

BONNIE KRIMS



COLOR CONSULTING

as seen in:

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## Beyond blah: Fresh exterior colors

Make a statement with new palettes from our panel of experts

By NANA SCHREIBER  
 Tribune Staff Writer

Choosing a new color scheme for your home's exterior can be daunting. You don't want paint colors that wear out their welcome in a week — or make the neighbors wince.

But does that mean you're confined to a palette of whites, beiges and greys?

Perish the thought. Consider these options offered by experts from New England to California: a polished but unexpected mashup of gray-blues, a handsome blend of taupe-on-taupe earth colors, and a strikingly contemporary juxtaposition of red and mustard.

"People are so concerned about the paint colors on the inside — for some reason they don't think a whole heck of a lot about the fact that people's first impressions are based on the outside," says Bonnie Krims, author of "The Perfectly Painted House."

"They could invest a little bit of thought and have such a meaningful-looking house."

### Fresh and elegant

Bonnie Krims: Architectural color consultant, Concord, Mass.

- The colors:**
- A misty gray-blue (Wales Gray, Benjamin Moore 1585)
  - A slightly darker gray-blue (Silver Mink, Benjamin Moore 1586)
  - Creamy white (Monterey White, Benjamin Moore HC-27)
  - A warm sandstone (Monroe Bisque, Benjamin Moore HC-26)
  - Deep red (Spanish Red, Benjamin Moore 1301)

Blue is a traditional color for colonial revivals, Krims says, but you don't see it a lot these days, so it feels fresh and appealing. You can use both of the gray-blues to, say, distinguish clapboard from shingle, or you can pick one. The white trim is crisp, but creamy, and you can add depth with the optional bisque window frame color. For a little well-considered "pop" make the door a deep,

warm, orange-tinged red. "Even though (the colors) make a strong and beautiful statement, it's an elegant statement," Krims says. "It's not something that jumps out at you."

These colors are very versatile, suitable for colonials, Arts and Crafts style houses, Victorians and more modern homes.

### Naturally inspired

Eric Hagerman: Special projects editor, The Old House magazine

- The colors:**
- A light greenish gray (Cape Cod Gray, Cabot solid color stain)
  - Taupe (MSB wood, Cabot solid color stain)
  - Creamy white (Monterey White, Cabot solid color stain)
  - Rich red (Dove Stone, Benjamin Moore 3004-30)

Architect Paul Hanson suggested this monochromatic color palette for a dark yellow 1960 split-level featured in September's This Old House.

"People are moving away from more garish colors," Hagerman says. "There are a lot of modern homes for all of us and going for earthier colors and doing ton-in-tone contrasts, rather than bold, striking ones to somehow make things pop."

- Hanson used a light greenish-gray and taupe for the body of the house, set them off with cream and made the front door a deep red.
- These colors are suited to early 20th-century American styles such as Colonial and Prairie, as well as simple ranches and split-levels.

### Bolder and better

John Gidding: Host of CHTV's "Curb Appeal: The Block"

- The colors:**
- Mixed (Lancaster, Sherwin-Williams 7003)
  - Rust (Sierra Redwood, Sherwin-Williams 7004)
  - Taupe (Adaptive Shade, Sherwin-Williams 7003)



over from neutrals and pastels. "I've had a whole slew of homeowners come out and say, 'You, know, we'd like to go a little bolder. What bold color options can you give us?'"

Gidding says he's seeing a shift

temporary color dominated by a strong but earthy terra cotta red. The neutral and taupe — either of which can serve as the main background color — needs a bit, he says, for a look that's savvy and eye-catching. Teal is pure classic

— both dark and light work with these colors.

Gidding recommends this look for natural-looking homes with one-story exteriors — masonry, concrete and natural-stone homes are good candidates.

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