Color Harmony Workbook



A Workbook and Guide to Creative Color Combinations

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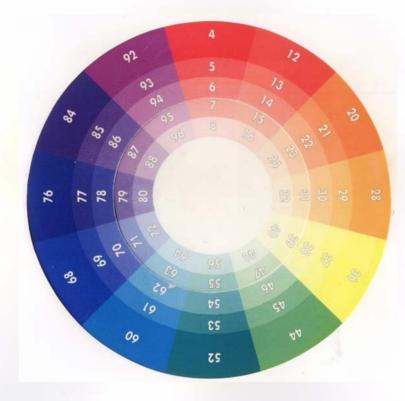
Introduction

n his seminal 1963 book Interaction of Color, the influential German artist Josef Albers noted that while human auditory memory is excellent—a melody is often repeatable after hearing it only once or twice—our visual memory, in particular the memory of color, is quite poor. Ironically, those who have the most apparent skill and experience with color-including artists and designers of every type-often find themselves beset by this frustrating perceptual frailty. The fact is, especially for those with a creative eye, color is layered with emotional, psychological, personal, and cultural meaning that can obscure objective reality.

How to Use This Book

Enter Color Harmony Workbook, a tool designed to end this frustration and lend ongoing inspiration and support to anyone who needs a precise command of color in all its delicious variety and moods. Color Harmony Workbook includes:

- Basic color information
- A color wheel



- Themed color schemes
- Color swatches for easy reference

Armed with this information, color professionals (including graphic and interior designers, architects, artists, and craftspeople) can approach their particular project—whether a brochure, home interior, or painting—infused with new confidence and creativity.

The Process of Choosing Color

To begin:

- DEFINE the mood and goal of your project;
- CHOOSE the color you feel best expresses this mood;
- PLAY with the possibilities presented in the workbook's color themes, using swatches to match fabrics, paints, papers, inks, etc.;
- REFINE these color options down to the best possible color scheme.

Working With the Color Wheel

hile it may appear complex, the color wheel is simplicity itself. Before discussing it, however, some basic color terminology is helpful.

A hue is simply a pure color—any color except white or black.

A tint is a hue mixed with white (red is a hue, pink is a tint).

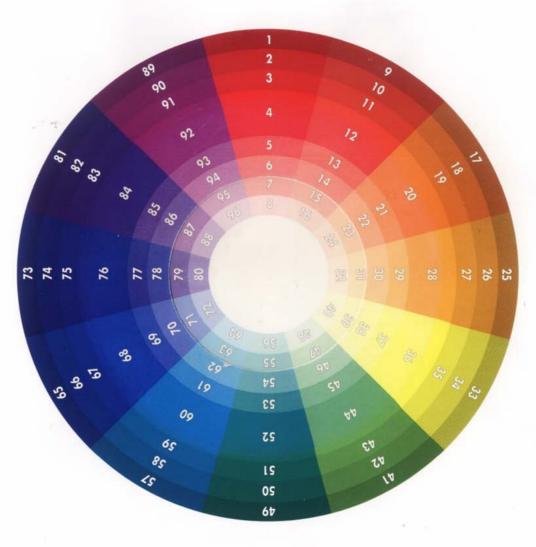
A shade is a hue mixed with black (maroon is a shade of red).

A tone is a hue mixed with gray. The chroma is the intensity or saturation of a hue-red has a higher chroma than pink or maroon.

The value describes the lightness and brightness of a color. Pink has a higher value than maroon; yellow has a higher value than blue.

The color wheel is composed of twelve basic hues: three primary, three secondary, and six tertiary. The colors in these families are found equidistant from one another on the color wheel.

PRIMARY hues are red, blue, and yellow-colors that cannot be made by mixing other colors.



- SECONDARY hues (green, orange, violet) are made by mixing two primary colorsred and yellow, for example, create orange.
- TERTIARY hues are made by mixing a primary with a secondary color-red-violet, vellow-orange, blue-green, blue-violet, yellow-green, and red-orange.
- COMPLEMENTARY colors are opposite on the color wheel and, when mixed, will create a neutral.

Pure, high-chroma hues appear in the wide center band of the color wheel (look at numbers 4, 12, 20, 28, 36, 44, 52, 60, 68, 76, 84, and 92). Colors found in the four interior bands are tints, with various quantities of white added to the original hue; while the three outer bands are shades, with various amounts of black added to the original hue. The numbering system allows easy location of large swatches in the back of Color Harmony Workbook.

The Facets of Color

he emotional and psychological effects of color are undeniable, and it is in the facets of color that the feeling produced by color has its strongest impact. On a cold day, we long for the leaping red flames of a fire; in summer, the mere sight of a blue-green pool is refreshing. So we are constantly caught in the play of color and feeling, as outlined below.

COLD

To understand cold colors, think of ice, with its combined bues



of blue, blue-green, and green. These colors have the mind/body effect of slowing metabolism-someone in a cold-colored room will literally "chill out." The effect of a fully saturated blue can be powerful, frigid, and austere; or it can be clean and fresh.

HOT

Intense, fully saturated red is like the essence of fire-that's how



to recognize a hot color. Red has been proven to stimulate the physical body, increasing the level of activity as well as body temperature; it also increases sexual desire. Hot colors are aggressive and attention-grabbing, making them a common choice in packaging and advertising design.

LIGHT

Light colors are barely colors at all-only the



faintest hint of a hue is perceptible in these sheer, translucent colors. Because they are mostly white, light colors reflect the light around them, making a room-or a painting-seem to glow with a subtle illumination. Light colors open up space, making it feel larger and airier.

Dark colors are strong, sober, and seem to diminish



DARK

rather than expand space. They are often used in the fine arts, and interior and graphic design as a means of contrasting lighter colors, and can convey a variety of moods-from dignity, tradition, and restraint to melancholy.

WARM



Warm colors are based in red. Unlike hot colors, warm colors are softened with the addition of yellow, which creates a heady array of redorange, orange, and yellow-orange. These direct, emotionally touching colors seem to reach out to us-an inviting, comforting aspect of warm colors that makes them natural for home interiors.

COOL

Cool colors are anchored in blue; unlike cold colors.



however, they are blended with vellow and red, which creates a gorgeous range of colors from green through blue through violet. These colors are perceived as soothing, calming, meditative, and peaceful, like a slowly moving stream.

PALE

Pale colors are tints-that is, hues combined with a



large amount of white. Found in the central rings of the color wheel, these soft, tender pastels evoke a feeling of youth, innocence, gentleness, and romance. These colors are considered to be "feminine" and are used frequently in cosmetic packaging.

BRIGHT

Bright colors are clear, distinctive, high-chroma



colors-pure hues without a noticeable addition of white or black. These intense colors actually seem to vibrate; they are a keynote of the Pop Art movement of the 1960s. Bright colors add dynamism and energy to graphic and advertising design, as well as fine and applied arts.

Basic Color Schemes

asic color schemes concern the physical, objective reality of using and combining color. There's a mathematical perfection to these schemes; complementary colors, for example, will always be directly opposite each other on the color wheel, and will always seem to intensify each other. Each of these schemes creates a unique-effect on the eye of the perceiver.

ACHROMATIC

Meaning "without color," an achromatic scheme consists of black and white, and the vast range of grays that can be mixed from them. Variation is possible—"warm" and "cool" achromatics are made by adding a hint of red, yellow, or blue.

ANALOGOUS

Any three hues that are adjacent to each other on the color wheel (including their tints and shades) are considered analogous. These hues have a harmonious, pleasing effect on the eye.

CLASH

Clash color schemes have a brash, surprising effect. To create a clash color scheme, combine a hue with the color found on either side of its complement; blue with red-orange or orange-yellow, for example.

COMPLEMENTARY

This scheme involves using direct opposites on the color wheel—green/red, blue/orange, etc. These colors enhance one another, producing an almost vibratory visual sensation when seen side by side.

MONOCHROMATIC

This restrained, peaceful color scheme consists simply of a slice of the color wheel "pie"—a single hue combined with any of its tints or shades.



NEUTRAL

So soft that it seems almost invisible, a neutral color scheme consists of hues that have been neutralized by adding their complements, The further addition of black and white expands the neutral palette.

PRIMARY

The most basic of color schemes: the pure hues of red, yellow, and blue are combined. The elementary nature of this color scheme makes it a favorite for children's books, toys, and bedrooms. The purity of the primary scheme has made it an important palette for such artists as Piet Mondrian and Roy Lichtenstein.

SECONDARY

The secondary color scheme combines the secondary hues of orange, green, and violet. It has a fresh, uplifting quality and can be made quite subtle by using tints and shades of the secondary hues.

SPLIT COMPLEMENTARY

The split complementary scheme is often more pleasing than a true complementary scheme. Choose a hue; the hues on either side of its complement create the split complementary scheme (orange with blue-green and blue-violet, for example).

TERTIARY TRIAD

There are two tertiary triad color schemes, which consist of three tertiary hues that are equidistant from each other on the color wheel. The two tertiary triad schemes are: Red-violet, yellow-orange, and blue-green; or red-orange, yellow-green, and blue-violet.

Powerful

A powerful color scheme is one that captures the viewer's attention and emotion. The surest means to this end? Use a potent red hue as part of a color scheme. Irrespective of the other hues used, one's eye will always gravitate to where the red is. This aggressive, dominant quality has long made red the color of choice for advertising, particularly packaging—it's natural to see a red soft drink can or cigarette pack before noticing products in more subtly hued packaging. It is interesting to note how many nation's flags include red, the color of strength.

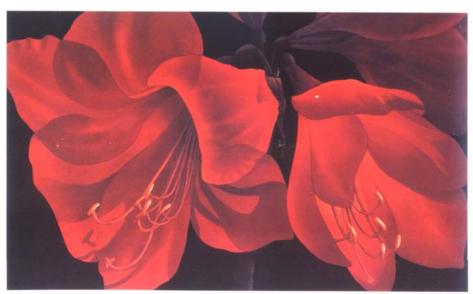
The bold effect of a powerful color scheme may derive from playing red off of its complement or near complementaries. Green, blue-green and yellow-green enhance red hues and take on an increased vibrance in proximity to red. Analogous schemes that include tints or shades of red, red-orange and red-violet often have a warming, even royal effect. It may be more effective to allow a red hue to speak for itself, by combining it with tints and shades or setting it off with achromatics. In any case, a powerful color scheme is intrepid and full of drama.

Pentagram Design International Design Renaissance Congress promotional poster

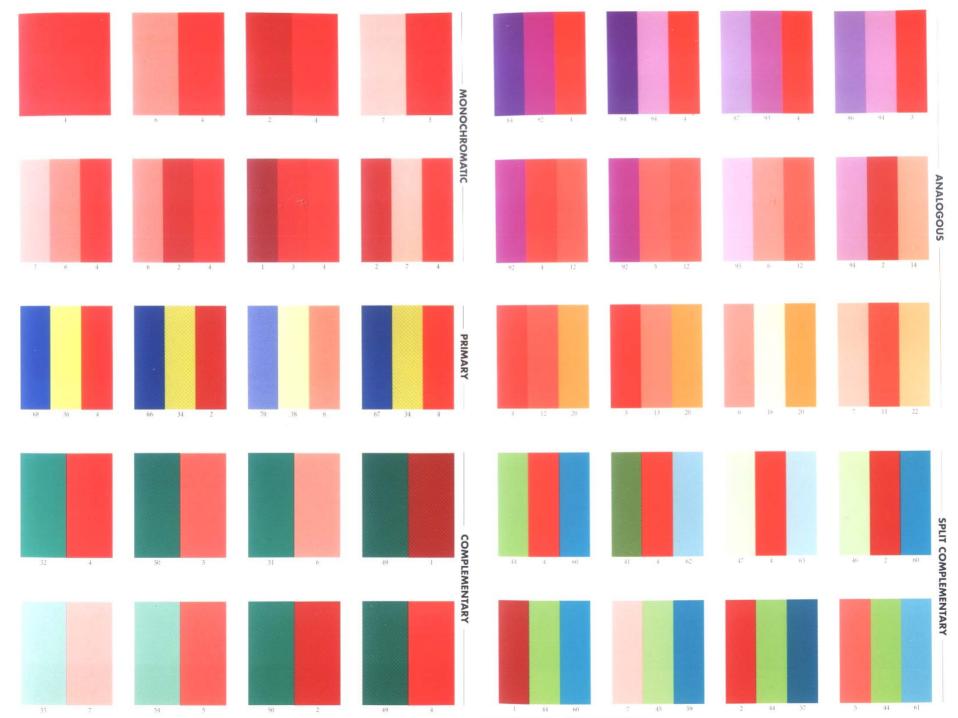


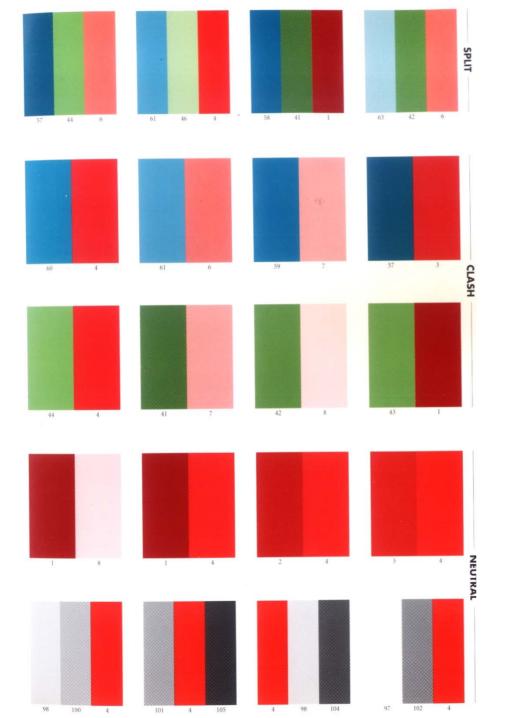






Ann Salisbury Inner Glow





In choosing the proper red for a project, remember that it need not be strident to be powerful; a tint, tone or shade of red (or red-orange) may be a more appropriate, less demanding choice.

Powerful

TIPS FOR COLOR SCHEMES



GRAPHIC DESIGN

A powerful color scheme is natural for graphic and advertising design. It is more appropriate for an attention-grabbing project — a poster, mailer or packaging — than for projects that require more "polite" hues (annual reports, invitations).

INTERIOR DESIGN

In using powerful color schemes, it is important to remember that red is a stimulating color; while it increases sexual ardor, it may be difficult to sleep in a red bedroom. It can, however, increase focus in an office or a study.

FINE ART

Using a powerful color scheme in the fine or applied arts can create a highly emotional response in a viewer, ranging from joy and exhilaration to discomfort.

Rich

The hues of gemstones, precious carpets, dark wood, and aged wine are the basis of a rich color scheme. The dominant feeling conveyed by a rich color scheme is of affluence, harmony, and age-old comfort. Colors are dominant without being overwhelming. A rich color scheme often includes complementary hues that have been deepened and enriched with black—think of the russet and maroon, forest green and olive, that are found in fine old carpets and tapestries. Touched with metallic golds and bronzes, rich colors have a traditional flavor, and appear to have been burnished with age.

Mellow shades of red are the starting point in a rich color scheme, and warm colors will generally dominate, though often in a surprising way: Polished wood may be the basic "color" of a rich interior, for example. Texture is important to a rich color scheme; in interiors, think of fabrics like moire and raw silk; in graphic design, paper will be heavy and pleasing to the touch; in the fine arts, there will be a tactile quality and perhaps visible brush strokes.

