEST MATES

"I would never do all stark white. Neutrals to me would be whites mixed with beiges and off-whites and creams and oatmeals."

RULE OF THUMB

"Texture—in the sofa fabric, carpet, chairs, wallpaper—is important when you're working with a monochromatic palette. The mix of all that makes a room feel lush and alive even though it is all neutral."

THE FINISH LINE

"You get enough contrast with black and white. Aside from stair rails, the paint finish needs to be matte. A shiny black is too jarring and gets too jazzy. On walls, I always do matte washable so you can wipe off any marks—the Magic Eraser is my best friend."



wood and color
JESSICA DAVIS

The founder of Atelier Davis, which has offices in Georgia and New Jersey, combines wood and color with the greatest of ease. But while she mixes masterfully, she's not looking to match.

WOOD WORKS

"If you have a cool or a neutral palette, wood adds warmth and texture to something that otherwise could be flat. It's also a nice

foil to color blocking and works really well with saturated colors."

PRIMARY PRIMER

"You never want to have more than two primary colors together. The third color has to be something that's slightly different—like taking it one notch from yellow to slightly greener yellow—if you don't want it to look too juvenile."

DECK THE WALLS

"A big place to insert color is art; it does not need to match your furnishings. You could select a modern piece that's really colorful and put it

in an understated traditional room and make an impact. Art with depth, like in a floater frame or on a canvas, works nicely on a wood-paneled wall."

PHOTO FINISH

"I love a high-gloss lacquer to bounce light around, but it's risky because it shows all the flaws. There are some cool new wallpapers out that mimic high gloss and make it a lot easier to get a saturated, glossy color."

color lesson
 "I THINK SPACES LOOK MORE INTERESTING WHEN YOU'RE NOT TRYING TO MATCH COLORS. HAVING ONE SHADE OF GREEN ON THE SOFA AND ANOTHER ON THE WALLS CREATES A KIND OF TENSION THAT IS REALLY INTERESTING."

JESSICA DAVIS,
 Atelier Davis



PHOTOS: (PORTRAIT) AARON SKYLER/JULIA DUKE & CO., (ROOM) ALANNA HALE



pastels
ARIEL
OKIN

Pastels pack a punch in the hands of this New York-based interior designer, who proves gentler hues can be soft, strong, and stunning all at once.

LIGHT MAGIC

"Pastels are a great clarifying color; they can take the heaviness or moodiness of a room down quickly and brighten a space instantly. We love to lacquer in pastel for a high-gloss finish that feels jewel-boxy."

SHAKE IT UP

"Every palette needs something a little off to make it feel collected—like a tiny hit of an acidic or buttery color, such as chartreuse or marigold. Pastels need anchoring hues that are darker or jewel

tone, like olive green, chocolate brown, rust, or plum, to bounce off and keep them from feeling too sweet or saccharine. It gives pastels more clarity. I love chocolate brown, burgundy, and robin's-egg blue together."

SET THE TONE

"Playing with variations of the same general hue is what keeps quieter color schemes interesting and from feeling too one-note."

THE BIG PICTURE

"Think of your home in a comprehensive way, not as individual rooms but as a full story from top to bottom.

There has to be a thread that brings the palette through the entire space, even if it's a little hint of marigold in one room that ties into another where it features more prominently."

DECORATOR TRICKS

"Pillows, throws, and paint are fast and easy ways to add color to a room—printed fabric lampshades are one of our favorite things to change a look quickly."



PHOTOS: DONNA DOTAN

color lesson

"OFTEN I'LL FIND PRETTY COLOR PAIRINGS ON A WALK OUTSIDE—GETTING OUTDOORS AND OFF OF OUR COMPUTERS IS SUCH A WONDERFUL WAY TO FIND INSPIRATION."

ARIEL OKIN, *interior designer*

color lesson

"COLORS HAVE ENERGY. SELECT A PALETTE BASED ON THE ATMOSPHERE YOU'RE TRYING TO CREATE. IF YOU WANT IT TO FEEL BOLD AND INVITING, USE STRONG COLORS; FOR A SERENE FEEL, TRY COOLER, MORE SUBTLE COLORS."

