



What Color is Comfort?

Written by F. Justin Ossmann

Whether you are living in a home or looking to sell the house, appearances are everything. With the former, you must be comfortable with the way your home looks, from the furniture adorning each room down to the actual color of paint used on the walls. With the latter, you want your house to leave a memorable—and positive—impact on potential homebuyers. In both cases, room arrangement and furniture are important to the overall plan. But no less important are the colors garnishing your walls, trim and even possessions. You need colors that look good, but you also need to be comfortable with your color choices.



“One of the reasons why most people find it so hard to choose color is that most people don’t understand the process,” explains Brenda Smith, with Interiors By Design. “It’s not just a matter of finding a color that you like and throwing it up on the wall. You have to take other factors into consideration. And just because a color looks great in the store, that doesn’t mean it will look great in your home.”

In order to choose the right color combinations for your interior or exterior, Brenda first recommends a brief understanding of color wheels and color schemes. There are three basic color schemes. In monochromatic schemes, all colors are the same hue but different values (all shades of gray, for example, or combinations of brown, taupe and sepia). Analogous colors are next to each other on the color wheel, and thus are similar, such as blue and green. Finally, complimentary colors are located opposite from one another on the color wheel, and provide eye-pleasing contrasts and exciting color combinations.

“Monochromatic color schemes work well in contemporary homes, but they don’t work well with traditional architecture,” adds Brenda. “I also recommend that, whatever color scheme you choose, you should always put something black in every room,” adds Brenda. “Black anchors all of the colors in the room. I recommend using a black lampshade, a black vase or a black picture frame, for examples.” Brenda also suggests that, when choosing your colors, start with the formal areas of the house first (the living room, dining room and entryway, et cetera), pulling one color from the scheme and using that color as an accent in other rooms such as the den, office or bedroom.

Brenda is more than just a color specialist or decorator. For more than five years, Brenda has served the residents of Charlotte, Lee and Sarasota Counties with

her unique vision of interior decorating, redesigning and staging homes to sell. She is an Interior Decorator, certified Interior Redesigner and Real Estate Stager. She is a member of the Interior Design Society (IDS), the Interior Redesign Industry Specialists (IRIS) and the Real Estate Staging Association (RESA). And with the new Interiors By Design store in Punta Gorda, Brenda can offer customers custom window treatments, drapery hardware, plantation shutters, blinds or just about anything else that they might need to decorate their home.

Nevertheless, the first step in preparing your home for residence or sale is to find the right combination of colors that looks right and feels right to the homeowner. “Color creates a mood, and if you don’t have the right mood, your home can look chaotic and uncomfortable,” says Brenda. “Don’t go overboard with your color. If you love a particular combination, use it sparingly. Use neutral colors for upholstered furniture and wall-to-wall carpeting, and then use small doses of color as an accent. There are many different factors to address when choosing color, and this is why people fall short in painting their homes. But I can help advise clients to find the most comfortable colors and color schemes possible.”

Interiors By Design is located at 318 Tamiami Trail, Suite 219, in Punta Gorda at the corner of Virginia Avenue and US 41. The store is open Monday through Friday. For more information, please call (941) 621-2074 or visit www.brendasinteriorsbydesign.com.

