

THE NEW

Blush pink and hints of gold add life to a play-it-safe colour palette

NEUTRALS



A shimmering backsplash reflects the coordinating pendant lighting and sconces from Hudson Valley Lighting.



Many newly built homes feature open-concept main floors. The kitchen, family room and dining room are visible throughout. While highly desirable, this plan leaves many new homeowners baffled when it comes to design choices. Where do you start and stop a floor pattern? Where can you add or change colour? From a design perspective, the answer is to remain calm and go neutral.

NEUTRALS PLAY WELL WITH OTHERS

Besides not taking sides in an argument: What does neutral mean? A neutral colour won't have an effect on other colours because it doesn't have any significant qualities of its own. Neutrals are considered colourless; like beige, ivory, grey, cream, black or white. Neutrals play well with others.

USE TRENDY COLOURS SPARINGLY

Most designers will treat a colour trend as just that, a trend. Used in

limited amounts, you can add the latest colour to a wall and if it grows tiresome, you simply repaint. But you want to make sure fixtures (and expensive furnishings) have longevity and outlast trends. That's where you can save money in the long term.

CREATE A BACKGROUND

By choosing flooring, tile, area rugs, large furnishings and wall colours in neutral tones that blend well together, you're creating an "easy on the eyes" approach to your decor. That's because there is little contrast, the eye moves through the space without stopping. Contrast makes you look.

But neutrals alone can get boring. How do you make a big impression with neutrals and pastels? We had the chance to imagine and execute a new vision for neutrals at a model home in Aurora, Ontario for Sorbara Homes. By adding layers of neutrals, a surprise blush of pink and metallic accents, we brought a restrained colour palette to life.

Slight touches of pink blend beautifully into the neutral palette. The punches of gold are provided by the Moen faucet, the furnishings and brushed gold accents in the lighting, knobs and drawer pulls. Kitchen Aid offers brushed gold bezels for the dials on their cooktop.





THINK PINK

It may not be everyone's favourite colour, but we wanted to see if we could transform a room by adding hits of soft pink in some of the accents. The results were still soft and easy on the eyes but added a fresh element. Then, by adding lighting and furniture with accents in brass and brushed gold, the main floor was elevated to a new level of "wow."

LEAVE NOTHING TO CHANCE

It's almost a seamless transition from the kitchen and pantry to the rest of the main floor. A carefully designed floor pattern of inlaid tile in the kitchen blends in tone with the quarter sawn, wire-brushed, white oak flooring throughout. The kitchen cabinets may be white, but the island and backsplash mimic the tones in the inlaid strips of tile in the floor. The leathered granite counter is a blend of all the neutrals. The pop comes from the door handles and knobs, lighting, chairs and faucets in the kitchen and pantry. Even the bezels on the cooktop are coordinated to match.



Square-patterned tiles set into the large format tiled floor form an area "rug" around the free-standing tub.



Don't be afraid to add a big statement light fixture in your master bedroom. A little glam is a wonderful touch, even in the private rooms of a home.

COMMIT TO SOME SHINE

A little bit of shine, sparkle and brightness add interest to a space, so commit to carrying it throughout an open-concept main floor. For instance, the dining room light fixture provides the gleam and only enhances the silver leaf dining table with gold inlay. Here, the only hint of pink is in the artwork.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO STOP

We carried our neutral tones with pink and gold accents into the master bedroom and ensuite. The combination is alluring and restful with a touch of glam. The Macassar ebony on the custom-built bedside tables, the floral print and furniture legs provide a touch of contrast and elegance.

HEAVY LIFTING

By using neutrals as a foundation when building a design palette, you'll achieve a timeless, calm background. Then, when you're ready to add some "noise," add in the colours you love and don't forget the shine. ♦

SOURCES KITCHEN Kitchen Main Floor TILE, Marble Moon - Onyx, 12x24, ACCENT FLOOR TILE, Regal Polished, Grey, 2x12 BACKSPASH TILE, Tavella polished polvere, 3x6 PERIMETER COUNTER, Caesarstone - Blizzard 2141 ISLAND & SERVERY COUNTER, Leathered granite, Terra Bianca CABINETRY, Perimeter uppers - Paris Kitchens - Monet profile, Dove White painted finish PERIMETER LOWERS, island, custom table & tabletop Paris Kitchens - Monet profile, Cloud grey stained finish on maple SINK, Blanco Performa U1 Silgranit, in Truffle KITCHEN FAUCET, Moen - Align, High Arc pulldown, Brushed gold HARDWARE, Berenson 'Subtle Surge' - Modern brushed gold APPLIANCES, Jenn Air "Rise", LIGHTING, Plaster No.1 Pendant, Garden City Arm Sconce, Hudson Valley Lighting FLINT COUNTER STOOL, CB2 SENECA CHAIR, in Velvet Blush, Sunpan

'By adding layers of neutrals, a surprise blush of pink and metallic accents, we brought a restrained colour palette to life.'



ABOVE With each principal room visible throughout, maintaining a neutral palette and common accent colours helps create design continuity and visual harmony.

RIGHT A calm, neutral palette benefits from hints of brushed gold and brass that frame glass tables, mirrors and the lighting. Accessorising is easy once you establish your main scheme.

Designer, spokesperson, author and television personality, Jane Lockhart is one of Canada's best-known experts in the world of design and colour. janelockhart.com

