

House Beautiful

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EXCLUSIVE:

How to Get the New Ralph Lauren Look

Stunning furnishings, bedding, accessories,
and tableware from the Lauren Collection

**DRAMATIC NEW
MAKEOVERS:**

- Fabulous family room
before and after
- Making room for
the new baby



AMERICA'S **TOP 125** INTERIOR DESIGNERS

House Beautiful's annual list of the nation's leading decorators includes tips on hot colors, final touches, where to shop, and a confession or two about big mistakes

Atlanta-based designer Nancy Braithwaite (below) says her decorating style (right) includes classic interpretations of country, traditional, and contemporary designs. As for colors, right now she's working with contrasts: "Very dark colors juxtaposed with light ones, but always muted and subtle."



WHAT ARE THE **COLORS** YOU FAVOR RIGHT NOW?

Kool-Aid colors. They are the perfect antidote to gray and dingy urban light conditions—a major consideration for city dwellings. **ROBIN BELL**

Pistachio green and Prussian blue with accents of tobacco and a dab of burnt apricot. The balance is harmonious due to the crispness of the green, the depth of the blue, the strength of the tobacco, and the vibrancy of the apricot.

KIM ALEXANDRIUK

I always prefer clear, clean colors—earth tones such as burnt sienna, ocher, bronze green, chocolate brown, and eggplant are some of my favorites; they're warm and create a calm backdrop for light shades like parchment and French white.

MICHAEL BERMAN

Peacock blue, burnt orange, pale silver-gilt, and flat charcoal black are a few of the colors that I favor now. Farrow & Ball paint has changed my decorating life forever, with their perfect translations of timeless classics. **THOMAS BEETON**

Neutrals, black, chocolate brown, beige-white with a bit of color.

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