



Interiors strut th

cover story

with Fiona Gillies

"BLUE, I love you." Joni Mitchell wrote those words back in 1971 but she could just as easily have been singing about 2007 and the coming seasons, because suddenly the colour is everywhere.

Blue, or rather, cerulean, cobalt, cyan, turquoise and sapphire, has been draping models on catwalks from Milan to New York to Sydney. And now, according to the people who decide these things, all shades of blue will invade our homes in 2008 - on walls, fabrics and furnishings.

Colours of all sorts have been dominating catwalks lately.

Along with the blue hues have been numerous shades of yellow, green and purple. Also big are greys and metallics, and a funky mix of vintage and new. Funnily enough, these trends are all tipped as the next big things in our homes. In fact, the connection between the fashion world and interior design has arguably never been so strong.

Late last month, Dulux, the paint company, released its colour forecast for 2008-2009 and, for the first time, chose to do it with a fashion parade, complete with thumping music, a runway and lithe models garbed in the colours of the moment.

"Women's fashion continues to be the major influence and driver for interior colour trends today," Andrea Lucena-Orr, the colour

planning and communications manager of Dulux, told the crowd in Sydney's Darlinghurst.

Lucena-Orr, who has just returned from a trends-finding trip to Europe, says blue, particularly electric blue, has emerged as the must-have colour for our homes next year.

"There is an overwhelming blue influence coming from the European fashion catwalks," says Lucena-Orr. "Almost in defiance of previously unthinkable colour-matching, this includes exciting mixes of aqua with electric blue and greens."

Other big colour trends for interiors, says Lucena-Orr, include purples, deep reds and crimsons, greys and metallics.

Hues on next

THE grey/metallic trend has also been noted by Prue Royle, director of the North Sydney-based International School of Colour and Design (ISCD).

Royle, recently returned from the renowned Premier Vision fabric show in Paris, predicts "loads of grey" will reach Australia for winter 2008, combining with white, creams, gold and silver in wall finishes, lounge fabrics and bed linen. She also says the hue of the moment in Paris is pink, which can be added to grey as an accent colour. "It is important that it is the right pink," she warns. "It is not a peach or a soft pink. It is a bright, blushing pink. The French are calling it 'rose'."

How you use colour is crucial, just in case you were thinking of



painting all your walls electric blue or re-covering your couches in purple and pink. Splashes of colour are the key.

Designer Terrill Riley-Gibson, who owns the BalconyLivingstore at Concord, uses fairly neutral foundation pieces, such as a grey sofa, then adds flourishes such as bold orange-striped cushions or vases of red flowers.

"A bit like your mum taught you to buy a really sensible, good-quality woollen skirt and then we might add a really silly necklace to go with it, or a loud scarf or some really silly earrings. That's what I try to say to people."

Riley-Gibson recently reworked a "beige, beige beige" room by adding a purply-mauve feature wall, a look still recommended by

True colours (top row, from left): Bold red lends an oriental feel; the latest blue brightens a room; Fiona Lyda's Missoni stripes at Lumiere; aubergine, or is it eggplant?; the old-meets-new look; and (above) gold tones give a warm glow, while (right) Philippe Starck's garden gnomes add humour

