

Bricks & Mortar



Househunting season

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INTERIORS

The future is aubergine, but grey power

Redecorating this weekend? The next big thing in paint is a warm and natural shade, reports **Claire Carponen**

If you're a fan of monochrome and industrial chic, brace yourself. The colour grey, a trend that has dominated this decade, is no longer cool. At least, that's what some interior designers and design fans are saying — but it will probably take a while before it filters down to the high street and the rest of us follow suit.

The great thing about grey is that it is easy to use and it goes with most other colours. So, what's going to replace it? The colour that's tipped to be big next year is similar to taupe — a colour not dissimilar to grey, it must be noted — but is warmer, darker and can be used as a neutral: it's a kind of pinky aubergine. Mhairi Coyle, the interior designer, explains: "It does the same thing as grey, it creates a heavy background, but it is warmer. You can use it with any colour and they can be quite punchy. It goes



Francesca's Paints offer two examples of this season's most fashionable shade: Bossington Pebble and Sedgemoor — the latter is featured above, in a contemporary kitchen

with green, navy blue, purple, red, gold and cream."

Coyle adds: "The finish is also very important. It has to be a flat oil paint which has a chalky plaster finish, rather than egg shell or anything with a slight sheen." Francesca's Paints, an eco paint company which has 194 hand-mixed

colours, has two examples of this shade: Bossington Pebble and Sedgemoor. Farrow & Ball has Pelt and Mahogany while Dulux has Spicy Sandalwood, which features in its autumn/winter 2014/2015 trend palette.

The shift from cool to warm colours has been happening for a while. Greys



Fresh outlook: bright and bold colours can give new life to shades of grey

and silvers are gradually being replaced by richer shades and warm metallics, such as bronze, gold and rose gold and brass. Dulux's colour of 2015 is a copper-orange shade called Copper Blush and the company's autumn/winter range, called Big Nature + Small Me, is inspired by sun-scorched desert landscapes. Rebecca Williamson, senior colour design and content manager at Dulux, says: "The colour palette captures