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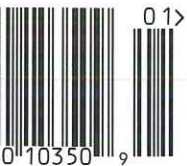
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JANUARY 2010



PURPLE 101

There's a reason purple is associated with royalty: In ancient times, the dye was extracted from mollusks and therefore insanely expensive. Now deep versions of the color still signal luxury, while softer takes are famously soothing (think yoga studio). New York City interior designer Jamie Drake, who has used a vast range of purples during his long career, says a powerful purple piece (see right) "can add passion to a room" and will really pop when set against a complementary background color, like green. For a pulled-together look, repeat the purple elsewhere in the room (here, it's echoed in the artwork). This makes the overall statement thoughtfully eclectic, rather than just eccentric.



fearless paint shades

Dark purples make gathering spaces cozy and conversation-friendly. Lighter tones feel clean and fresh. Here, Elizabeth Bauer, New York City interior designer and purple advocate, shares some favorites.



LIVING ROOM
"Serious drama. Great with moss green or lipstick red accents," says Bauer.
Pelt 254, \$80 a gallon, farrow-ball.com.



DINING ROOM
"A rich color like this, with more red than blue, is gorgeous with dark wood furniture."
Poetic Purple 1010-5, \$28 a gallon, lowes.com for stores.



FIREPLACE WALL
"It works like edgy art to bring attention to the hearth."
Academy Purple VM163, about \$28 a gallon, ralphlaurenhome.com for stores.



STATEMENT PIECE
"A fun way to spruce up a flea-market side chair."
Purple Dahlia 1B102 (similar to dresser color, above), about \$28 a gallon, ralphlaurenhome.com for stores.



BATHROOM
"A step up from white, it's not overpowering but adds elegance."
Jasmine ML21, about \$28 a gallon, ralphlaurenhome.com for stores.



BEDROOM
"Pair with bright white bedding and pale green accents for a crisp, feminine vibe."
New Day FA001, \$38 a gallon, freshairechoice.com for stores.

* Quick reminder: The colors you see on this page might look different on your walls. Please test them out before committing.