Design: Judy McMurray Photo: Steve Vierra

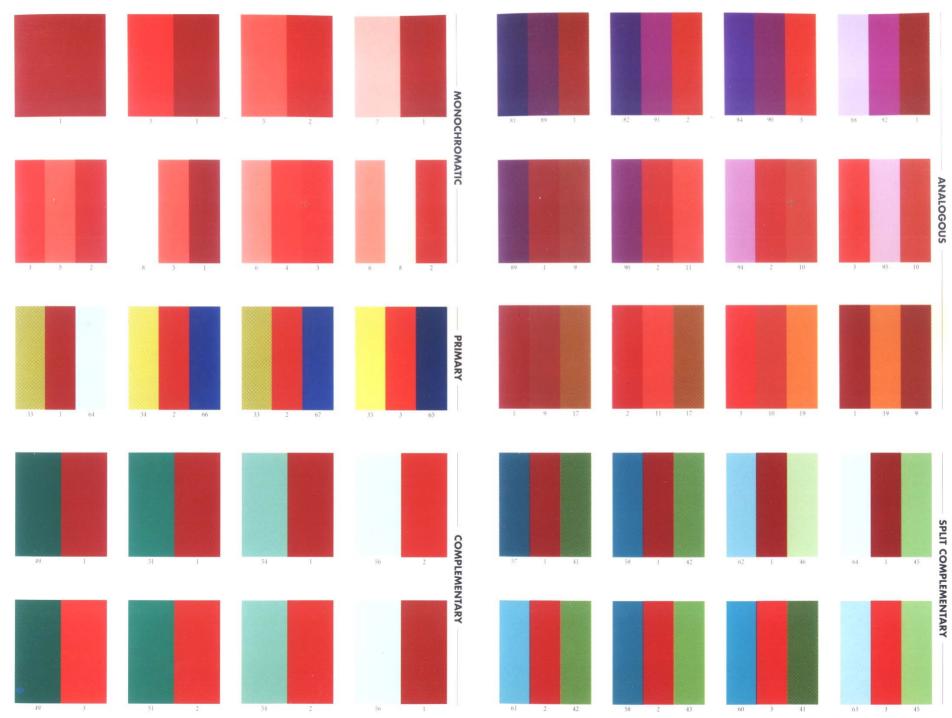


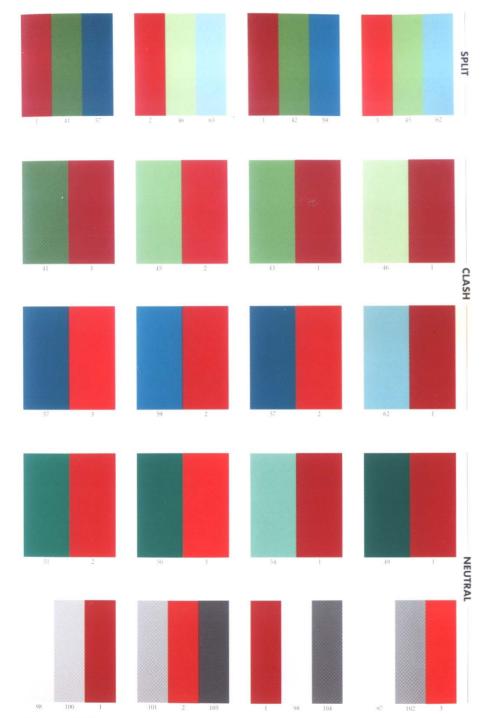






Asprey of London, Asprey shopping bag Distributor: S. Posner Sons, Inc.





Rich doesn't mean expensive; it just looks like it. A small amount of metallic gold (in the form of picture frames, mirrors, tassels, pillows, or—for graphic design—ink) enhances a rich color scheme immeasurably.

Rich

TIPS FOR COLOR SCHEMES



GRAPHIC DESIGN

Graphic designers will want to find the best possible paper a project's budget will withstand. Texture is crucial. A warm tone (creamy offwhite) is preferable to a stark white. INTERIOR DESIGN

To incorporate a rich color scheme into interior design, begin by finding a warm shade of red or gold for the walls. Polished wooden floors and furniture, as well as wainscoting, are other basics of a rich interior.

FINE ART

Fine artists should use oil paints instead of acrylics for a rich look. The depth, warmth and glow of oil paint makes up for its longer drying time.

Romantic

A romantic color scheme is gentle, its delicate pastels evocative of early spring flowers. Surprisingly, red is the hue that is the basis for a romantic color scheme—red that's been gentled with white to make a pale pink tint, transforming a strident and passionate hue to a color that whispers softly of love and friendship. The eye is naturally drawn to pink because of its red hue; but pink attracts attention, where red demands it. Red is the

symbolic color of Mars, the god of war; pink, on the other hand, is the color of Venus, goddess of love. Like Venus, pink is sensuous, captivating, and delicious, seductive without being threatening.

The romantic aspect of pink is combined most successfully with other pastel tints—pale lavenders and violets, light sky blue, peach, pale green, and yellow. These colors, which have an inherently feminine feel, recall Aubusson carpets, hand-tinted photographs, antique Chinese porcelains, and the palette of such painters as Degas and Fragonard.

Design: V-3 Design Photo: J. J. Perez

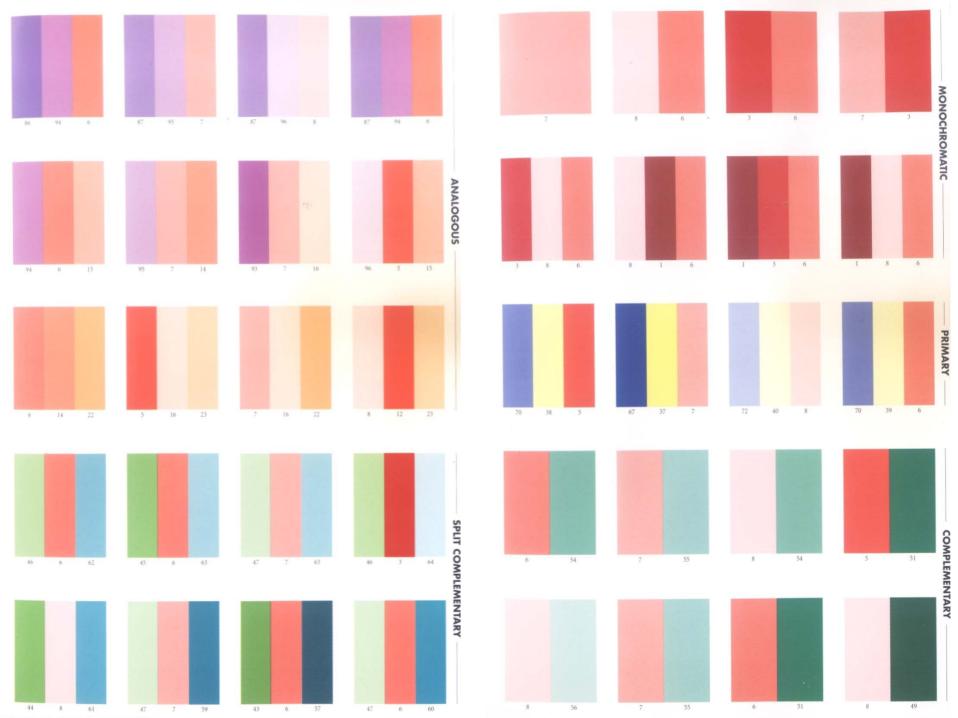


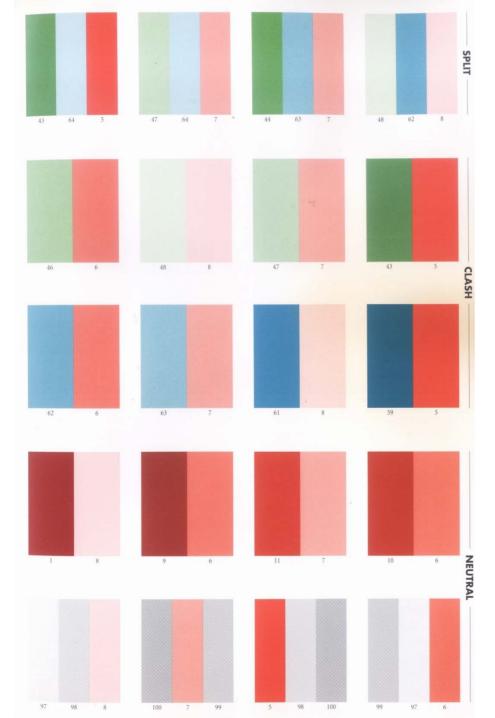


Parfums Salvador Dali, Paris; Parfums Salvador Dali, shopping bag Bag manufacturer: 12:34 Ltd./Korus



Ann Pember Peony Birth





Romantic

TIPS FOR COLOR SCHEMES

GRAPHIC DESIGN

In graphic design, a romantic color scheme sets just the right feeling for such projects as wedding invitations, a woman's personal stationery, or cosmetic packaging. INTERIOR DESIGN

The innocence projected by pink makes it the color of choice for the bedrooms of young girls. FINE ART

Fine artists will find that watercolors, with their sheer, light quality, optimize the use of a romantic palette.

Vital

Lively, expressive, youthful, and exuberant—that's the feeling conveyed by a vital color scheme, which is based around a red-orange hue. Red-orange is a cheerful color that has the effect of making one feel warm and energetic. On an esoteric level, it's the color projected by the root chakra, said to be the place where one's life force resides. There's a full-steam-ahead, let's-get-things-accomplished feeling to the vital color scheme—it implies dauntless courage and fearless risk-taking. Particularly in an analogous palette, a vital color scheme has the brilliant, almost vibratory quality of autumn leaves.

The joyful and unrestrained nature of vital colors are frequently used in textile design, from the traditional (Indian saris and Thai plaid silks) to the contemporary (surfwear and other sportswear).

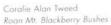
In graphic design, vital colors are useful in approaching projects that have a young, cutting-edge feeling; for example, cosmetics packaging for a trendy product line, brochures for high-tech or sports businesses, or any job that needs an uncomplicated "punch" of color. For interiors, a vital color scheme—particularly a complementary scheme, featuring red-orange paired with blue-green—provides a wonderful backdrop for furnishings with an exotic, Eastern flavor. The decidedly brilliant colors in the vital scheme are well suited to abstract paintings, wall hangings, and collages.

Matsumoto Incorporated

Exhibition announcement for David A. Hanks & Associates/

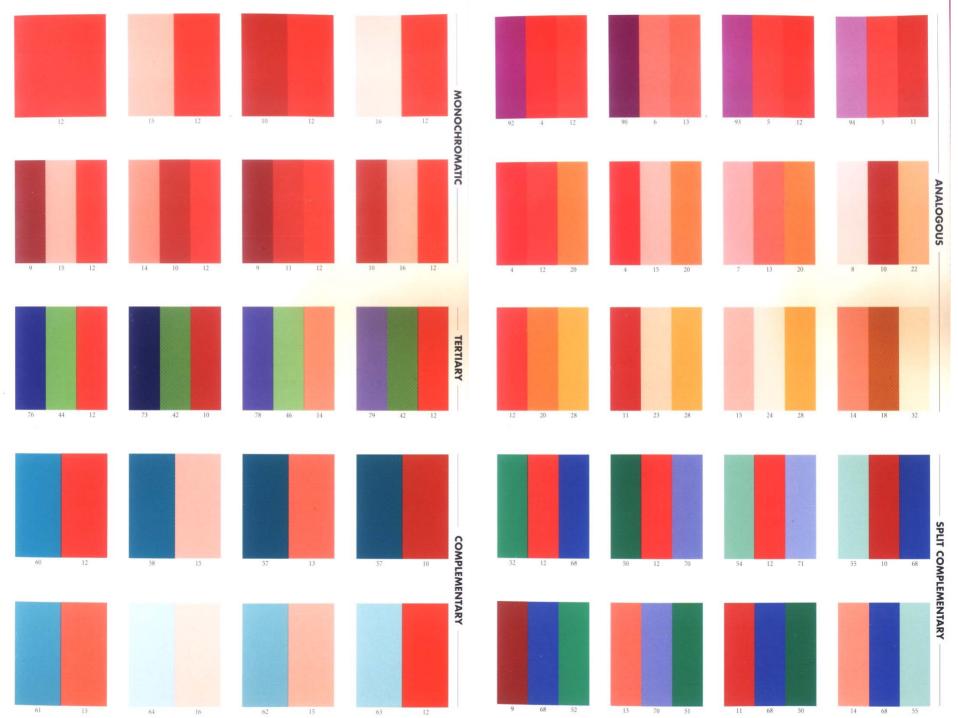


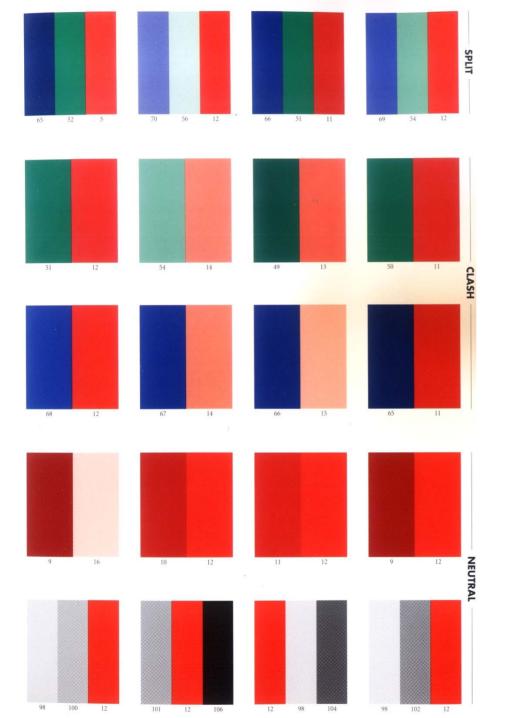






Design: Claude Guidi Photo: Stove Vierra





A vital color scheme is an excellent choice for any art or design project in which an Asian flavor is desired. A vibrant cinnabar-red, combined with its complement or neutral gray and black, is particularly appropriate.

Vital

TIPS FOR COLOR SCHEMES



GRAPHIC DESIGN

Both inviting and attention-grabbing, a vital color scheme works well for posters, mailers, and packaging, particularly when a youthful, carefree mood is desired. INTERIOR DESIGN

An instant sensation of warmth is produced when a vital color scheme is used in interior design, making it an ideal choice for cool or gloomy climates.

FINE ART

A vital color scheme is a natural choice in applied arts like ceramics, glassblowing, fiber art, and handwoven clothing; these vivid, uncomplicated colors show off simple forms to advantage.

Earthy

Anyone who has driven across a desert at sunrise or sunset has seen the rich, resonant shade of red-orange that is at the heart of the earthy color scheme. This hue, the color of Mother Earth, stirs up an almost atavistic love of nature and is often used in art and design that allude to or include natural forms. The earthy color scheme transforms the high energy of red-orange with a hint of black, a great combination for stimulating energy while remaining "grounded."

It is hard to find a culture that has not used red clay, also called terra cotta, to create vessels, floor or roof tiles, or cooking pots; so this color scheme seems almost universally to hint of home and hearth. It calls to mind abundant and relaxed country living, and a warm climate (like that of the Mediterranean or the American Southwest). This is the chosen palette of many types of aboriginal arts and crafts; Native American jewelry, with its turquoise, copper and coral, the kilim rugs of the Middle East, Tibetan mandalas, and the sand paintings of Australian Aborigines all rely upon the earthy color scheme.

