



## PAINT

### Small Spaces

*Short on square footage? Designers share strategies for rooms that go deep and bold—or light and bright.*



**NARRAGANSETT GREEN HC-157**  
BENJAMIN MOORE

“In the powder room of an old farmhouse on Cape Cod in Massachusetts, we applied this color—a tone that oscillates between teal and navy—on the walls, ceiling, and millwork, blurring the boundaries of where planes intersect. Using a dark color to completely envelop a room adds drama, which a small space can handle.”

**THAD HAYES**



**MOUSE'S BACK NO. 40**  
FARROW & BALL

“The most successful small spaces are dark and cozy, because—let’s face it—it’s impossible to make a tiny room feel airy and spacious. I love this warm brown, which is earthy and rich like the forest floor, paired with a crisp white ceiling. The contrast allows your eye to pick up on the edges of the space, giving it more volume.”

**JEFFRY WEISMAN**



**INCARNADINE NO. 248**  
FARROW & BALL

“When I suggested this classic red for a modest guest bedroom in Florida, I initially met some resistance from my clients. But they went for it, and, with Marrakech as my inspiration, I added a large antique bronze wall mirror and arabesque-patterned table lamps. The end result was dramatic and glamorous—they loved it!”

**DOREEN CHAMBERS**



**NATURAL TAN SW 7567**  
SHERWIN-WILLIAMS

“If I’ve used a lot of white in a house and I want something just a little bit different, I reach for this shade. It reminds me of a fine off-white linen, oak, or napa leather. It’s perfect for narrow spaces because the warm tint keeps the corners of the room from feeling gray.”

**UMA STEWART**



**NIGHTSPOT C2-743 C2**  
BENJAMIN MOORE

“Deep, saturated colors give the illusion that the walls are receding. For a showhouse in San Francisco, I turned a small area into a home office, wrapping the space in indigo. By keeping furniture to just the essentials and adding art, bookshelves, and a unique light fixture, I created a dynamic, layered effect.”

**KARI McINTOSH**



**MINSTREL HEART 1297**  
BENJAMIN MOORE

“To make a tiny guest bedroom under the eaves of a Hamptons house into an intimate retreat, we painted the ceilings, walls, and trim a deep pink. Painting all of the room’s elements the same color leaves the focus on the art, the fabrics, and the views out the windows. On sunny mornings the room glows, and in the evening, it feels warm and restful.”

**PERRY SAYLES**

PRODUCER EMMA BAZILIAN PHOTOGRAPHER SCOTT FRANCES/OTTO. FOR MORE DETAILS, SEE RESOURCES

# COLOR



**OCEAN SPRAY 2047-60**  
BENJAMIN MOORE

"I chose this pale aqua for a tiny studio—less than 300 square feet—in downtown Brooklyn. Painting it white or beige would have just screamed 'rental.' This is a happy, clear color that looks pretty on both bright summer days and throughout the dreary New York winter. And the client and I are both water signs, so the color felt apropos!"

**NICK OLSEN**



**SEAWEED 2035-10**  
BENJAMIN MOORE

"I think every room needs a little green, even if it's just a plant in the corner. This seems to be my go-to green; I used it in the vestibule of my Chicago apartment with a black-and-white checkerboard floor and white plaster trim. It reminds me of a boxy green Volvo I had in the '80s—bright, cheery, and fearlessly colorful!"

**JENNY BROWN**



**WC-90**  
FINE PAINTS OF EUROPE

"A small room is the perfect opportunity to embrace a color you're scared of—you don't have to make a huge commitment. I'd use this dark, moody blue on both the walls and woodwork. Then, on the ceiling, mix it with white in a one-to-three ratio so that the color continues across every surface."

**CARI GIANNOULIAS**



**PITCH BLACK NO. 256**  
FARROW & BALL

"I love having a true black hue in a constrained area—especially when you can combine finishes like matte and high gloss, which adds a superchic, dimensional element. I used that trick in a small entryway, with bold brass hardware and a striking red rug, to create a jewel-box space."

**CAITLIN MURRAY**



**GRANITE DUST**  
BEHR

"I placed this color—a pale gray that resembles a hazy sky—in a lacquered finish on the ceiling of a small black-and-white-striped foyer. The glossy effect is easier to get on a ceiling than on walls, while the reflective, mirror-like surface gives much-needed depth to the room. The shade is also a bit somber, which helped balance the bold walls."

**RINAT LAVI**



**MATURE GRAPE SW 6286**  
SHERWIN-WILLIAMS

"Not too red, not too dark, and not too bright, this deep aubergine purple brings to mind orchids, calla lilies, and even purple artichokes. There's a regality about it that rings true to the royal, sophisticated associations purple has. It's a great complement to greens—from light sage to a kelly green—as well as yellow and sapphire blue."

**CARLY POKORNOWSKI MOELLER**