Home Furnishings Forecast 2003

In the world of home furnishings, words such as "extravagant" and "shock value" have been replaced by "real" and "comforting." The palettes for 2003 show a decided movement to home as haven and a calming of color, resulting in many more light, midtone and deepened shades. While three of the groupings sparkle with some vibrancy, they are often set against a background of more restrained neutral and/or classic colors.

Connections

With many Americans seeking a sense of connection to each other as well as to the past, many will feel comforted by a palette that suggests linkage, steeped in heritage and history, a literal patchwork of traditional colors. Styles may vary from classic to country, but the colors remain true to traditional, including deepened blues and denim blues, hunter greens, garnet reds, winter whites and warm, welcoming golden yellows.



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Retrospective

Another theme that is reminiscent of the more recent past, yet often done with a contemporary flair, this *Retrospective* palette that is inspired by mid 20th century décor represents the continuing movement to the muted mid-tones that are suggestive of softer edges and vintage fabrics—the blurred images of colors that seem to exist only in memory. Notable shadings are rosy taupes, light mahogany, misty grays, muted greens and pearl blues.



Discretion

Discretion speaks of all things organic or mineral in nature. Featured are earth-friendly colors that are the antithesis of artificiality in treatments such as woven basketry, worn or weathered finishes and simple motifs. Inspired by the ancient Japanese art of wabi-sabi and rooted in an appreciation of natural elements, the designs and colors are modest, familiar, lacking pretension, low keyed and long-lived. Included in this palette are earth reds and browns, weathered blue-purples, ochre, spruce blues, ashy woodtones and sage greens.



Diversity

Just as the name implies, *Diversity* celebrates the variety of ethnic groups within our borders. A kaleidoscope of vivacious color, this palette is tempered by a backdrop of deep rich shades and warm neutrals, resulting in a marriage of multi-faceted, often complex folkloric mixtures composed of dusty oranges, mineral yellows, shades of spice and ebony used in tandem with vibrant fuchsia, sultry reds or bright blues.



Elan

Elan is a happy, youthful palette that expresses a sense of "joie de vivre." Evocative of delectable tastes and floral scents, these not-quite-brights inspire unique and whimsical combinations such as endive and cyclamen, sweet pea and primrose yellow, peach blossom and taffy tan. Easter egg shades are teamed with creamy caramel colors, providing a novel and imaginative direction for future.



Renewal

Renewal offers a revitalizing palette of both warm and cool greens, as in a splash of turquoise blue-green emanating from the sea, combined with warm herbal greens emerging from earth. The greens may be intriguingly underscored by misted or mossy grays, or combined with sunny lime tones that provide a fresh and creative approach to the gregarious greens.



Moderno

A theme that displays modern, uncluttered design, *Moderno* may also incorporate classical touches, especially in subtle shadings of walnut brown, regal blue, plum and ash purples. It is a palette that reflects an eclectic dichotomy of tastes as displayed in metallic glints of both burnished champagne beige and sleek futuristic silver that are used as accent.



Enlightenment

The ultimately peaceful palette, *Enlightenment* symbolizes the need to return to innocence—a clear, clean and uncomplicated palette infused with a soft filtered light. Colors are either pristine and pure whites or the quietest of pastels with just a hint of tint. The names of many of the colors tell of their hushed and soothing atmosphere: Rosewater, Turtledove, Spa Blue, Jade Green, Transparent Yellow and Summer Shower.