Sonia Greteman, Greteman Group Christmas Poster for John Coultis



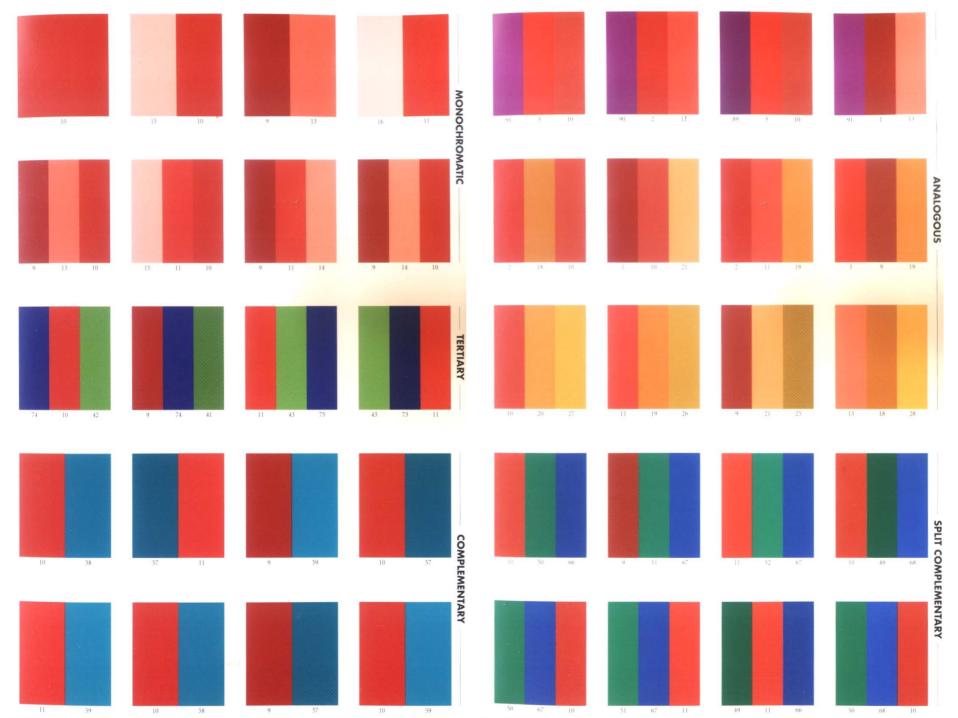


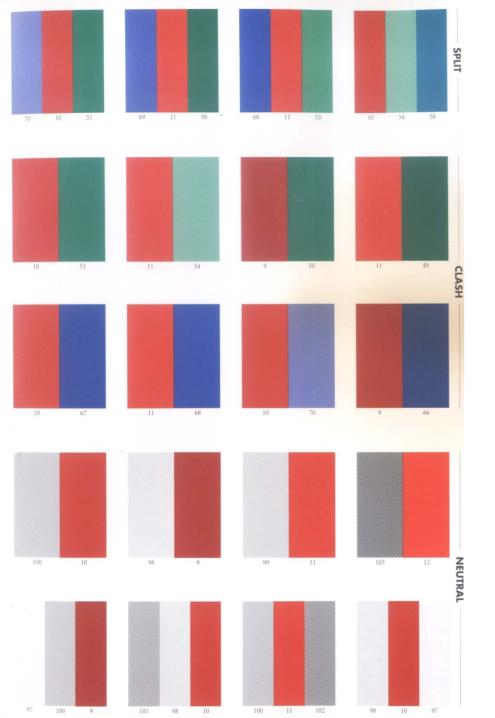


Photo: Steve Vierra



Ellen Wineberg Number 6





TIPS FOR COLOR SCHEMES



GRAPHIC DESIGN

In graphic design, earthy colors are effectively used in projects that deal with ecology and the environment, relaxation and leisure activities, or hint at ancient or aboriginal civilizations—Minoan, Mayan, Native American, etc.

INTERIOR DESIGN

The relaxed, warm, embracing feeling of earthy colors is used to advantage in residential interiors, particularly in open kitchen/dining rooms and restful bedrooms.

FINE ART

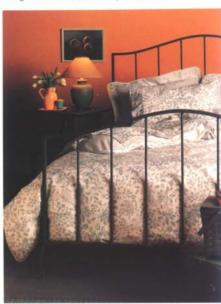
Fine artists will find the earthy color scheme a natural starting place in rendering desert landscapes and other exotic, or arid, locations. Quickdrying, matte acrylic paints work well for this palette.

Friendly

A true orange hue is warm, comforting and undemanding, and is the central hue of a friendly color scheme. Orange is uncomplicated and direct; when paired with its complement, blue, both hues take on added crispness and definition (akin to looking at fall leaves against a clear, brilliant October sky). In its more penetrating aspect, orange is the international color of rescue and is generally used in outdoor safety gear because of its high visibility.

As the anchor in the friendly color scheme, orange recalls marigolds and California poppies, polished copper, and glowing fires. It's not an elitist hue—safety, comfort, and the pleasures of family life are implied by an orange hue. This color scheme is quite flexible, suitable for both "high" and "low" uses. It is seen not only in fast-food restaurants and automotive advertising, but in the 17th century paintings by Dutch artists like Vermeer and Rembrandt, who glorified the mundane activities of daily life. This sociable hue is known to stimulate optimism, confidence, tolerance, and a sense of community.

Design and Photo: Bedroom by Crate & Barrel

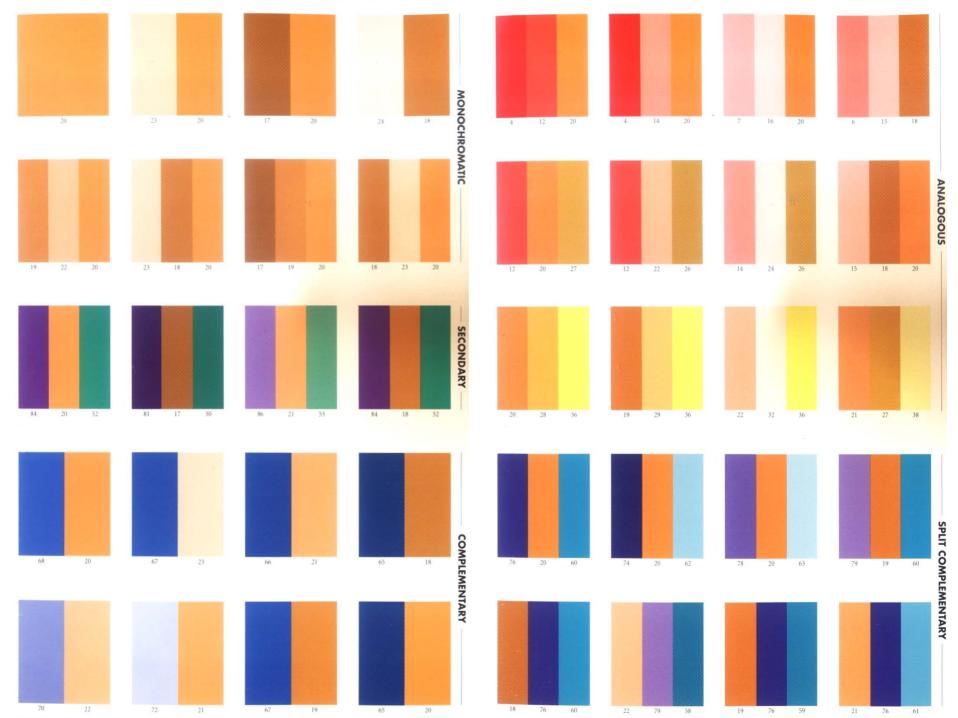


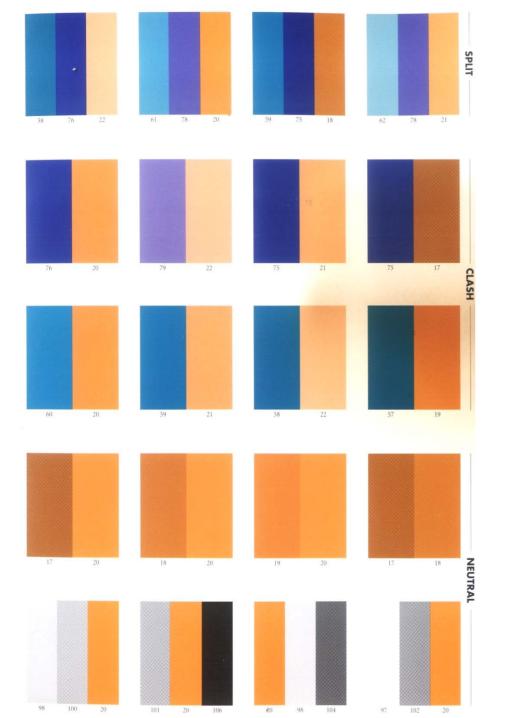


Standard-CDM Advertising P/L, SEIYU Department Store shopping bag Bag manufacturer: Associated Packaging



DJ Donovan-Johnson Farmers Market Reflections VI





TIPS FOR COLOR SCHEMES

A natural sense of humor—even clowning— is projected by the friendly color-scheme; use it for any poster, invitation, advertising,

or packaging that requires a light-

hearted, humorous feeling.

INTERIOR DESIGN

People often feel attracted to, and more sociable in, an orange-hued room; so a dining room, guest bedroom, or bathroom is the perfect place for inviting pumpkin-colored walls or linens.

FINE ART

Fine and applied artists will find that there's a spring-like, just-bloomed freshness to the friendly palette; it's good for floral paintings, hand-made greeting cards, and illustrations for children's books.

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Soft

The combination of gentle pastel tints verging on the neutral creates a soft color scheme. Most often, a soft color scheme contains peach, a tint that combines the purity of white with the openness and sociability of orange. The feeling produced by a soft color scheme is generally pleasing; calm, inviting, and relaxing, with an understated quality that makes it almost invisible. Peach is a luscious, sensuous color; it is attractive, easy on the eye, and flattering to most skin tones. The silky, sybaritic

quality of a soft color scheme makes it one frequently employed in decorating day spas, hair salons, retail stores, and restaurants, as well as residential and hotel interiors.

The implication of quiet luxury and elegance give the soft color scheme almost limitless possibilities in terms of graphic and interior design. The nuance of romance evoked by a soft color scheme is aptly used by fine and applied artists in creating still life and floral designs. Whether used for invitations, personal or business stationery, shopping bags, textiles, interiors, or paintings, the soft color scheme produces a soothing, unhurried, and open appeal.

Louis Nichole Louis Nichole shopping bag

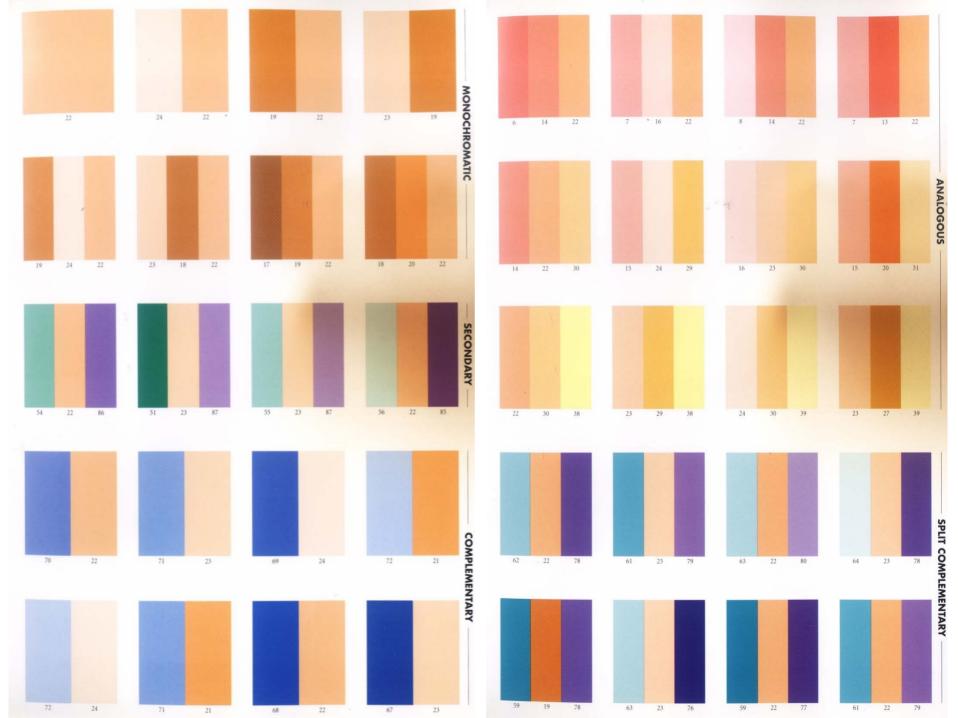


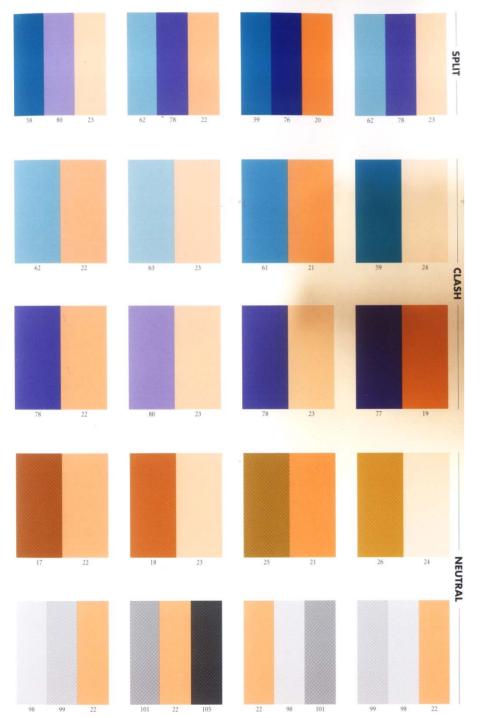






Design: Marian Glasgow Photo: Steve Vierra





When using the soft color scheme, keep all colors used at the same low level of chroma and contrast; adding a stronger color is simply jarring.

Soft

TIPS FOR COLOR SCHEMES



GRAPHIC DESIGN

The restrained warmth of soft colors gives them an almost utilitarian usefulness in graphic design. A soft peach is a good starting point for any stationery, brochure, poster, or packaging requiring an understated elegance.

INTERIOR DESIGN

Because of their undemanding nature, soft colors are extremely livable over the long-term, making them ideal for home interiors.

FINE ART

Soft colors evoke the fleshiness of a painting by Reubens; fine artists will find this palette useful in portraiture, owing to its subtle combinations of peach and pink, beige and gold.

Welcoming

A welcoming color scheme is one that includes the warm glow of yellow-orange, also called amber. This honeyed color combines the sociable, outgoing qualities of orange and the sincere, expressive qualities of yellow. Open, honest, and congenial, a welcoming color scheme has a classic appeal; particularly in its complementary and monochromatic combinations, which convey an age-old conviviality. Because of the expansive nature of the

yellow hue, art or design that includes the honeyed glow of yellow-orange seems to reach out to observers, inviting them to enter the painting (or poster or retail store or dining room) in which this hue predominates. In its tones and shades, yellow-orange is referred to as Titian, after the painter who so masterfully used the hue. In its pure, high-chroma form, yellow-orange has a spiritual connotation, reflected in the saffron robes worn by Buddhist monks. It is a color that is considered expressive, neat, and intellectual.