KESHA FRANKLIN,
Halden Interiors



metallic accents
KESHA FRANKLIN

The creative director of New Jersey-based Halden Interiors gets a gold star for her ability to combine metallic shades in a way that's elegant, inviting, and unmistakably modern.

BLEND WELL

"I love to mix metals, like brass and bronze, because they work together and make a great foundation for colors. Be mindful

of the tones, mixing polished, satin, and matte. If I do black and rose gold, for example, the rose gold would be in the polished finish and the black would be matte.

I like that tension; I love a good contrast."

OMBRÉ ALL DAY

"If you're taking a monochromatic approach, layer, layer, layer. When you have one color and you kind of gradate those shades, it does make it pop.

A combination of textures will also add interest and depth to the room."

GO FOR THE GLOW

"Metallic fibers and colors can be found in wallcoverings, fabrics, rugs, and art. Metals are both shiny and flat, so colors like a mustard yellow or a blush pink can translate into a warm brass and a soft rose gold."

GUIDING LIGHT

"To find the right shade, test it out, because lightbulbs—bright white, soft white, cool white, warm white—impact color."

color lesson
"MY BEST PIECE OF COLOR ADVICE IS JUST EMBRACE IT. AND IF YOU LOVE IT, DO IT. DON'T LET WHAT OTHER PEOPLE FEEL DICTATE WHAT YOU DO IN YOUR OWN HOME."

BOBBY BERK, *interior designer*



PHOTOS: SARA LUCICORRI, TRAVIS



neutrals
BOBBY BERK

This interior and furniture designer—and former cohost of *Queer Eye*—is known for his bright, bold personality and gift for transforming a space with neutrals that are anything but boring.

WARMING TREND

"The key to updating light neutrals is to bring in some warm tones—a little splash of camel in a leather ottoman or throw pillow, leather accents in accessories on the table, a sisal rug, or a warmer wood tone. Balance it with earth tones and some black."

BREAKING THE MOLD

"I like adding drama and dimension to neutrals with different-texture items: chunky, knit, sweaterlike, woven throw pillows or a really texturized rug. Otherwise, neutrals can be flat and boring."

DESERT MAGIC

"I love desert colors: rust, terra-cottas and clays, and cactus colors and creams."

Those are the colors I have in my home; I eat, breathe, and sleep those colors.

You can use them individually, but I love them together."

DARK VICTORY

"People often assume that dark walls will make your home feel too dark. But when you add the right amount of black accents to a room balanced with white, it makes your space feel larger. The biggest color risk I've taken is persuading my clients to embrace black walls—and they absolutely love them."

CASE STUDY

"Your closet is a great place to find out what colors you really love. You've already picked these things out, so you're probably going to love these colors in your home too."



electric color
LEAH RING

When it comes to color, “more is more,” says Leah Ring of Another Human, the Los Angeles-based design firm known for unexpected pairings of strong colors that turn out to play well together.

BRIGHT IDEAS

“Pairing strong colors is about mixing cools and warm. A good blue and a good lime green are my go-tos. I like bringing in a weird,

bright accent color. I love a chocolate brown with a really bright color: magenta or chartreuse or teal. There’s something retro-feeling about those combinations. Using a saturated neutral balances shocking colors.”

BUILD ON A BASE

“If you’re trying to pick a paint palette for a whole house and you land on one color you really like, you can build from there. But take the time to consider the nuances of

each color. If you picked a yellow with a little brown in it, then your pink should also have a little brown to it—it can’t be too purply.”

POWER DRESSING

“Window treatments are an expense, but they add so much color and life and change the feeling of a space in a dramatic way. Even if you’re a renter, that is something I would encourage people to invest in that I think they may overlook. It makes a huge difference in how a space feels.”

color lesson
 “NAIL DOWN THE BIG SWATHS OF COLOR—WALLS, CURTAINS, THE RUG, MAJOR UPHOLSTERY—THEN LOOK AT HOW THE PALETTE IS FEELING AND WHAT’S MISSING. LAYER IN MORE COLORS UNTIL IT FEELS COMPLETE.”

LEAH RING,
Another Human



rich and luxe
**COREY
DAMEN
JENKINS**

For this designer in New York City and Michigan, a love of rich, deep colors adds elegance to everything—from fabric and furniture to entire homes.

