

# Perfect Neutrals

COLOR YOU CAN LIVE WITH



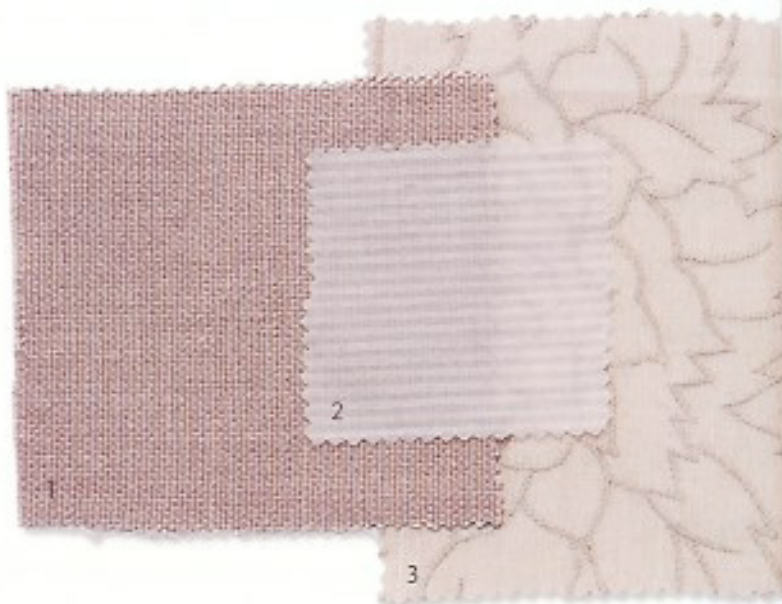
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PHOTOGRAPHY BY LUKE WHITE



## CELADON TO PISTACHIO SWATCH GUIDE

Working within this color scheme creates a very different look that is fresh and interesting. It is perfect for elegant, grown-up interiors. Flooring should be understated, such as fine wool carpet in a soft greenish beige (11) or simple cream tile (4). The pale celadon marble (6) is very grand and would make a wonderful top for a console table. Shagreen wallpaper (7) brings texture to the walls, while fabrics in different weights, textures, and self-patterns (3 and 14) can be layered throughout a room. The fine off-white linen with a narrow self-stripe (2) is ideal for curtains or shades, while the oatmeal linen (1) is perfect for upholstery. The paper fabric (13) offers a soft and easy way to use lime green, whereas the slightly more acid-green herringbone (10) is more adventurous and would look lovely with the silk check (8). The gorgeous leaf-patterned silk (12),



used sparingly, adds a grown-up touch. In contrast, the ostrich (9) is very daring but would make great textural scatter cushions. The large embroidered flower (5) would make a beautiful center for a cushion or chair back.

Once you have created a perfect “Zen” environment, it is time to bring in more color and depth and a little excitement. For upholstered furniture I love the idea of having one set of slipcovers for summer and one for winter; it’s such an easy way to alter the mood of a room. Perhaps a heavy linen in a darker shade of green for the walls and floor for summer and a dark sage green for winter? A green patterned paisley wool throw over the arm or back of a sofa gives instant warmth, while cushions in different shades of green can also add a different dimension.

This calm, quiet look is wonderful with Chinese furniture, as the dark wood is a perfect foil for the celadon color scheme. Add an item or two in Chinese lacquer as accent, and the effect will be exciting yet at the same time peaceful and elegant. And finally, however contemporary your room, remember to add a vintage touch—it will serve to “ground” your room perfectly.

## JASON BELL'S TOP TIPS

- Never try to match every element or piece of furniture in the same color. Take your base color and move up and down the various shades within that spectrum. Always remember the importance of texture.
- Terracotta is my favorite accent for the celadon to pistachio spectrum.
- Choose a style that suits you and your lifestyle. Buy a favorite interiors magazine for three months and mark every page you like. Look again after three months and a pattern of what you really like will emerge.