Noonan Media Henry Ford Hospital nurse recruitment poster

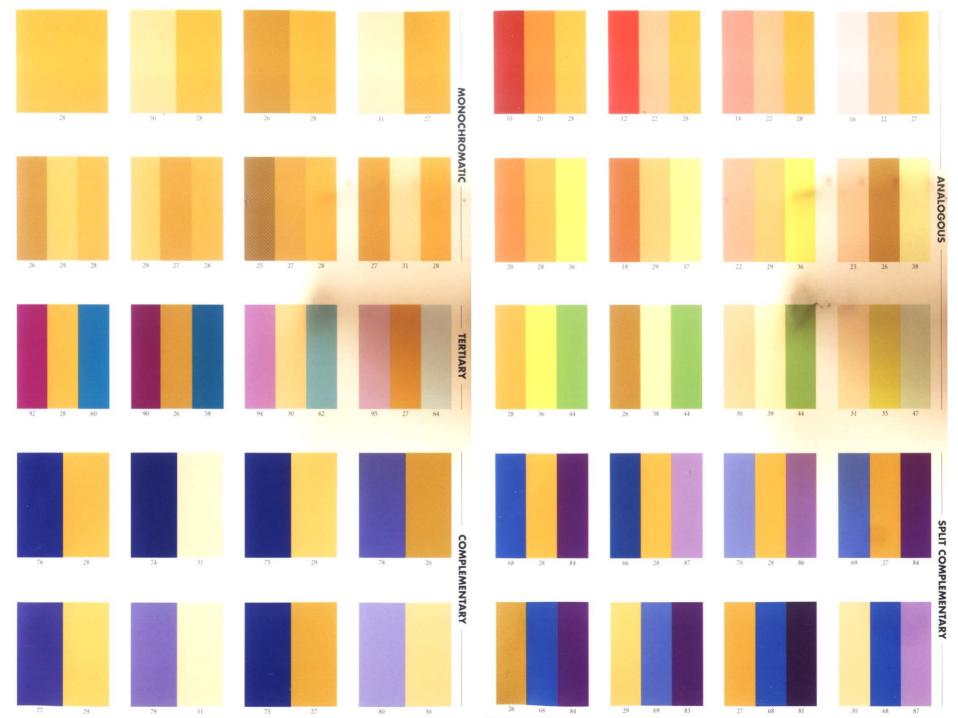


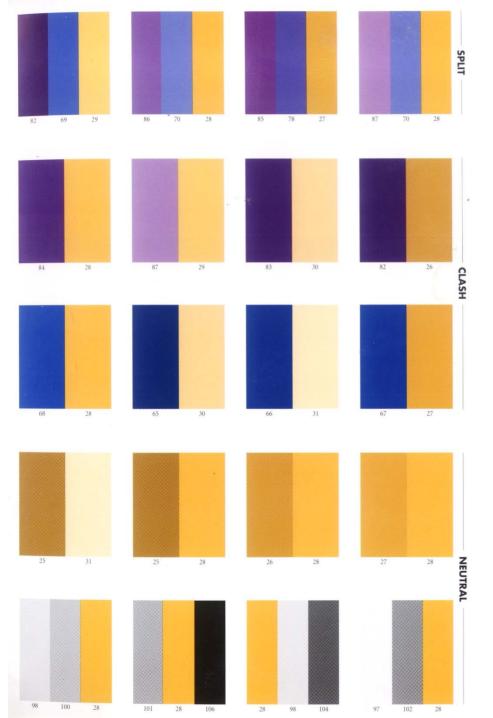


Volant









TIPS FOR COLOR SCHEMES

GRAPHIC DESIGN

A welcoming color scheme paired with a script-like typeface can create effects ranging from homey and modest to traditional and elegant—good for press kits, stationery, invitations, and shopping bags.

INTERIOR DESIGN

In home interiors, a welcoming color scheme may include blond wood or rattan for an overall amber glow. It is well suited to family rooms, living rooms, and dining rooms.

FINE ART

Artists instinctively use a yelloworange hue to create a warm, sunlit, approachable feeling in paintings.

Moving

A moving color scheme centers around the lightest primary color, yellow. Yellow creates motion; it is expansive, often dominating other colors, and is a hue that advances toward the viewer. The energetic nature of the sun is often represented by children as a big yellow ball in the sky. In maximum saturation, yellow can be the most aggressive of hues, more so even than red. When mixed with white, yellow conveys even more lightness and energy. The last of the true warm colors on the color wheel, yellow is cheerful, uplifting and spirited; it stimulates

communication, intellect, and attention to detail. In China, yellow was traditionally the color of the emperor, and it carries the connotation of power, wisdom, tolerance, and patience.

The active nature of primary yellow is unleashed when it is paired with its complement, violet; the combination vibrates with energy and motion, and is often seen in nature—for example, lupine and Scotch broom blooming in the wild, and early spring flowers like daffodils, iris, crocus, and freesia.

Estee Lauder Internal Design Group Aramis New West Fragrance shopping bag Bag manufacturer: ModernArts production facility, Korea

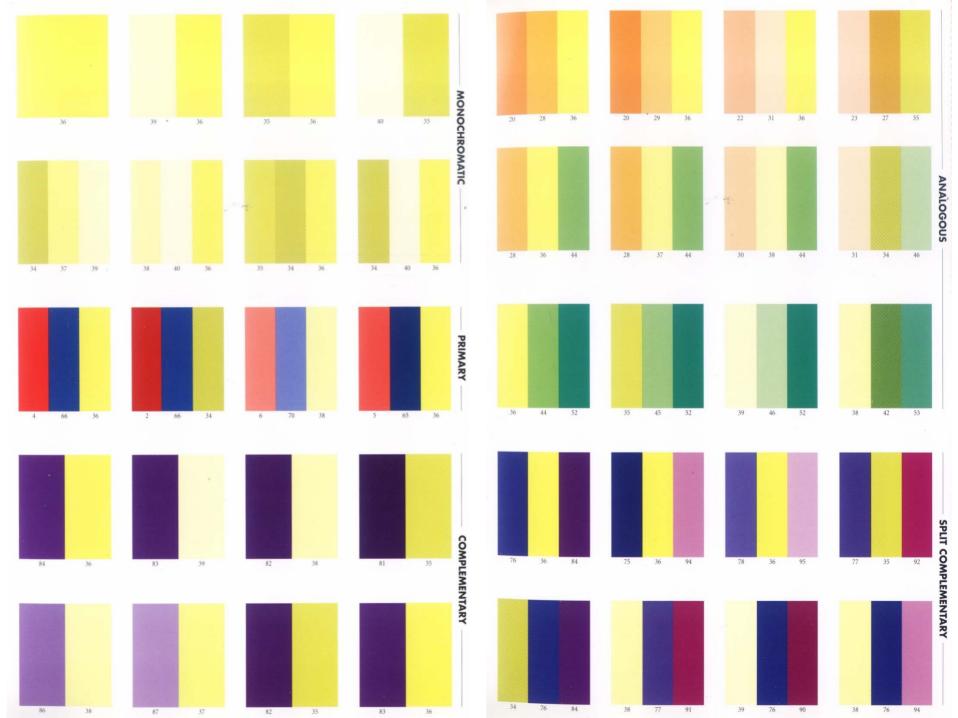


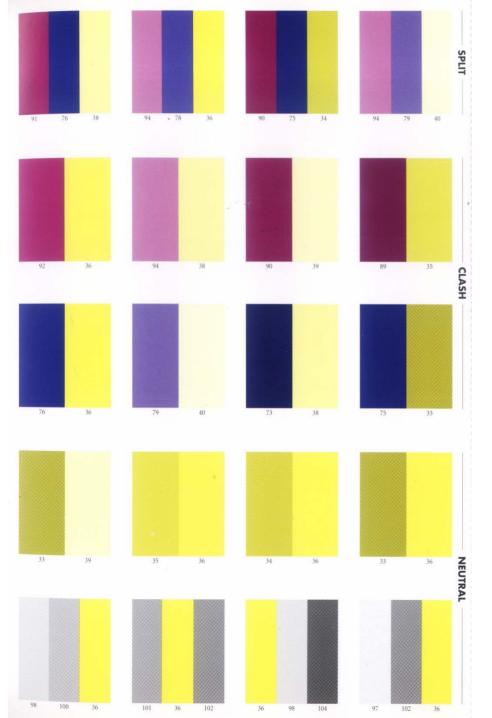






Atanas Karpeles Below As Above





Because of its quality of motion, a moving color scheme works well in design oriented towards sports or sporting goods.

Moving

INTERIOR DESIGN

Yellow is a great color for spaces where intellectual clarity and detail orientation is required—for example, in a home office.

ENERAL COLOR

For a sense of pure, uncomplicated warmth and energy, nothing beats a yellow hue in its clash and complementary palettes. And nothing looks lighter than yellow—the lightest of hues—against blue, the darkest of hues.

TIPS FOR COLOR SCHEMES

FINE ART

Because the eye follows yellow, artists can use a moving color scheme to direct the viewer's eye around a painting.

Elegant

The ultimate in restraint, the elegant color scheme is a graceful melding of the faintest tints, suffused with the warmth of palest yellow. In this tint, the active nature of yellow is mollified with white, which creates a creamy color that is the hands-down classic for interior walls; it has a reflective, expansive quality that seems to cast a room in a golden light. Classics in fashion—pearls, cashmere sweaters, even pale blond hair—are often found in the understated pastels of the elegant color scheme. There's a

translucent quality to the elegant color scheme; it hints of china and fine crystal, opulent sheer drapes, and whisper-thin linen. Intelligence, calm, and ease are projected by this color scheme, the ultimate in good taste. Even in complementary, split complementary, and clash variations, the elegant color scheme is never jarring, always maintaining a sense of harmony, clarity, and grace.

Desgrippes Gobe and Associates Ann Taylor Holiday shopping bag Bag manufacturer: Wright Packaging

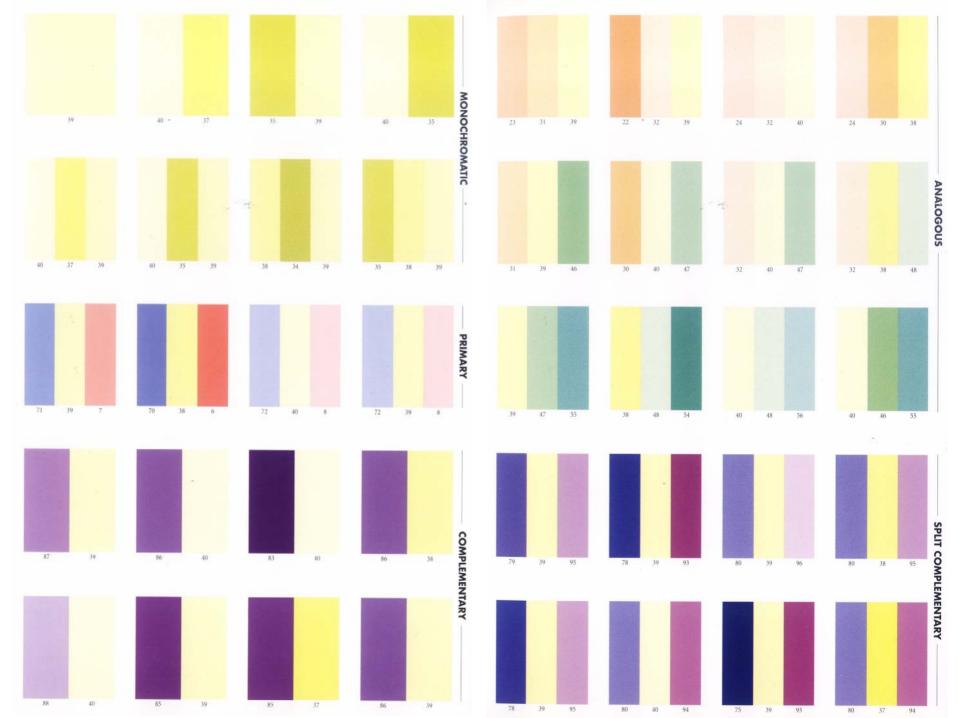


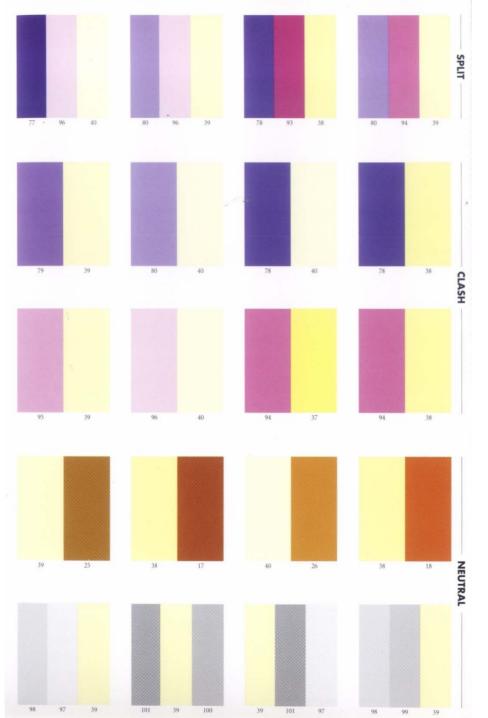






Design: Jessica Flynn Photo: Steve Vierra





Elegant

In the absence of much color, texture becomes a primary consideration. Fabrics, paints, and papers should have a fine visible texture to add tactile appeal.

INTERIOR DESIGN

When using an elegant color scheme, think translucent. That means sheer fabrics, glass, and Lucite furniture and accessories for interior design.

Whether used in interior design, graphic design, or fine arts, metallic gold lends an added touch of elegance that never seems too flamboyant with this color scheme. Just a touch—a gold frame, a gold-embossed business card—adds impact.

TIPS FOR COLOR SCHEMES

Fine artists will want to maintain the clarity of elegant colors by using thin washes of translucent watercolors; oil pastels are also a good choice, if not overworked.

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Fresh

A fresh color scheme revolves around the universally appealing secondary color, green. Green is a color associated with healing, prosperity, rebirth, harmony, tranquillity, and generosity. This lovely hue strikes a balance between warm and cool, and conveys the extroverted, communicative aspect of yellow with the peaceful, inspired effects of blue. A fresh color scheme is restful to the eye, giving a

sense of relaxed readiness and eternal spring. Because green is a hue that graciously recedes, other hues—particularly its complement, red—seem to advance and grow brighter in its presence. The fresh color palette recalls misty green islands, rain forests, pristine lawns, and fields of tulips. In its analogous palette, it suggests green hills above a blue-green ocean. The tender beauty of a natural environment is always evoked by this color scheme.