GREAT INSPIRATIONS

“Use things that tie a color scheme together. It could be a beautiful multicolor rug, wallcovering, drapery fabric, or artwork that becomes the foundation you pull colors from. It harmonizes the room so it feels natural and cohesive versus forced.”

WONDER WALLS

“An easy way to make a change with color

is painting the walls. If all of your furnishings are neutral, white, cream, or taupe, and you paint the walls a sapphire blue, suddenly those furnishings will contrast in a very bold way. We painted the walls of a 1920s home a dark, beautiful emerald green, and it made the white trim pop so much more boldly because there was now a visual line of demarcation.”

LOOK UP

“The ceiling is a great spot to make a statement. You can have four white walls and paint your ceiling pink or robin’s-egg blue, then pull that accent out in art, throw pillows, and pieces around the room, and instantly that ceiling has commanded the room with a new color scheme.”

LITTLE TOUCHES

“If you don’t want color all over, play with accessories: objects, vases, accent pieces—a throw on the edge of the sofa, folded, with a little yellow in it. These are ways you can scatter color around the room.”

color lesson
“I OFTEN PAINT THE
CEILING PINK. THE WAY
LIGHT BOUNCES
OFF OF THAT IS MAGICAL.
EVERYONE LOOKS
WONDERFUL.”

COREY DAMEN JENKINS,
interior designer



PHOTOS: ANDREW FRASZ

color lesson

"THE PIECE THAT'S THE MOST ADVENTUROUS, UNEXPECTED, OR BOLD COLORWISE, OR THAT SCARES YOU THE MOST, IS ALWAYS THE THING YOU END UP LOVING THE MOST."

HEIDI CAILLIER, *interior designer*



nostalgic revival
**HEIDI
CAILLIER**

Her new book is called *Memories of Home*, so it's no surprise the Seattle-based designer is known for nostalgic design that uses historical color in refreshing ways.

HISTORY LESSON

"I like to use historical colors as the base of a room (they tend to ground a space) then put a spin on it, bringing in something that feels unexpected, whether it's a grass green or a soft yellow or a crimson, that offsets them."

NEO-NEUTRAL

"I tend to view a lot of colors as neutrals, especially when they have muddy undertones.

If you add a little bit of brown to a color or muddy it down a little bit, it pretty much works with everything."

SITTING PRETTY

"If you want to really embrace color, instead of doing neutral upholstery, do a blush, lilac, mint green, or celadon; it still feels soft, but it adds depth."



nature tones
MANDY CHENG

This former Los Angeles production designer for film, television, and music videos gleans inspiration not from the big screen but from the great outdoors.

QUICK PICKS

“My go-to colors are green, a version of terra-cotta, and yellow. These are colors you love in nature, they’re common enough that they’re not terrifying, and they evoke calming emotion.”

COLOR CUES

“I’ll start with the wallpaper then pick colors from that. If it’s a floral pattern and there’s an accent in blue, I’ll start with that color and hold paint swatches in various shades of blue next to the wallpaper. I want to pick something that complements it in the same tone, just darker or lighter or desaturated.”

NARROW THE FIELD

“Start with paint brands that have a curated selection so you’re not picking from 4,000 dark greens, but you’re picking

among five. They’ve already done the work to tell you which colors look good.”

PRO TIP

“If you’re painting cabinets, the color will always appear lighter than the swatch because it’s usually a lacquer, so the formula is different than regular paint, and it reflects light. I would suggest telling the painter, ‘I want this color, but I want it 25 percent darker.’ That way, it will be the tone you’re looking for.” □

color lesson

“WHAT I LOVE ABOUT EARTH TONES IS THE SAME THING PEOPLE LOVE ABOUT BEING IN NATURE—IT’S RELAXING AND EVERYTHING FLOWS. EVEN IF THEY SEEM BOLD, IF YOU LIKE THOSE COLORS OUTSIDE, YOU’LL LIKE THEM INSIDE.”

MANDY CHENG,
 interior designer

PHOTOS: (PORTRAIT) YOSHIHIRO MAKINO/TRUNK ARCHIVE, (ROOM) MADELINE TOLLE