

Bonnie Krims

as seen in:

Women's Day Magazine

Walls, Windows & Floors
October 1999



Above: A pink-and-white combination of stripes and florals adds soft, subtle color to an all-white bathroom. The painted ceiling makes the large room even more expansive because it visually extends the boundaries.

Right: In a fun-filled family kitchen, utilitarian cupboard doors undergo a whimsical face-lift using dramatic hues of icy blue combined with shades of misty, pale lilac and mellow yellow. Select a gloss or semigloss for a durable stain-resistant finish. See Buying Guide for details.

PHOTOGRAPHS ABOVE, ELIZABETH WYTING & ASSOCIATES; OPPOSITE, RON ANDERSON

choosing a pastel palette

Forget flipping through paint chips. Bonnie Rosser Krims, author of *The Perfect Palette* (Warner Books, 1996), suggests that you take your cues from the colors you love—the hollyhocks in the garden, a dainty floral-sprigged china cup or the palette of your favorite painting. More tips from Krims include:

- Warm up rooms that receive little sunlight by using tints of yellow, apricot or a pink tinged with red. Conversely, cool colors, such as sky blue, heliotrope or tea green, work well in sunny spaces.
- Light colors, because they look airy, and cool colors, because they seem distant, tend to expand a space.
- Colors with the same value and intensity work best together—for example, if the dusky lilac you've chosen is in the third position on the paint-color strip, select another pastel that shares the same tonal value.
- Buy a quart of paint and test it out on a 4-foot by 4-foot section of the wall before painting the whole room. Notice how the color changes with the morning, afternoon and evening light.

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