Design: Bierly-Drake Photo: Sam Gray

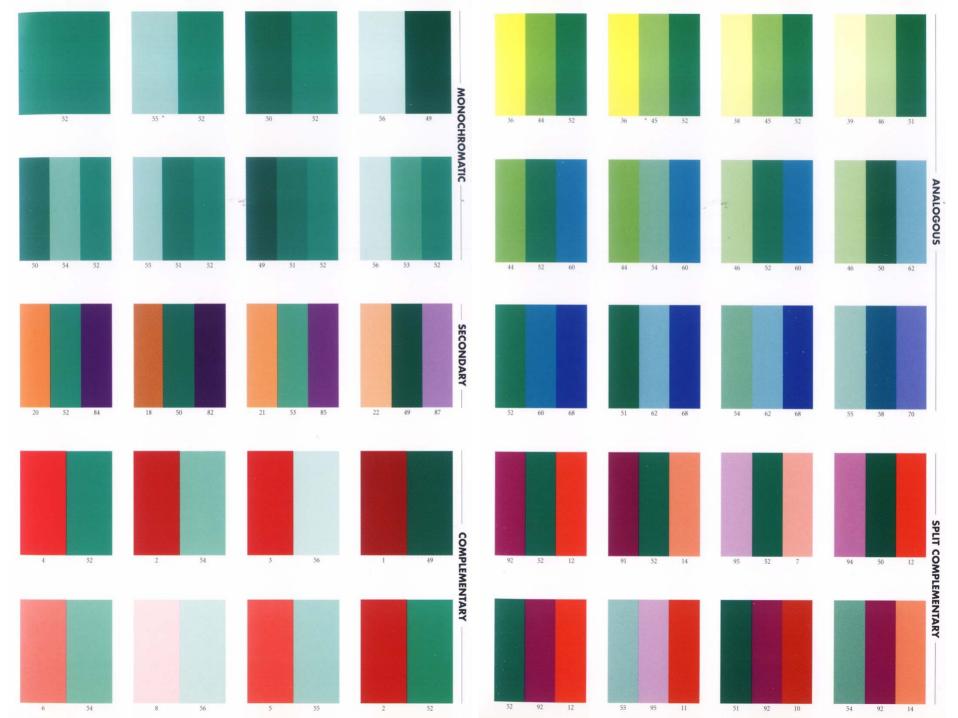


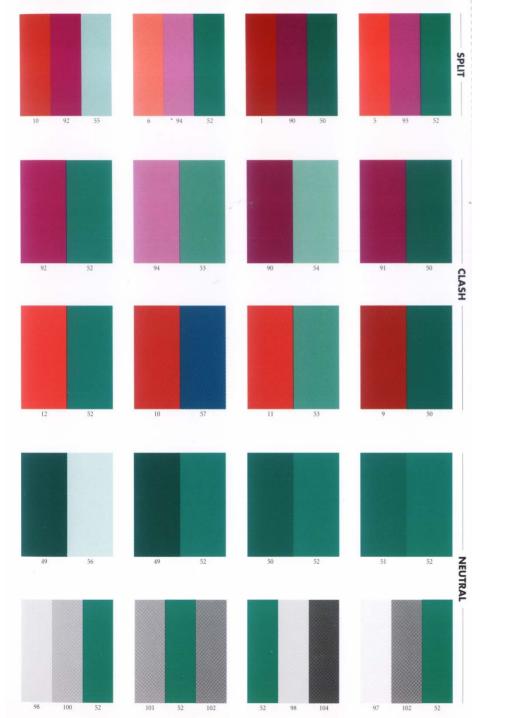






Kathy Shumway-Tunney Morning-Hill Top Park (1995)





TIPS FOR COLOR SCHEMES



GRAPHIC DESIGN

Graphic designers will find this color scheme excellent for projects involving ecology and nature.

INTERIOR DESIGN

In residential interiors, a fresh color scheme is good for bedrooms and bathrooms, owing to its sense of renewal and relaxation.

FINE ART

For fine artists, a fresh palette is an obvious choice for creating a spring-like mood. Because green tends to recede, consider adding a small amount of its complementary red hue to add energy to a painting or drawing.

Traditional

Traditional color schemes, with their deep, rich shades and tones, evoke a sense of history—it's as if these colors, darkened with age, have come straight out of a medieval tapestry. The shaded greens that anchor this color scheme combine the stability of black with the prosperous, regenerative aspect of green, evoking ancient evergreen forests. These shaded greens are "the color of money"—which may be why so many financial institutions are decorated in bottle green. There is a conservative,

yet precious, aspect to the traditional palette; it implies safety, inherited wealth, and old values. There is also a rather masculine edge to this color scheme. Beyond the use of dark greens in military uniforms, the more jewel-like traditional colors are those used in men's silk ties, the only color acceptable in a conservative man's wardrobe.

Even in their complementary and clash aspects, traditional colors blend seamlessly together, creating a pleasant backdrop that never calls attention to itself, as in the textiles and wallpaper of English designer William Morris, c. 1900. It is a classically "tasteful" color scheme.

Bombay Company Bombay Company shopping bag Bag manufacturer: Keenpac North America Ltd.

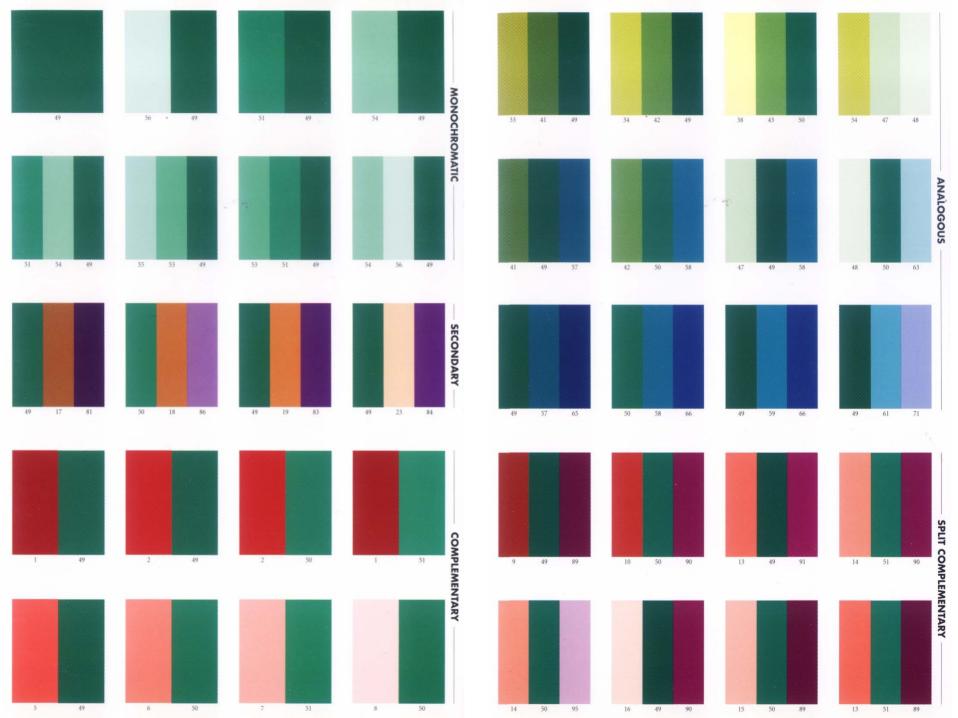


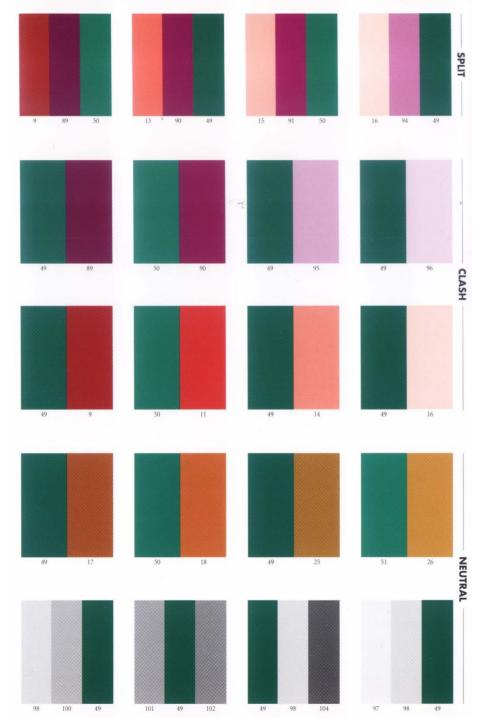






Design and Photo: Baker Furniture





The inherent mellowness of traditional colors allows them to blend with harmonious richness in carpets, textiles, and wallpaper.

Traditional

TIPS FOR COLOR SCHEMES



GRAPHIC DESIGN

In graphic design, a traditional color scheme implies age-old wealth, prudence, and conservatism—good for brokerage firms, traditional restaurants, booksellers, etc.

INTERIOR DESIGN

When combined with dark polished wood floors, furniture, or wainscoting, traditional colors give an interior the feeling of a hereditary manor—excellent for formal dining rooms, libraries, banks, etc.

FINE AR

Fine artists will find this palette useful in creating work that implies the ancient calm of nature, and for any work that requires a sense of history.

Refreshing

A refreshing color scheme always includes the clear, energetic color blue-green. An auspicious, youthful color, blue-green (also known as teal or aqua) has the calming, relaxing effect of blue but still contains a warm touch of yellow. Refreshing colors imply physical fitness, health, and mental clarity. As the name implies, aqua always suggests cool water, and in fact blue-green is the color of swimming pools. This is an expansive, happy color scheme, ideal for

bathrooms, bedrooms, and patios. Blue-green is considered to be one of the most healing colors. Particularly in combination with its complementary red-orange hue, teal suggests a desert oasis. When combined with white, it suggests an Aegean island, like Santorini.

A refreshing color scheme is contemporary, effervescent, cooling, rejuvenating, and energizing. It is frequently seen in design for sportswear (especially swimwear), cosmetic products for the bath, and glassware. The works of artists David Hockney, Helen Frankenthaler, and Richard Diebenkorn are identified with a refreshing palette.

Designer Fragrance Giorgio Armani/Acqua di Gio shopping bag

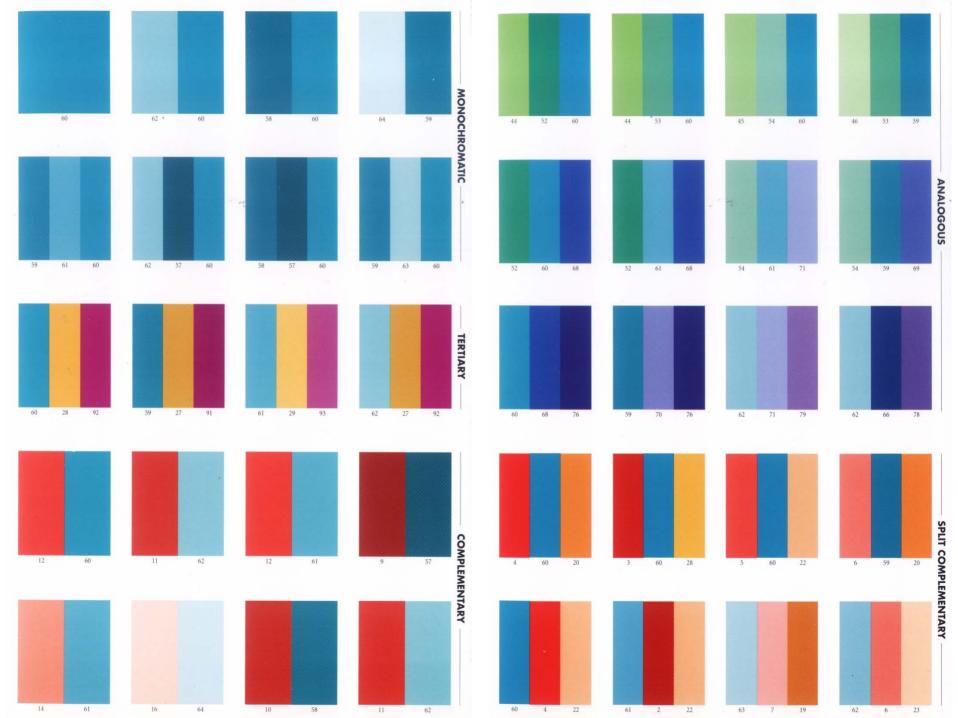


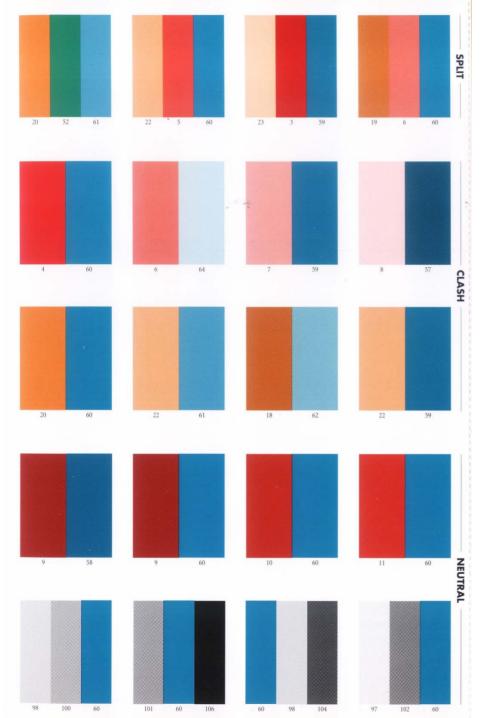


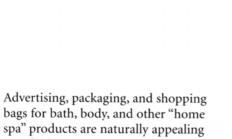




Design: Edith Socolow Window Series—Spring Thaw







INTERIOR DESIGN

In designing bathrooms, kitchens, and outdoor areas, glazed ceramic tiles in refreshing colors can add a year-round feeling of summertime relaxation.

FINE ART

In the fine and applied arts, refreshing colors—particularly teal—imply warm weather and water. Unlike most blues, blue-green doesn't recede, but has a distinctive and noticeable presence.

in refreshing colors.

Tropical

The tropical color scheme differs from the refreshing color scheme in the addition of white; the resultant pastels imply brilliant sunshine reflecting off water, flowers, and sandy beaches, with a feeling of light and transparency. These serene tints suggest island life at its most relaxing, filled with fragrant flowers, sun-bleached pastel houses, exotic fish, and frosty drinks imbibed in view of the ocean. Leisure and travel are certainly implied by the tropical color

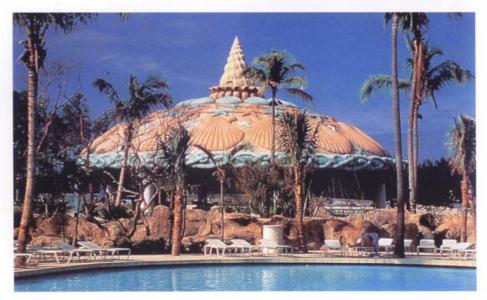
scheme; these are the exterior colors seen in many resorts, including Caribbean hot spots and the Art Deco hotels of Palm Beach.

This color scheme works well in virtually any interior, particularly when combined with the freshness of white. Soft, sensuous, and uncomplicated, this is a palette favored by artists who create optimistic work with large, cheerful forms; Henri Matisse's famous cut-out stencils were often executed in tropical colors. Joy, happiness, and carefree romance are also conveyed by the tropical color scheme.

