

# choosing BLUE

Color You Can  
Live With



Stephanie Hoppen

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANDREAS VON EINSIEDEL

## The Ice Blues

Paint texture can contribute as much to a room as color. Icy, shiny blues will give you a bit of a chill, while pale chalky flat finishes are warmer. Chalky shades have a receding quality that makes a room seem spacious and lively. Chalky creams look good with pale duck-egg blues. Beware of brilliant whites, they make the blues look "yesterday."

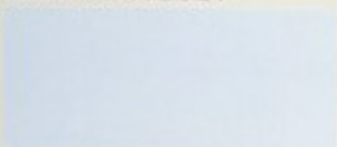
BENJAMIN MOORE SUMMER SHOWER 2135-60



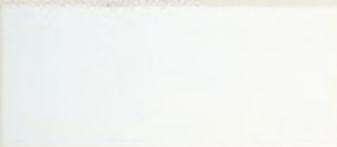
FRANCESCA'S PAINTS MOTHER OF PEARL



FRANCESCA'S PAINTS SALT LAKE 1

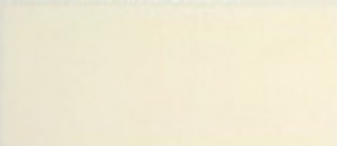


FRANCESCA'S PAINTS GALINA 1

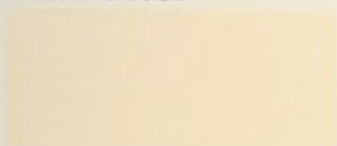


To go with ice, the neutrals:

BENJAMIN MOORE CREAM 2159-60



FRANCESCA'S PAINTS CREAM



BY JASON BELL

Blue is the color of the decade. Lately, I've been using blue in most of my projects and I find that at least 70% of my clients lean towards some range of blue when doing their homes. There is nothing more soothing than waking up to a pale blue room, seeing the shadows cast from leafy trees outside that flutter on the interior walls. The kaleidoscope of blues created from a situation like this is extraordinary.

Ice blues are the most soothing of all to me, as well as the most difficult to work with as it's easy to overpower them. I like to stay in the paler green family to accent ice blues—I like to use mints. Whites work with almost all blues; the yellow whites seem to make the icy blue appear dirty. Grass green accents in small doses incorporate a fun flair.

As a general note on blue, I think one of the most important rules to stick to when using them is the following: test, test, and test, before applying. Due to the abundant amount of blue light that we get from the skies above us, all shades of blue are going to show up differently in different rooms. The moving sun and its warm light can make one shade of blue look like different colors on each of the walls in the same room. It is best to test a blue in the actual room where it will go, as you can tell how the natural light is going to affect the color at different times of the day. Then you can observe the changes with every passing hour of light.

A pale blue room gets stronger with each wall that is coated, so test it first, then observe it. Be willing to cut the blue by mixing it 50/50 with white to achieve what you think you were going for in the beginning.

Jason  
Bell

[opposite] This dining area has been kept light and airy in order not to take up visual space. The icy blue walls make a fantastic backdrop for the black-and-white photographs and the delicate iron furniture. Against white, this arrangement would seem stark and dated; against blue it is modern and sculptural.