

PAINT

Put Them on Notice

Colors to take doors and window trim from afterthoughts to attention-getters.



LINDEN BS12E53
FINE PAINTS OF EUROPE
“This dining room beguiles you, like a hypnotic garden. Sinuous quince branches on the wallpaper set the scene, but it’s the vivid enameled green doors that inject the danger. Glistening like the scales of a viper, they introduce a sense of secretive, forbidden passion. I could imagine a seductress entertaining paramours here.”
CATHERINE BROWN PATERSON



BLUE CRUISE SW 7606
SHERWIN-WILLIAMS
“Inspired by my travels through the Greek islands—and this fountain’s tiles—I chose this romantic Aegean blue for the patio doors of a 1920s home in sun-washed Southern California. A putty-gray painted door surround and wainscoting help integrate the blue with the exterior’s crisp white stucco.”
THOMAS CALLAWAY



HO1610
FINE PAINTS OF EUROPE
“Playful without being childish, this vibrant wild-flower yellow on the entry door of a San Francisco Victorian instantly boosted the curb appeal. Not only did it pop against the navy-blue exterior, but it also reflected the homeowner’s sophisticated, contemporary style. It’s a fun and friendly daily reminder not to sweat the small stuff.”
REGAN BAKER

WHITE DOVE OC-17
BENJAMIN MOORE
“If you’re searching for the ultimate white to highlight doors and windows, this is it. There’s a touch of gray that makes it a winner—it never feels chilly and never skews sallow. Classic and versatile, it will work with almost anything, from muted neutrals to glossy jewel tones. To me, it’s the little black dress of white!”
MINNETTE JACKSON

AZURE WATER 677
BENJAMIN MOORE
“In a dining room with vivid blue wallpaper, I did this punchy tropical hue on the window trim and then kept going, applying it to the surrounding molding and baseboards. Very old-school glamorous and also very soothing, because it creates a monochrome effect. It’s my go-to trick for lowering the visual noise in a space with strong colors.”
TY LARKINS

E25-63
FINE PAINTS OF EUROPE
“You never know where a closed door might lead. Painted this rich military-uniform blue, it’s like a promise that something unique is waiting behind it. It’s aristocratic and proper, so maybe Mr. Darcy? Or an elegant traveler, just returned from crisscrossing the Mediterranean in his sleek sailboat? Who wouldn’t open that door?”
TODD BLACK

HOT MAGENTA KT 06.001
KT. COLOR
“After a recent trip to Mexico City, I’m obsessed with Mexican architect Luis Barragán and his favorite shade of bright pink. A hot magenta grounded by ashy undertones, it’s not a color found in nature but rather in our memory of nature. On the front door of a minimal, modern building, it would be a confident punctuation mark, softening the harsh shapes and angles.”
OLIVER M. FURTH



NORTH SEA CC-932
BENJAMIN MOORE
“A distinctive entrance can have a huge impact, and that was especially true for a harbor home I designed near Cape Cod. Because nearly all the front doors in the area are white, I went with this dark slate. The blue of the deepest, clearest sea, it nods to the nearby ocean and gives a warm welcome to visitors, who can easily spot it from the street.”
DOUGLAS WRIGHT

STIFFKEY BLUE 281
FARROW & BALL
“Standing atop the Montmartre butte, the highest point in Paris, and gazing down at the outstretched city, I saw this inky blue-gray dotting the mansard roofs. I love how it’s moody and mysterious, refined and timeless. Luxurious on an interior door, it signals that the room—as well as the homeowner—is daring, with a bold point of view.”
BIRGIT KLEIN

GOSSAMER BLUE 2123-40
BENJAMIN MOORE
“The delicate, whispery blue of a seeded eucalyptus or a succulent leaf, this is fresh and alive, and it alludes to new beginnings. What could be better for a front door, which is, after all, a prelude? It’s gorgeous on my clients’ 1920s brick Colonial with a slate roof and leaded-glass windows. They worried that judgy neighbors would express opinions about it, and they did—but it was all positive.”
GEORGIA ZIKAS

LIGHT BLUE 22
FARROW & BALL
“As a first impression, a front door telegraphs your personality to the world, and this spoke volumes about my client, a best-selling author. Somewhere between a robin’s-egg and a duck’s-egg blue—although it’s probably closest to an Ameraucana-chicken egg—its coziness and tranquility capture her spirit. It says she’s quietly confident and gracious, and happy to invite you into her home.”
BETH WEBB

INCARNADINE 248
FARROW & BALL
“For facades, I believe the front door should wear the color, rather than the other way around. This strong and subtle red, which I used for a home in Atlanta, is the perfect example. Echoing the hues of the antique brick exterior, it is self-assured and humble, and sings rather than shouts.”
PETER BLOCK

PHOTOGRAPHERS PAUL RAESIDE; LISA ROMERIN (OPPOSITE). FOR MORE DETAILS, SEE RESOURCES