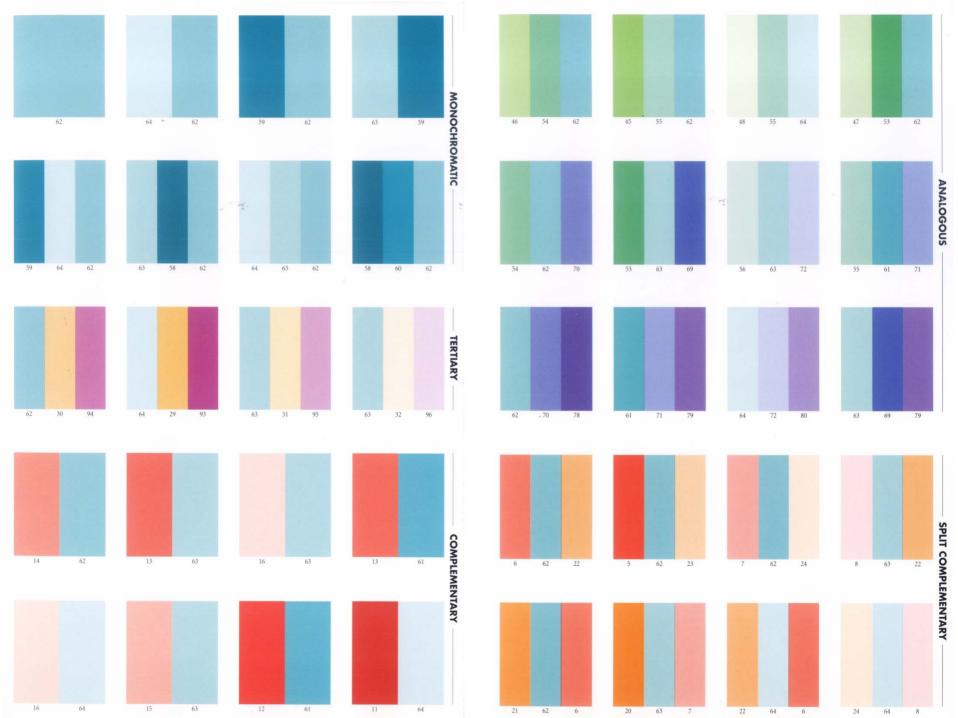
Pat Berger Bromeliad Medley

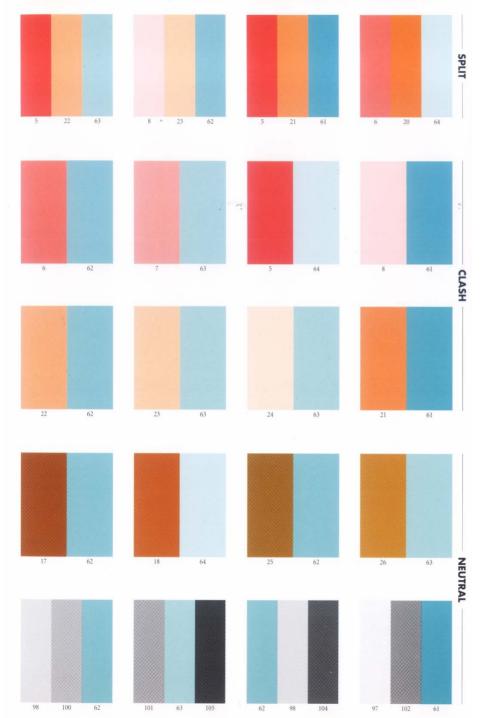






Atlantis, Paradise Island Resort & Casino Design: Wimberly, Allison, Tong & Goo Photo: courtesy Sun International





The lightness and transparency of tropical colors call out for translucent design materials: sheer see-through papers (perhaps printed in subtle half-tones) and loosely woven fabrics.

Tropical

TIPS FOR COLOR SCHEMES

Graphic designers will find tropical colors the natural choice for clients with travel and leisure businesses or for waterfront restaurants; and for massage therapists, aestheticians, and other "hands-on" clients.

INTERIOR DESIGN

Commercial interiors for casual, relaxed restaurants, sportswear boutiques, and hair salons or day spas are lightened by soothing tropical colors.

INE AR

Fine artists may find the delicious clarity of tropical colors most inspiring for collages, woven wall hangings, and color field paintings.

GRAPHIC DESIGN

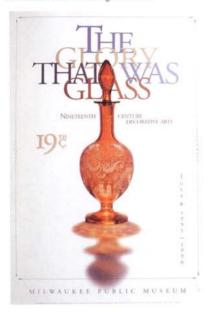
Classic

Classic color schemes imply power. They generally include the depth and intensity of a royal blue hue. This beautiful color is sober, strong, and spiritual. It implies a search for inner truths. Blue is the darkest of colors; its dense pigmentation suggests depth of personality and reserves of integrity, authority, poise, and dignity. It is interesting to note how many national flags contain this color of blue, which is said to inspire devotion. The expression "true blue"

illuminates the virtues of stability, faithfulness, and responsibility considered to be projected by this hue. Royal blue still contains a hint of green, making it more active and less heavy than a purer blue hue.

Classic color schemes project a sense of contemplative calm and tradition; they are therefore a good choice for decorating bedrooms, especially the master bedroom—the "seat of power." In the fine arts, royal blue is a color associated with shadow and twilight, frequently seen in the work of American illustrator Maxfield Parrish. This color scheme adds reserve and dignity to graphic design.

Becker Design Promotional Piece for Milwaukee Public Museum glass exhibit

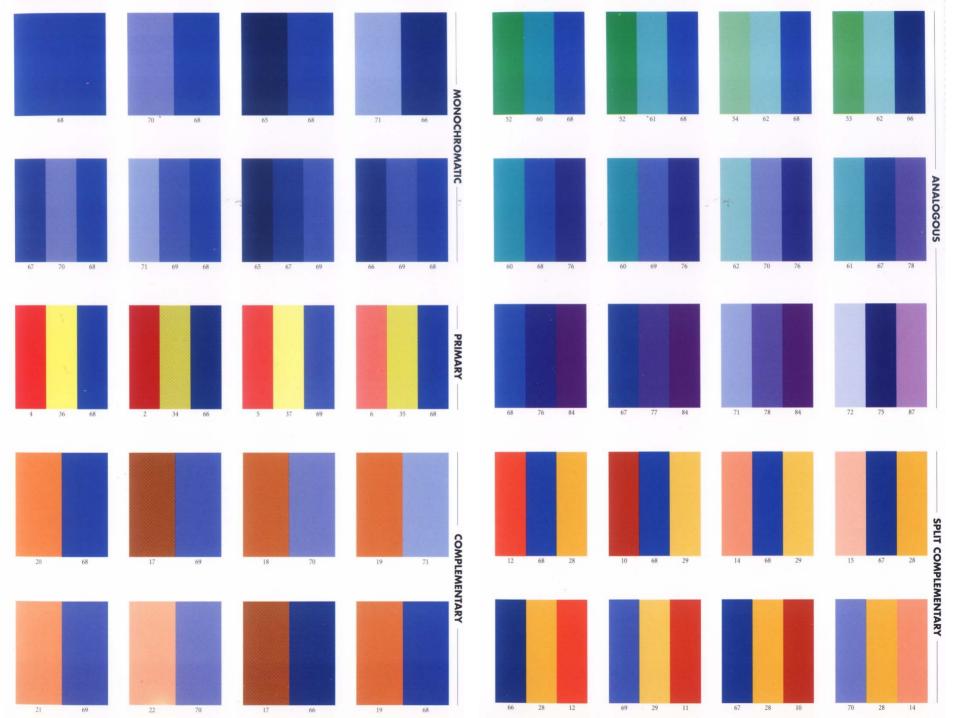


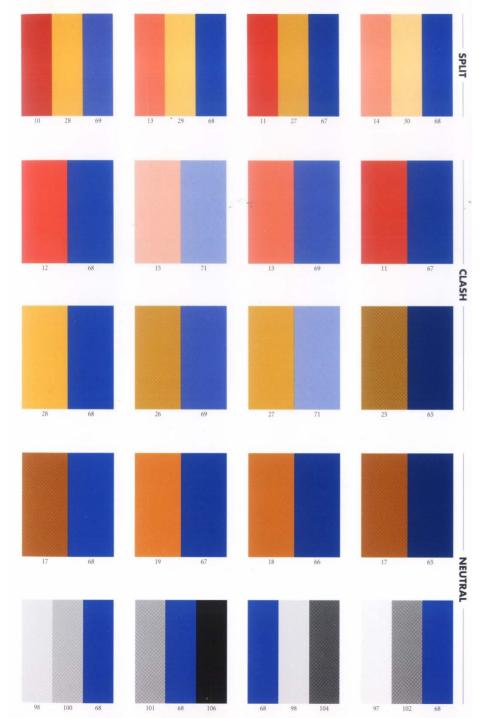


Joann A. Ballinger In the Light



Design: Maha Jano Interiors Photo: Beth Singer





The primary color scheme is a true classic for decorating children's bedrooms, and for books, toys, or other designs geared towards young children.

Classic

TIPS FOR COLOR SCHEMES



GRAPHIC DESIGN

Posters, packaging, and advertising that should project a sense of trustworthiness, tradition, and stability can benefit from a classic color scheme. INTERIOR DESIGN

The durable, livable nature of a classic color scheme makes it practical for residential interiors.

FINE ART

Fine artists and illustrators can create the illusion of deep shadows by using royal blue; its complementary and split complementary hues of orange, red-orange, and yellow-orange will create the sense of light.

Dependable

Navy blue is a sort of "adopted neutral" the world over—a color that conveys reliability, responsibility, and durability. Uniforms and work clothes are often a distinctive shade of navy or indigo; this is true of the attire of children in private schools, policemen, officers in the navy, the garb of Japanese farmers, and the blue jeans of American cowboys. The proletarian nature of indigo is in fact best expressed

by blue jeans, which have become an anti-elitist classic throughout the world. Honesty and value are implied by navy blue, as in the "blue-plate specials" offered by diner-style restaurants. A calm strength of will is projected by a dependable color scheme. Even beauty becomes dependable when this color scheme is used; ancient Ming vases and Wedgewood china, both considered reliably and eternally beautiful, are decorated in indigo blue.

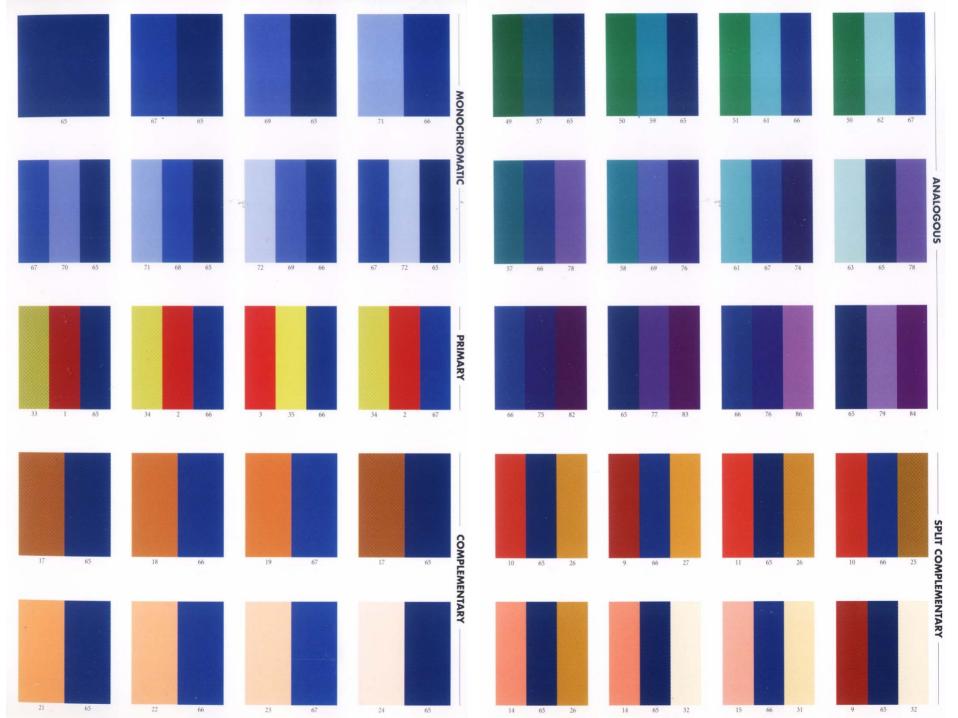


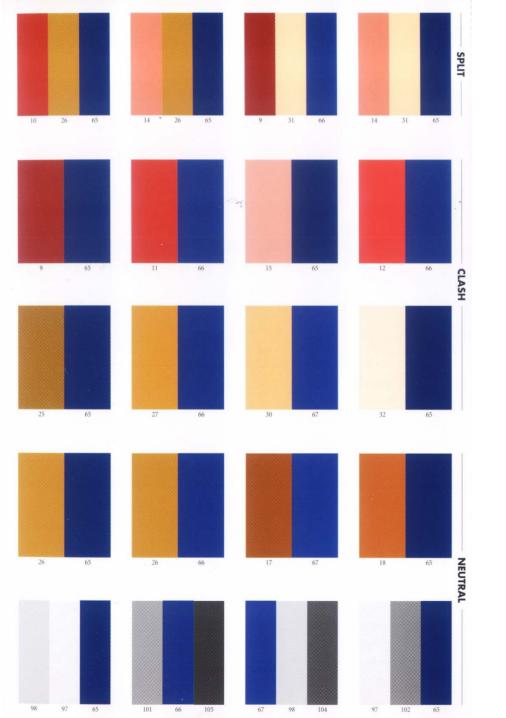






Patty Herscher Porcelaine





White accented with navy blue is a great color scheme; it has a fresh, approachable quality that makes it wonderful for daily-use items like dishes, tablecloths, towels, and sheets.

Dependable TIPS FOR COLOR SCHEMES

GRAPHIC DESIGN

In graphic design, a dependable color scheme will appeal to an older, more sober audience—good for annual reports, in advertising for the legal or medical professions, etc.

INTERIOR DESIGN

Dependable interior color schemes should include a substantial proportion of lighter, brighter, or pastel colors to keep them looking rich, as opposed to oppressive.

FINE ART

A dependable color scheme is a useful starting place for artists who want to create images that exemplify the nautical. Blues absorb light; hints of complementary orange will enliven a predominantly blue canvas.

Calm

Pale blue is a cooling, soothing tint and the basis of the calm color scheme. Blue actually reduces blood pressure and pulse, and respiration rates; arthritis sufferers, when exposed to blue light, found that their pain abated. The purity of white and the honesty and steadfastness of blue combine to form a blue tint that is considered to be a meditative color, one that communicates deep spiritual understanding and a soft-spoken integrity. The gentle flow of water, the cyclical nature of tides, and the infinite blue of a country sky are implied when a calm color scheme is used. Painting a bedroom pale blue can enhance its restful qualities; it can also encourage a sense of patience and contentment in whoever sleeps there. The complementary and split complementary hues of orange, yellow-orange and red-orange, lightened into tints with white, add a more determined, earthy strength to pale blue.

