

In a town as residentially zealous as Sarasota, home décor is serious business. With new homes and condos dotting the landscape every day, the challenge of keeping up with the Joneses can be a daunting, somewhat overwhelming task. Thankfully, there is help. Whether you're designing on a dime or designing like the Donald, the right colors can make any abode amazing. Some of Sarasota's top interior designers weigh in with their thoughts on how to create an inviting and inspiring palette. By Alison Abbey.

COLORCOMMENTARY

This season seems to be bringing in earthy and warm tones. I have been using a combination of icy blue, chocolate brown and pistachio. This warm trio sets a mood of relaxation, comfort and softness. Think mojitos and massages. You can even add a soft lilac, a radiant coral and my favorite addition would have to be a metallic. A dab of gold, silver or pewter leaf next to warm browns and blues adds sophistication and style to any interior.

Close your eyes and imagine. You're in your new home on the Gulf. A pewter and gold leaf patterned foyer greets you as you enter. A large amber glass and wrought iron chandelier shaped like a flower blossom adorns the ceiling. As you enter the living room and look out into the sunset, your light khaki walls reflect the ocean water and the soft, sheer linen cutout drapes are adorned in tiny-mirrored objects. The dark chocolate countertop and polished nickel hardware in kitchen mimic the antiqued mirrored nesting tables and rich brown leather sofa in the living room. The light blue sky outside is repeated on the dining room walls. There is a sense of peacefulness in the color scheme.

There are lots of ways to use this palette in your home too. A chocolate brown accent wall, a sky blue Flokati rug (another very hip item), or a print wallpaper in the bathroom. This color scheme works great in some of the older homes in Sarasota. Especially in some of the home built in the 1940s and 50s with those bright colored tiles that everyone has trouble matching and can be expensive to replace. That famous turquoise color can be toned down a lot with a lighter sea foam green and a light tan color for the walls or cabinets.

Palettes we find and nature tend to work well. Of course, the harder you look around the more possibilities of color combinations you can find. When you juxtapose certain colors next to each other you get a certain push and pull of the eye and either a feeling of balance or harmony.

Keffie Lancaster, Lancaster Humma White Studio; 941-365-2342.

Dagmar prefers spa colors like blue green and soft aqua combined with beige brown. She utilizes contemporary styles with cleaner lines and off-white and beige fabrics. As go-to colors, she prefers reds and yellows (sunshine colors).

Dagmar Bartlett, ASID Licensed Designer,
Robb and Stucky, Sarasota; 941-922-2274.