

# LUXE

THE LOS ANGELES HOME REDEFINED™



## BRIGHT & BOLD

# IN LIVING COLOR

Bold, rich colors can instantly transform a space from dull to dramatic. Yet, designing a room using strong shades doesn't necessarily mean that the aesthetic will be quirky and eclectic. "Homeowners are becoming braver," says Los Angeles-based designer Tracy Murdock, of Tracy Murdock Interior Design. "Whereas in the past, colors like fuchsia and turquoise were used as accents in a room, now these colors are being used as whole walls or pieces of furniture." While the accent wall has always been popular, and still remains so, Murdock says that it's quite common today to see all four walls of a room, as well as furnishings, fabrics and accessories, outfitted in vivid hues. "No room in the house is immune to color," she adds.

Since color is a direct representation of your personality, it's wise to decide which spaces are most deserving of punchy shades. "Light colors are nice for breakfast rooms," suggests Murdock. "Rooms like the living and dining rooms are great spaces to display darker colors, since they give the space a cozy feeling." The kitchen, typically the hub of the house, is another space where a dose of intense color is fitting. "Color can definitely be used in the kitchen but carefully," Murdock advises. "I like the focus to be on the cabinetry or fabulous, brightly colored appliances. Neutral-colored elements, on floors, appliances or furniture, are essential when bold shades come into play since they complement the vibrant tones without causing confusion and disarray."

Lighting also makes a difference, and can change the appearance of the color in each room, depending on how the light bounces around the space. "I did a royal-blue-strié media room with wonderful rock art and framed albums. The light spilled onto the walls, which looked amazing because the strié became more pronounced and the blues glowed, whereas when the room was unlit, it was flat and dark," says Murdock.





**▣ HUES OF BLUE**

To create this timeless dining room, California designer Tracy Murdock mixed traditional and Art Deco styles, complete with Tiffany-blue-colored walls. The classic Chippendale-style dining table and étagère are anchored by Art Deco cream leather antique dining chairs and a pair of Parisian antique wall sconces. Pale-blue silk taffeta curtains seamlessly and symmetrically separate and frame the room.