Turner Design

Easy Data Systems corporate identity

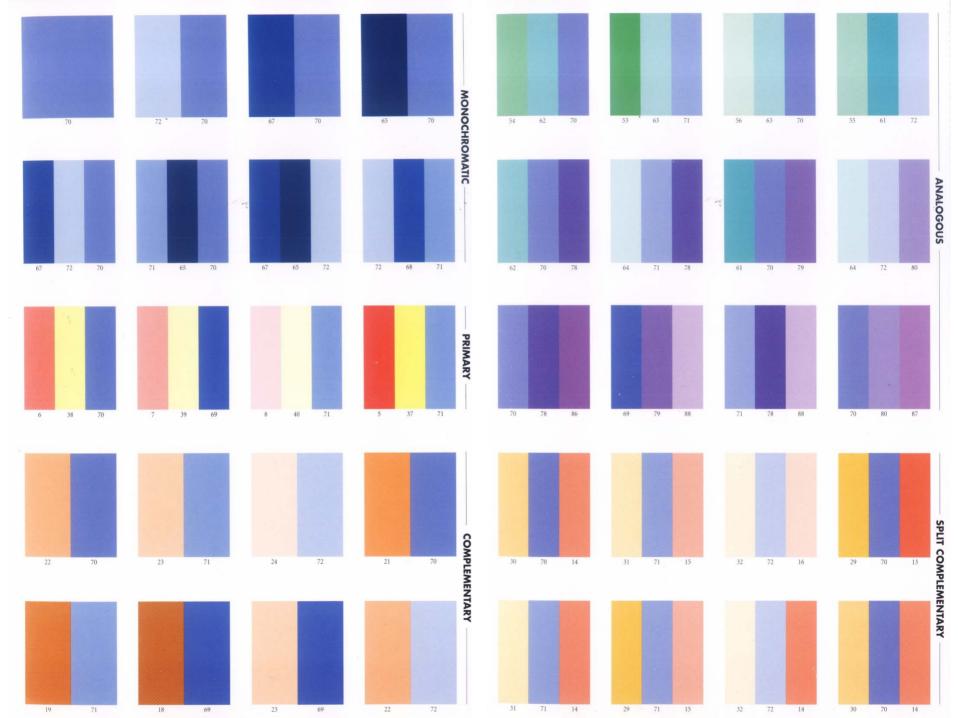


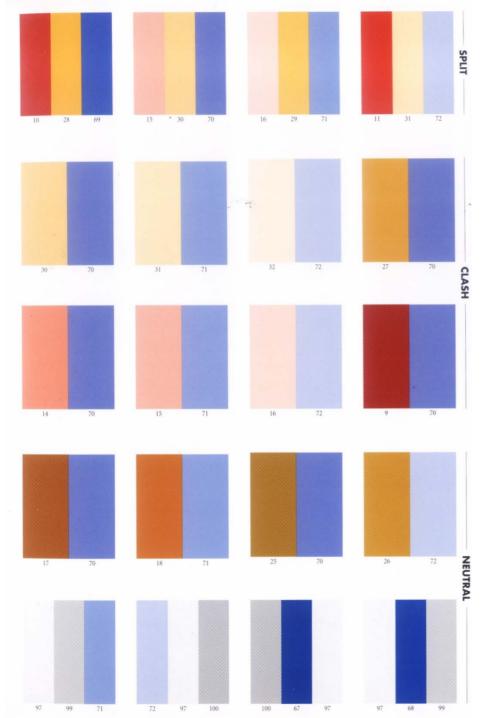






Donna Levinstone Season Suite 1





Split complementaries are a sophisticated, fresh combination with many uses in interior or graphic design.

Calm

TIPS FOR COLOR SCHEMES



GRAPHIC DESIGN

The calm color scheme is appealing for advertising and packaging involving high-end, relaxed clothing and accessories.

INTERIOR DESIGN

Calm colors are very pleasing in a bathroom, where they reinforce the soothing, therapeutic effects of bathing.

FINE ART

Calm colors provide a fine palette for portraits. A tender background color of blue causes peachy skin tones to advance from the picture plane.

Regal

A deep blue-violet, known as "the royal purple," has been a color associated with ruling power for millennia. Authoritative, strong, and courageous, it is a striking hue that is impossible to ignore. It brings to mind the plush, embroidered cloaks of European nobility and the rustle of rich gold-embroidered silks and taffetas. Blue-violet is the darkest hue on the color wheel, and looks its

most natural when combined with metallic gold, yellow-orange, or a fresh lemon yellow, all of which add light and sparkle.

Regal color schemes imply ancient and accustomed wealth, often with a slightly Eastern flavor, as if one's ancestors brought back precious carpets, textiles, and paintings from India or the Far East. Blue violet is the color of the finest sapphires, and there is a gemlike quality to regal colors that adds a precious, sensuous richness wherever they are used.

Planet Design Co.
Milwaukee Ballet season announcement

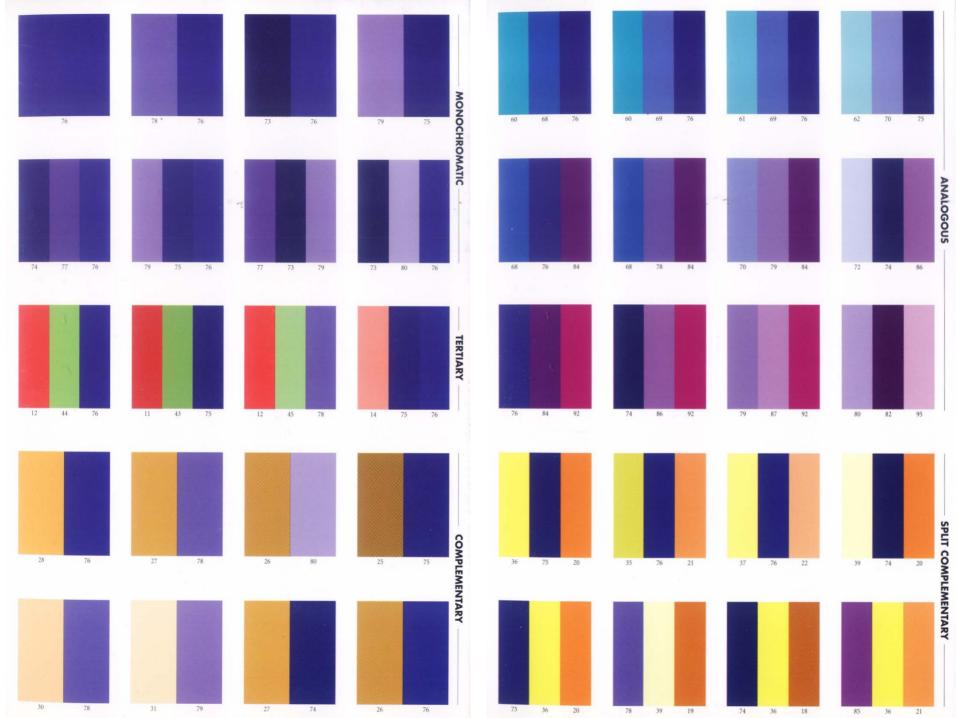


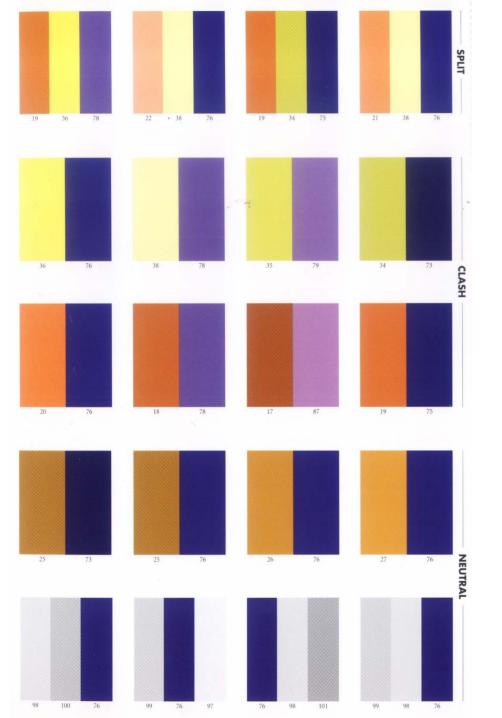






Design: Roxy Grey and Marcia Connor Photo: Steve Vierra





White, gold, and blue-violet are an elegant, authoritative color combination whether used in interiors, graphic design, or fine or applied arts.

Rega

TIPS FOR COLOR SCHEMES



GRAPHIC DESIGN

For graphic design, the richest papers—particularly those that include fleck of metal—support the saturation of a regal color scheme well.

INTERIOR DESIGN

Remember that painting a room blueviolet will diminish the contrast of its architectural details and make it seem darker—a blue-violet room should contain plenty of natural light.

FINE ART

For paintings that vibrate with deep emotional impact, the regal color scheme in split complementaries is unparalleled. It was a favorite of Van Gogh.

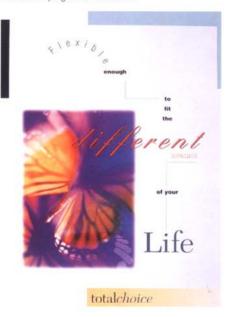
Magical

Rare, unpredictable, and fascinating are the colors of the magical scheme. A powerful violet hue, which combines the passion of red with the spiritual openness of blue, is a central hue to the magical palette. In China, deep violet-known as purple-is considered the most fortunate of colors, conveying the power to attract fortune, rank, and nobility. In esoteric literature, violet or purple is identified with the Third Eye, seat of intuitive knowledge. There is an active, childlike openness to violet, and magical

color schemes capitalize on this sense of fun; when paired with split complementaries like yelloworange or yellow-green, this childlike quality becomes broader and more clown-like.

Yellow is the true complement to violet, adding freshness and a sense of balance. The two hues bring out the beauty in each other, like the violet and yellow of a lovely iris. The offbeat combinations of the magical color scheme add a sense of the fantastic to any art, design, or interior.

Towers Perrin Rockford Health Systems new benefit program announcement

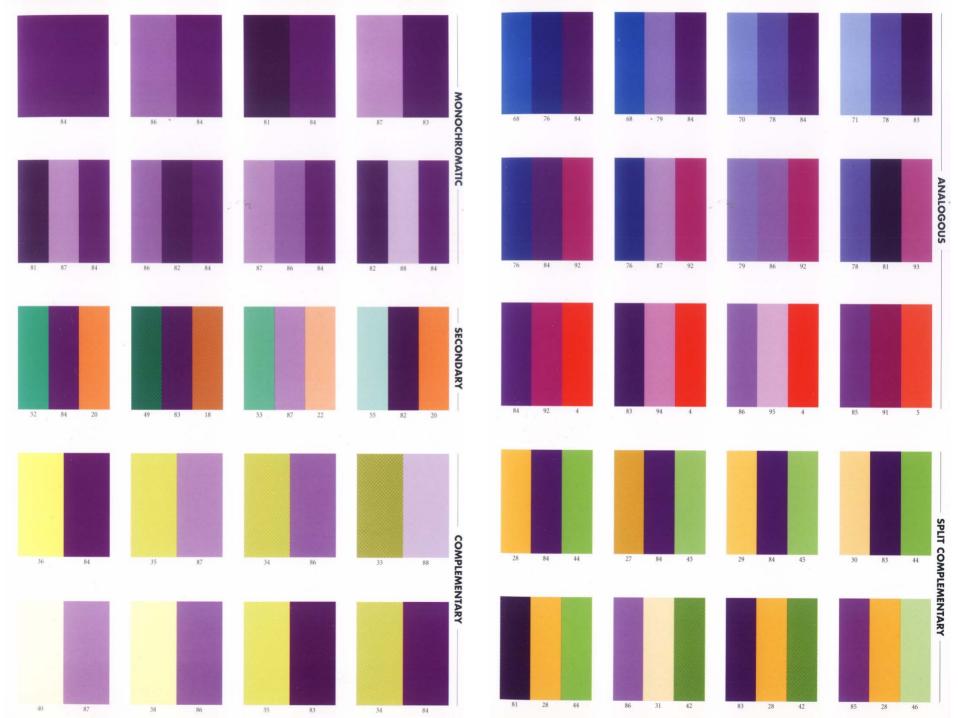


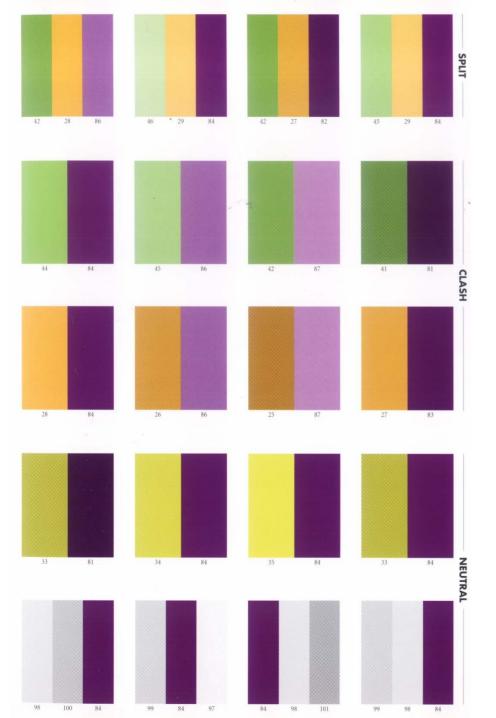


Design: Sara Zook Designs, Ltd. Photo: Andrew Kramer



Willena Jeane Belden Momentary Vision







GRAPHIC DESIGN

Magical colors, particularly in their more unusual analogous combinations, are well used in design advertising festive events—Mardi Gras, fiestas, etc. INTERIOR DESIGN

A sophisticated spin on magical colors can be achieved by using textiles that combine magical hues against walls with the palest touch of violet.

FINE ART

Ethereal, otherworldly visuals are most easily created (via paint, ink, pencil, or software) with magical colors.

Energetic

No color is as energetic as red-violet, which combines the penetrating nature of red with the inspiration of violet. Also called magenta or fuchsia, this outgoing hue seems to vibrate, especially when in contact with its complementary hue of yellow-green. The energetic color scheme is daring, bold, and enthusiastic, suggesting youthful high spirits and activity. It is avant-garde and exciting, the antithesis of tradition.

The energetic color scheme can be great for creating momentary excitement, but may be rather difficult to live with over the long term. It is therefore wonderful for graphic design, especially for invitations, reminder mailings, and self-promotion pieces, all of which have a short "shelf life" but should project maximum energy; interiors may require the balance of neutral gray tones. In the fine arts, energetic colors recall the Fauves, and create activity and movement in a painting, illustration, or collage.

