Colors for the

In photos here and at right, the entry furniture stays the same, but wall colors change. Here: Green Felicity, Teal Thyme. Right: Melon Yellow, Redmond.
painting a room is both the easiest and the hardest way to freshen your home. It’s easy because you just need a brush and some pigment to change the color of a wall; hard because the vast array of color choices can be overwhelming. To make the selection simpler, we present Sunset’s Centennial Color Palette. We hired color consultant and author Jill Pilaroscia to help us select a range of colors most appropriate for the West—hues that are keyed to nature and easy indoor-outdoor living, and that take advantage of the strong, clear light. Together, we came up with 50 paint colors that range from warm and bold to cool and subtle; they’re all shown on these six pages. As Pilaroscia says: “We’ve done the editing for the homeowner. These colors really work. Now there’s no need to be traumatized by 350 shades of blue.” To illustrate ways to use our palette, we created a stage set at the San Francisco Design Center. The set included an entry, a dining room, and a hallway, with a total of seven walls to be covered. We painted the same space in two different color schemes: one showcasing cool and subtle colors, the other emphasizing warm and bold colors. The furniture, from local showrooms, is the same in both plans; only the accessories—such as artwork and table settings—changed.
Cool & subtle

- Pale green walls punctuated by a dash of amethyst give this once monochromatic room a new vitality. The slight color variation between the greens produces a soft, relaxed look, which is carried through with accessories. Note how the complementary artwork, flowers, and china display on the open shelves in the hutch add another dimension to the wall palette, creating a deliberately understated environment.

CREDITS

Bright colors add instant punch to the same room, giving it unexpected drama. The juxtaposition of the rich contrasting hues is daring and provocative. Accessories were chosen to capture and enhance this exuberance, so artwork, area rugs, flowers, linens, and china make equally bold statements, playing off each other within the vibrant color palette.
50 colors for Western living

Jill Pilaroscia offers these tips for using our palette:

- Identify your personal color tolerance level. Can you live with a lot of bold color, or do you like quieter shades? You can mix and match within the entire range of colors.

- If you want multiple colors in your rooms, pick a vantage point in your living space and choose colors that will be harmonious as you gaze from room to room.

- A house of many colors can be unified by a consistent trim or ceiling color. It will act like a ribbon to tie it all together. For example, if you use a soft coral and a soft yellow, you might paint all the trim in a classic white for continuity.

- Using sky blue on the ceiling will make it appear higher. A soft yellow on the ceiling of a room with cold north light will make the room glow like the sun.

- Consistency is less important than overall effect. For example, a predominantly warm palette can include a cool, subtle color, and a predominantly cool palette can include a warm, bold color.
• Remember that the bolder the color, the stronger its psychological impact. For an energetic room, you might choose intense yellow; for a relaxing room, deep green; for a dramatic room, robust red.

• Some colors allow you greater freedom than others. For example, our grays and browns are the shades of wildlife—quail, dove, deer—that blend into the forest. These hues are sophisticated in a quiet way. They’re like an Armani suit: you can accessorize them with any of the other colors.

NOTE: Magazine printing processes make it impossible to reproduce some colors exactly, so allow for variation in shading. Though our palette uses Infinity paints by Sherwin-Williams, which are carried exclusively by HomeBase (888/731-2273), you can match the original paint chips at any paint store.