

HOMES & GARDENS®



Creative
thinking



Rachel loves to clash purple tones with bright red

DECORATING WITH COLOUR

CHOOSING colour is one of the hardest parts of decorating because we only actually know the true colour of something because it's sitting next to another colour.

- When you're thinking about colour for your home, you have to first start by standing in the middle of the room and explore what will be around the colour – where the light is coming in, the architectural qualities of the room and even what is outside the window. If you have foliage outside which the light has to filter through, that green is going to be cast throughout that room. These considerations will help you understand what the colour will read as in the space.

WHERE I SHOP FOR COLOUR

I get all my paints custom-made by Donald Kaufman. If you have an opportunity to go bespoke it does make a big difference. Francesca's Paints' lime wash is good, too. We are also about to launch Rachel Chudley Colour Studio – so watch this space!

- The trap that people fall into is that they consider dark rooms to be wrong and just paint them white. I like to lean into the darkness and explore the depths of colour. Go for a very deep shade but in a high gloss paint and this will reflect the light around the room.

- Clashing colours makes my heart sing. For a project I'm currently working on, we've been mixing up deep purple with bright apple red – a fruits of the forest combination.

- When everything's looking harmonious, I like to throw in a rogue element, like a yellow blind in a space with no other yellow. If a room is 'perfect' it can feel claustrophobic so this spices things up.

USING BESPOKE PIECES

THE most enjoyable element of my job is working with people who have incredible passion and knowledge of their craft. If you have the chance to commission a bespoke piece you will learn so much, both about the process of artistic work and your own creative ability. Plus, you'll end up with an heirloom that will tell a personal story.

- The one thing I always go bespoke with is the sofa. We spend so much of our time lying back on a sofa that it may as well be exactly as you want it. It can be both really comfortable and beautiful if you go bespoke.

- While it may seem scary to start the process of creating a bespoke piece, as soon as you talk to the makers, I think the daunting part of it disappears. The amazing craftspeople I work with are some of the nicest people ever, and will work with you to make your vision a reality. Remember you're supporting an artist making a living, rather than a high street brand, and often there's not even a notable difference in price.

- It's up to you how involved you want to get. If you're a bit of a control freak then check in with the maker regularly, but if you're happy to trust you'll love what they come up with then just do that. ■

WHERE I GO FOR BESPOKE PIECES

We create a lot of our own bespoke work at the Rachel Chudley Studio, and work closely with makers and artists depending on the project. Balineum, for example, can customise its tile collections, and we've worked with founder Sarah Watson on tiled murals.