Jo Moody Earrings

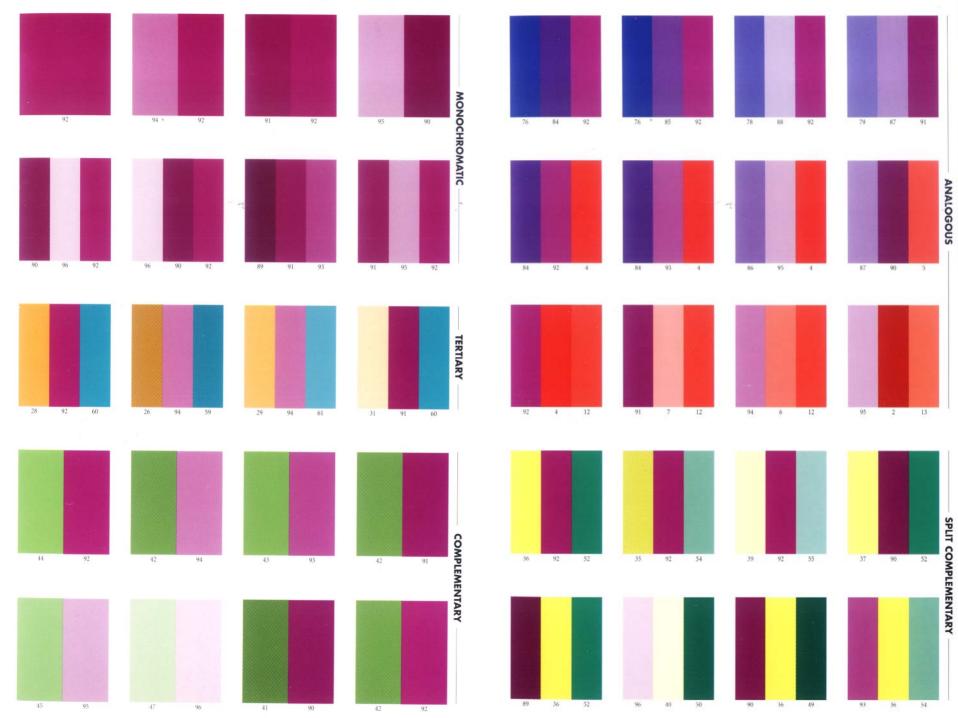


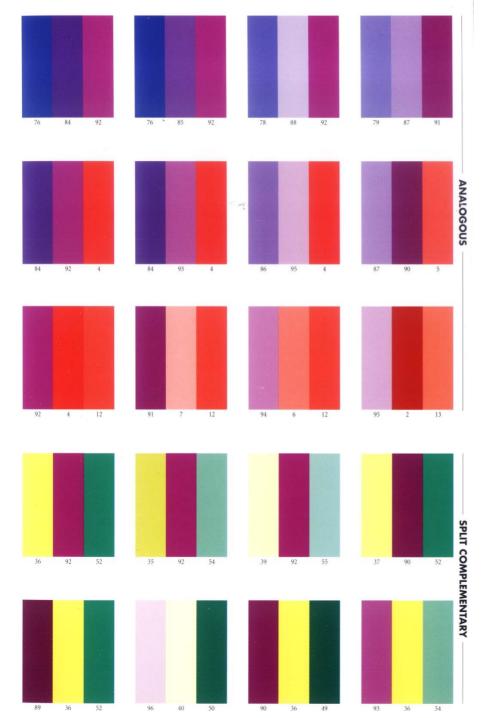


Tad Co., Ltd.
Kita's invitation for a store event (Client: I.D.K. Design)



Design: Carrie Brockman's Design Group





A humorous, youthful, sporty message is conveyed whenever an energetic color scheme is used.

Energetic

TIPS FOR COLOR SCHEMES



GRAPHIC DESIGN

Graphic designers will find energetic colors useful for packaging targeted at young, impulsive audiences; hair care packaging, for example, often features energetic hues against a black background.

INTERIOR DESIGN

In interior design, energetic colors must be used cleverly to be livable. Pale yellow or green walls stand up to fuchsia, while tonal gray and black helps to ground energetic hues.

FINE ART

Energetic colors imply speed and activity; fine artists can add a moving quality to paintings with a few gestural dashes of magenta and chartreuse oil stick.

Subdued

Subdued colors are those that are muted with the addition of neutral gray and/or white. Subtlety is their keynote; they are low in contrast, and the emotional impact of their original hues is dampened. These are the colors beloved of Impressionist painters of the 19th century, including Berthe Morisot and Mary Cassatt, for they seem to hint delicately at shape, light, and movement. Mauve is the color most often seen in a subdued color scheme; a grayed tonal aspect of passionate

magenta, it is a soft and retiring color, which conveys a bit of wistful longing. Perhaps that is why Victorian widows wore black for one year after their spouse's death and, subsequently, adopted mauve. When combined with its complementary green and yellow tones, mauve takes on a more lively aspect.

There is a faintly retro feeling to mauve, whether it is used in art or design. It calls up the Art Deco period of the 1920s and '30s, as well as the more recent Post Modern design of the 1980s.



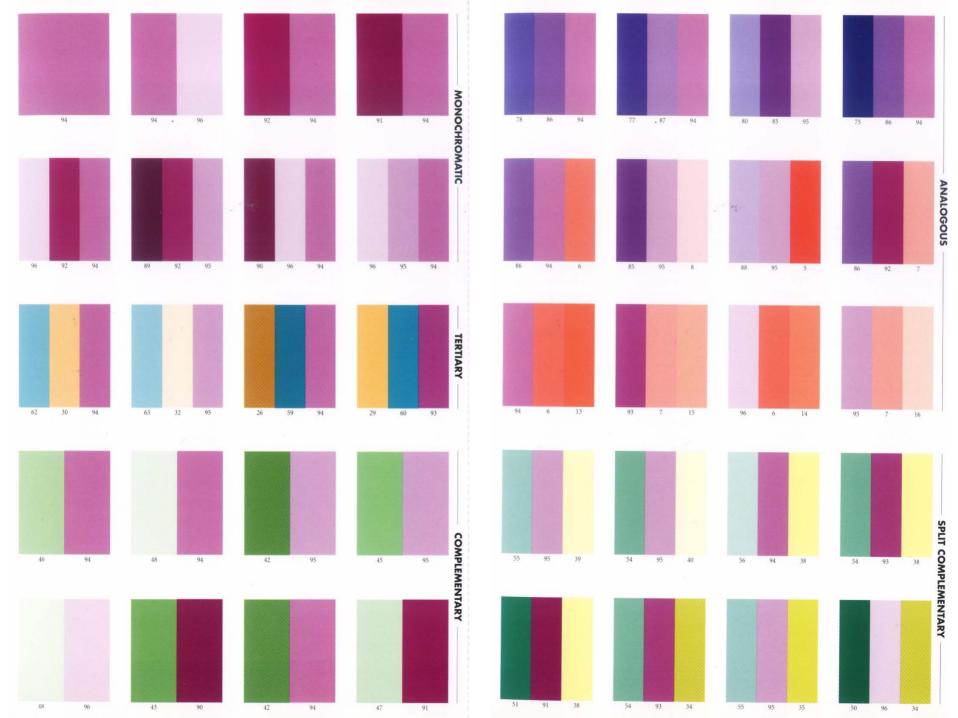
Pamela G. Allnutt The Coming of Winter

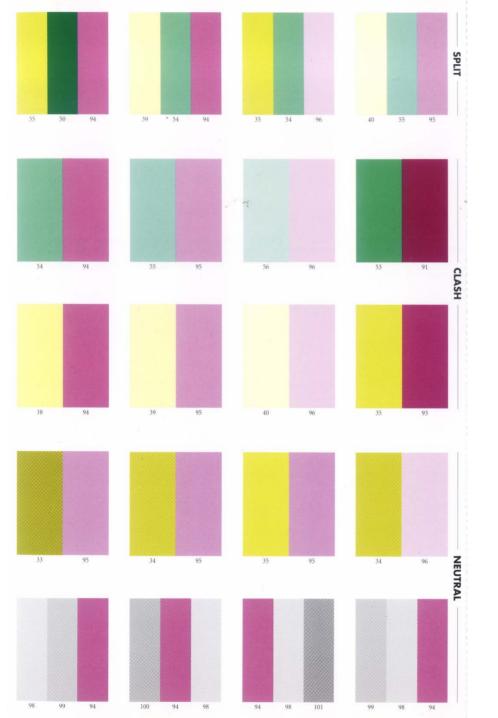


Design and Photo: Bedroom by Cassina

Joseph Rattan Design
The Dallas Children's Theater
concert promotion







Subdued colors are rather feminine; a good choice for a woman's personal stationery or business card.

Subdued

INTERIOR DESIGN

The grayness of subdued colors, particularly mauve, can be unflattering to many skin tones; if using mauve in interior design, be sure the lighting has a compensatory warmth.

NE ART

Fine artists will find that using subdued colors adds a quality of longing to paintings or drawings.

Subdued colors are rather withdrawn. Whenever they are used, remember that complementary and split complementary combinations keep mauve from becoming too passive.

TIPS FOR COLOR SCHEMES

Professional

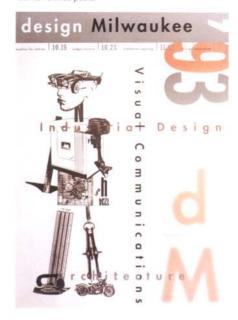
The classic professional attire? It is, of course, the gray flannel suit—and gray is therefore central to the professional color scheme. Gray is a serious, sober, no-nonsense neutral that communicates that the wearer is willing to give up an ego-driven sense of self to be part of a greater "team." It is anonymous, silent, and receptive . . . all qualities that make it an ideal ground on which to lay other, brilliant colors. There is an industrial aspect to the professional color scheme, making it a popular interior color scheme for office buildings. This is a color

scheme that suggests an analytical, emotionally cool atmosphere; it is distinctively of the 20th century, and is in fact instantly identifiable as the color scheme used in posters and graphics since the early 1900s (for example, in early Soviet art and graphics). An achromatic palette allows any color present to take on additional vibrancy. In the fine arts, the professional color scheme has often been used for abstract paintings; in representational work, it often indicates a wet, foggy, or stormy environment.

Planet Design Co.

Design Milwaukee

call for entries poster

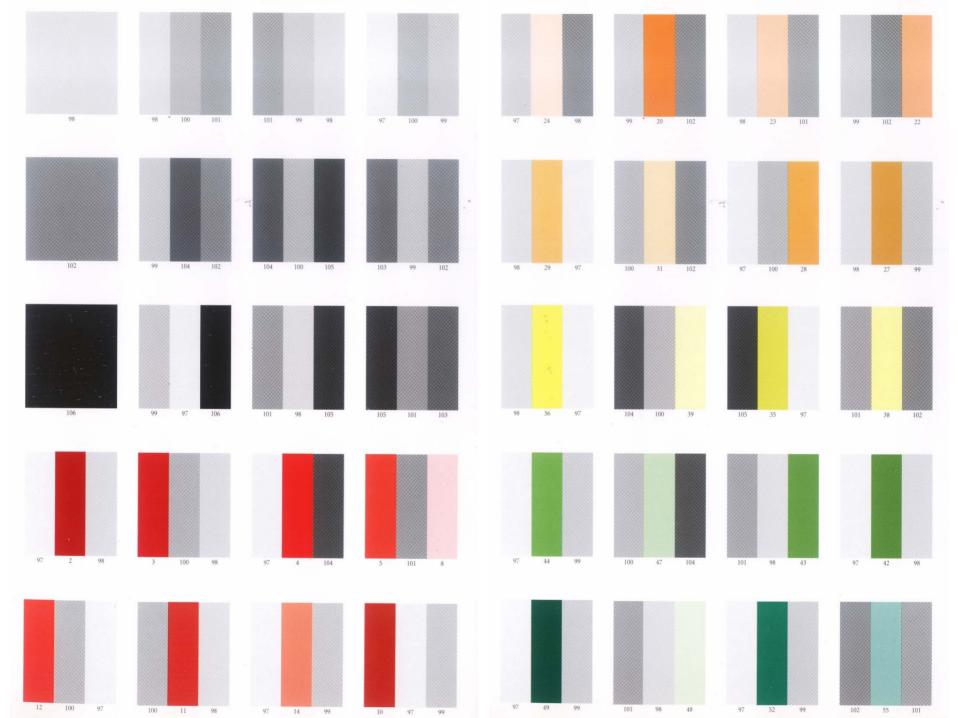


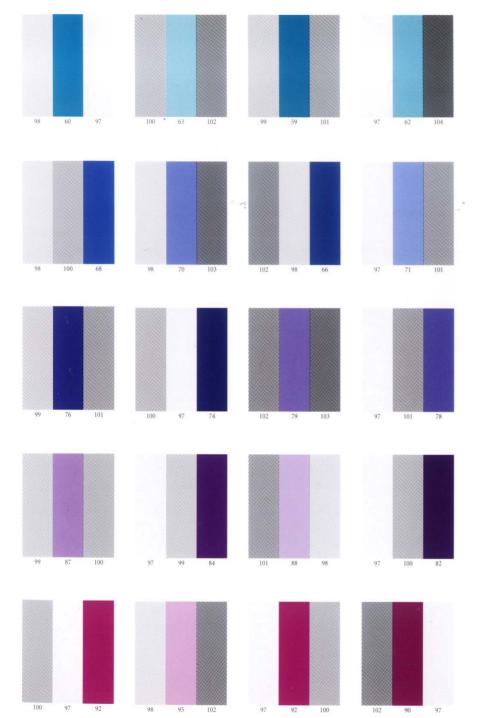






Donald L. Berry Commuters





INTERIOR DESIGN

While the professional color scheme is excellent for environments that should be "clean" and unemotional a design studio, a living room — it may be too cold and hard-edged for a bedroom or bathroom.

Professional colors imply the industrial, mechanical, and "modern." These colors recall the heroic look of Russian Constructivist paintings and the Machine Age.

FINE ART

Because of their inherent neutrality, professional colors can be used to showcase brilliantly colored items. Try using them on walls, backgrounds, and backdrops.

Professional

TIPS FOR COLOR SCHEMES

single color.

Process Color Conversion Chart

	Color No.	Cyan	Magenta M	Yellow	Black K	-	Colo No.		Magenta M	Yellow	Black K	Color No.	Cyan	Magenta M	Yellow	Black K
	1	0	100	100	45		37	0	0	80	0	73	100	90	0	45
100	2	0	100	100	25		38	0	0	60	0	74	100	90	0	25
	3	0	100	100	15		39	0	0	40	0	75	100	90	0	15
	4	0	100	100	0		40	0	0	25	0	76	100	90	0	0
	5	0	85	70	0		41	60	0	100	45	77	85	80	0	0
100	6	0	65	50	0		42	60	0	100	25	78	75	65	0	0
	7	0	45	30	0		43	60	0	100	15	79	60	55	0	0
	8	0	20	10	0		44	60	0	100	0	80	45	40	0	0
	9	0	90	80	45		45	50	0	80	0	81	80	100	0	45
	10	0	90	80	25		46	35	0	60	0	82	80	100	0	25
1	11	0	90	80	15		47	25	0	40	0	83	80	100	0	15
	12	0	90	80	0		48	12	0	20	0	84	80	100	0	0
	13	0	70	65	0		49	100	0	90	45	85	65	85	0	0
	14	0	55	50	0		50	100	0	90	25	86	55	65	0	0
	15	0	40	35	0		51	100	0	90	15	87	40	50	0	0
	16	0	20	20	0		52	100	0	90	0	88	25	30	0	0
100	17	0	60	100	45		53	80	0	75	0	89	40	100	0	45
100	18	0	60	100	25		54	60	0	55	0	90	40	100	0	25
	19	0	60	100	15		55	45	0	35	0	91	40	100	0	15
	20	0	60	100	0		56	25	0	20	0	92	40	100	0	0
	21	0	50	80	0		57	100	0	40	45	93	35	80	0	0
	22	0	40	60	0		58	100	0	40	25	94	25	60	0	0
	23	0	25	40	0		59	100	0	40	15	95	20	40	0	0
	24	0	15	20	0		60	100	0	40	0	96	10	20	0	0
	25	0	40	100	45		61	80	0	30	0	97	0	0	0	10
100	26	0	40	100	25		62	60	0	25	0	98	0	0	0	20
100	27	0	40	100	15		63	45	0	20	0	99	0	0	0	30
	28	0	40	100	0		64	25	0	10	0	100	0	0	0	35
-	29	0	30	80	0		65	100	60	0	45	101	0	0	0	45
	30	0	25	60	0		66	100	60	0	25	102	0	0	0	55
	31	0	15	40	0		67	100	60	0	15	103	0	0	0	65
	32	0	10	20	0		68	100	60	0	0	104	0	0	0	75
100	33	0	0	100	45		69	85	50	0	0	105	0	. 0	0	85
	34	0	0	100	25		70	65	40	0	0	106	0	0	0	100
	35	0	0	100	15		71	50	25	0	0					
	36	0	0	100	0		72	30	15	0	0					

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