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# Perfect Palettes

Expert Joann Eckstut makes decorating with color easy

by Lindsey Emery



Intimidated by brighter colors, we often revert to a neutral decor in safe palettes of white, cream and beige.

Award-winning designer Joann Eckstut's latest book, *The Color Palette Primer* (Broadway, 2005), offers simple advice and more than 800 sample color combinations to help you choose the perfect hues for your home. Here, she shares some bright, budget-wise ideas.

**Turn on the lights.** "If there's not much natural light in your space, you should probably go with lighter paint colors and decor," says Eckstut. Add table or floor lamps and task lighting options to lighten up darker rooms. "Any palette is possible if you have a lot of light," she says.

**Create a grand scheme.** Eckstut stresses that rooms should be designed with a dominant color used in one of three schemes: monochromatic (single color), analogous (colors beside it on the color wheel) or complementary (those opposite

it on the wheel). "If you want to exaggerate the size of a smaller space, monochromatic color schemes usually work best," she says.

**Introduce color in small doses.** "Pillows, vases and bowls are great ways to pull out a color you love," says Eckstut. Switching these elements with changing seasons, moods or styles, is nice too, she adds.

**Be consistent.** While you don't need to paint every room the same color, it's a good idea to keep them related by using similar fabrics, complementary shades or a dominant color that's found in all of them. "It's more pleasing to the eye when there is some sort of color connection throughout the home," Eckstut says.

**Sample, sample, sample.** Once you've chosen a color, buy a quart and paint a 4-foot-wide patch of it on your wall, says Eckstut. "Until you see it in the actual lighting and space, with your furniture and accessories, you won't know if it's right."



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When sunshine is scarce, add a bright light of your own, like CB2's 59-inch-tall Groove Floor Lamp. It has a satin nickel base and a white shade. **\$60.**

800-606-6252; [www.cb2.com](http://www.cb2.com).

For the perfect color combo, pair it with a Mood-lite bulb. Available in seven "moods" and colors, such as Serenity (jade), Happy (yellow) and Energy (orange), these standard-size bulbs make any room glow.

**\$5 each.** 866-353-6663; [www.mood-lites.com](http://www.mood-lites.com).



### Pillow Talk

Mix up your decor daily with colorful throw pillows. These 18-inch-square Northwest Nugget Pillows from Company C are available in Crimson, Pine, Gold, Olympic Blue and Terracotta. **\$39 each.**

800-818-8288; [www.companyc.com](http://www.companyc.com).



### Bold Bowls

Love red? Introduce this bold hue with accent pieces, such as Uncommon Goods' pink and red ceramic Stacking Bowls. Each features a beaded white gold trim. Set of three (8-, 9- and 12-inch diameters). **\$100.** 888-365-0056; [www.uncommongoods.com](http://www.uncommongoods.com). ■