



Oval Room  
Blue  
Farrow & Ball

Neutrals for Real Life!

# How to Find Calm with COLOR



If you could never do “all white” yet crave a tranquil retreat, look no further than designer Heidi Caillier’s Washington home, which features a thoughtful mix of colors (**Blue! Peach! Purple! Green!**) and collections (Pottery! Pastorals!) for a scheme that remains as beautifully serene as her Pacific Northwest setting.

written by LAURA KOSTELNY photographs by HARIS KENJAR

Simply White  
Benjamin Moore





### Choose a palette with patina.

In the dining room, a collection of tempered-over-time majolica sets a colorful-yet-understated tone. Similarly subtle hues appear in the “Fruit” wallpaper by William Morris. Green millwork and a faded blue Oushak-style rug prove multiple colors—peach, sage, blue—can coexist without chaos. Black “Wayland Low-Back” chairs ([oandgstudio.com](#)), a vintage French brass chandelier (updated with Globe E26 bulbs), and taupe linen draperies help ground the pattern play.



Think “neutral” is synonymous with “boring”? Interior designer Heidi Caillier ([heidicaillierdesign.com](#)) is inclined to agree. But when she and husband Justin found the 1930s Tudor home of their dreams in a historic north Tacoma, Washington, neighborhood, she found herself planning for forever over the fleeting. “Normally, I think of my style as a combination of modern, traditional, and eclectic,” she says. “But I really wanted something a bit more traditional and mature for this house.” To achieve a classic, family-friendly setting, Heidi combined her love for bold fabrics and wallpapers with a more

-muted palette inspired by the great outdoors—or more specifically, her collection of vintage and antique landscapes and seascapes that number in the twenties. (“Saturday mornings, you’ll find me at my computer, having coffee and searching Chairish, Etsy, 1stdibs. It’s serious business,” she says.) The heathery blues, greens, purples, and pinks found in the artwork—as well as the golds and browns of the frames—inspired her decidedly colorful, not-at-all-staid take on neutrals. The trick, says Heidi, is balance, mixing in just the right amount of vintage finds; natural elements like marble, wood, and terra-cotta; and warm whites to temper the pastel paint colors and rich plaids and patterns found in fabrics and wallpapers. “I didn’t want anything trendy, so I chose to layer in designs and trim colors that are timeless but with a twist,” she says. Thanks to her rules, she managed to achieve a colorful-but-calming space that feels like it was collected over time, even though she pulled the whole thing together in less than a year. To that end, Heidi says, “It also helps that I’m a very decisive person.”

NOOK AND KITCHEN (OPPOSITE PAGE), STYLING BY HEATHER BULLARD; (PREVIOUS SPREAD, TOP LEFT), STYLING BY HEATHER BULLARD.



### Warm up from the ground up.

In the kitchen and adjacent breakfast nook, Heidi selected a six-inch terra-cotta hex tile ([arto.com](#)), which speaks to the designer’s love of pinky peach hues (see her master bedroom on page 76) and adds a distinct richness to the artfully layered

space. Heidi chose a soothing green—a little bit gray, a little bit blue—for the Shaker-style cabinets. “It changes with the light,” she says. “It also feels traditional to me, which I really wanted.” The hue pairs particularly well with soapstone countertops and unlacquered brass bail pulls and knobs ([classic-brass.com](#)).

Oil Cloth  
Benjamin Moore





### Put antiques in the kids' room.

Antique twin beds—scored as a set on eBay!—lend a certain gravitas to Rowan and Soter's room, which allows for more color play when it comes to the rug (here, Heidi sewed together multiple Swedish rag rugs) and vintage kantha blankets, while a warm and dusty yellow on the doors and trim lets the sunshine in without venturing into the primary-color territory often seen in kids' spaces.

### Try bold textiles in small spaces.

In order to keep the all-white master bathroom from feeling too sterile, Heidi added a splash of pattern and color via the roman shade in the bold "Grace-Willow" floral ([michaelsmithinc.com](http://michaelsmithinc.com)). She also added a whimsical floral detail underfoot with one-inch hexagon tiles in Carrara and Nero Marquina marble.



BEDROOM, STYLING BY HEATHER BULLARD; LIVING ROOM (OPPOSITE PAGE), STYLING BY HEATHER BULLARD.



### Paint trim a high-contrast color.

While the playroom walls are coated in a warm white, Heidi chose a lead gray for the trim. The room's cornflower, burnt orange, and caramel palette was plucked from a seascape—one of many pieces of art collected from vintage shops and online. The textured rope chandelier ([jamieryoung.com](http://jamieryoung.com)) and jute shades mimic the detailing on the center picture's frame.



## Embrace blush in the bedroom.

You know that old trick about pink light bulbs offering more flattering light? (See page 36.) Well, the same goes for a soft pinkish-orange paint—a color inspired by the fabric on the headboard, lampshade, and accent pillow (“Pandora” in Terra Cotta by

Lisa Fine; [lisafinetextiles.com](http://lisafinetextiles.com)). “If I didn’t have a budget, I would have covered all the walls in it,” says Heidi. (Tip: While the fabric is to the trade, you can find “Pandora” accent pillows at [westendaccents.etsy.com](http://westendaccents.etsy.com)). An earthy lamp base, clean-lined sconce, indigo bedspread, and modern moss green nightstand ([chelseatextiles.com](http://chelseatextiles.com)) offset all things rosy and ruffled.

Setting Plaster  
Farrow & Ball



## Look for dark undertones.

A purple-paneled bathroom may perhaps be the boldest choice in the house, but Heidi still sees it as a neutral. “I think the key is getting it muddy enough to work with other colors,” she says. Thanks to “lots of brown,” this deep lavender paint takes on a moody, not mauve-y, sophistication along with the antique sconces and brass vanity stand ([signaturehardware.com](http://signaturehardware.com)). A vintage cow print adds a hint of quirk.

Brassica  
Farrow & Ball



## Better with Age

To speed up that pretty patina, Heidi uses unlacquered brass on high-traffic, high-touch fixtures like doorknobs and faucets.



Light Switch  
\$22; [wayfair.com](http://wayfair.com)



Towel Ring  
\$62; [lowes.com](http://lowes.com)



Door Knob  
\$93; [build.com](http://build.com)



Bail Pull  
\$7; [houseofantiquehardware.com](http://houseofantiquehardware.com)