



## The power of colour

Prue Royle, director and founder of the International School of Colour and Design advises on ways to use colour to your advantage within the interior.

Colour changes everything! Everything we see and touch, be it natural or man-made, is coloured.

Colour and the absence of colour are responsible for creating very diverse emotional responses. The creation of any successful design will be based on how the space is to be used and how the inhabitants would like to feel.

People respond to colours and colour combinations either positively or negatively, based on their cultural conditioning and experiences.

A layering effect using whites may evoke an ideal tranquil feel for one person, while this same palette can sap positive energy from another.

### The role of a colour consultant

A good colour consultant can interpret the likes and dislikes of their clients and employ the power of colour to create inspiring living and working spaces both inside and out. They understand the elements and principles of good design.

### Personal colour perception

Everyone has different individual reactions to colour, tone and other design concepts. Different colours can trigger different associations in each viewer, frequently depending on past experiences or cultural backgrounds. While there are rules around colour psychology, it is very personal!

### Colour influencers

Lighting and room aspect play an enormous role in the way colours appear. The popularity of halogen lighting over recent years, is in part because it provides such clear white light. If a room has halogens you can be reasonably confident that the chosen colours will be accurately perceived.

### Colour schemes and flow

A colour palette should be created to give seamless flow between one room and another. This is not to say, that every room

### Suitable colours for rooms

In keeping with our personal responses to colour, it is wise to think about how you want to feel in each room.

Playing with colour to create a 'welcome' statement in an entrance hall is time well spent. What colour says 'welcome' to you?

### Trends

We are seeing bright optimistic colours, even in fabrics suitable for the outdoors. There is an emphasis on new combinations of both texture and colour.

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must be the same colour. Keeping ceiling colour and woodwork the same helps to unify spaces. Keeping the tone of the different floor surfaces the same, works wonders to achieve good flow and create an illusion of larger spaces.

### Colour and mood

It's so personal! For some red is associated with zest for life and passion, for others it is associated with intensity and aggressiveness. The same for blue, as it may represent peace for one and for another, it may mean dependability – even boredom!

### Top three colour tips

1. Determine how a space is to be used, when and by whom. Communicate with those sharing the area. Find out what their personal reactions are to colour.
2. Have a look at how colour 'behaves' in the light of the space where it is being applied.
3. Decide what are your 'fixed' colours. They are the expensive to change items, like flooring. Begin to select colour based on these as a starting point.

To learn more about colour visit [www.iscd.edu.au](http://www.iscd.edu.au)

