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From indigo to aqua, blue is everywhere in home decor and accessories this season. But blue's appeal isn't just a fad. "Blue has a calming, ethereal effect," says New Jersey interior designer Jules Duffy. "It can be very inviting."

As you consider using blue in your new dream home, keep these factors in mind:

- **Choose the hue for you.** Deep navy blue? Turquoise? Velvety blue green? With the range of blues available, you can find one that fits your home's design style and your personal taste. If wood will play a major role in your home, Duffy suggests letting that material guide you. "I would see what color of blue would contrast with the wood tone," she says.
- **Make it fresh.** "Blue is absolutely timeless," Duffy says. Still, there are ways to keep the color from feeling frumpy. "Blue can be used in unexpected ways," she says, "especially with texture." Look for velvet upholstery, textured wallpaper or glossy surfaces in shades of blue to keep your interior lively.
- **Unleash the power of accessories.** If you like blue, but want to keep your home as a more neutral canvas, use blue in your decor accents. Pillows, lamps, linens and decorative accessories can bring bold colors into your spaces, but be replaced easily when you'd like to try something new.
- **Call on a pro.** Choosing colors for your interior can feel like a monumental task; especially when you're building a new home from scratch. An interior designer can help you select a palette that will make choosing paint, furnishings and fixtures easier.



COURTESY TOP: WESTBANK/PHOTOS; OPPOSITE BOTTOM PAGE: CONE HILL; PHOTOS LEFT: BEAR PHOTOS; BELOW: ASSET DESIGN/DESIGNPHOTOS BY LARA MAZUR





Singing the New Blues

Hue is both trendy and timeless

ABOVE: Turquoise and jade artwork and accessories bring a spark of lively color to a neutral living space.

LEFT: White stripes play on restful bedding in shades of deep indigo.

OPPOSITE, TOP: Light blue walls give this bedroom a soft glow. Shades of brown and a nubby rug add weight and texture, keeping the room from looking too ethereal.

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM: Textured blue wallpaper sets the tone for a modern take on Scandinavian decor. Velvet upholstery lends rich luxury and plays off the shiny blue baubles of the chandelier.

