

ON THE MARKET
INTERIORSSultry and spicy —
or just dark beige?

The season has arrived when paint manufacturers and design groups announce what shade will be the colour of the next year. This year's contest has begun with an announcement from Dulux that spiced honey will be the shade for interiors. The colour is described by Marianne Shillingford, Dulux's creative director, as "salted caramel with a hint of amber. It's a home-centred, complex neutral that evolves beautifully in the light."

It could also be described as "beige by any other name". Leading interior designers are not necessarily persuaded that homeowners who have been experimenting with grey, black and bolder shades will embrace beige — although on the catwalk there has been a return to toffee-coloured clothing.

Pantone, Farrow & Ball and other key influencers will be following suit with their own colour launches this season, but most designers are not expecting a return to Seventies beige.

Jonathan Adler, an interior designer, says: "When you're about to kick the bucket you don't want to look back at your life and see an endless haze of

beige. Start with a bold rug or patterned wallpaper and you won't look back. Brass, gold and bold colours are having major moments — you would be mad not to use them in abundance." Accessorise with Adler's bargello cushion, £175 and bronze aorta vase, £130.

Edward Bulmer, the director of Edward Bulmer Natural Paint, notes a 40 per cent increase in the sale of coloured paints versus shades of off-white. "Five years ago off-white, pale greys and beige dominated sales," he says. Now its two bestsellers are Cuisse de Nymphé Emue — which translates from the French as "thigh of an aroused nymph" — a dusty pink with enough umber to avoid being too girly, and Celadon, the grey-green shade of Chinese porcelain.

Bulmer recommends mixing soft furnishings in deeper colours with warm tones found in hard finishes such as woods and stones, to create harmonious interior schemes.

Sophie Paterson, an interior designer, is an advocate of spiced honey, describing it as a "grounding and unfussy shade" that is perfect for winter. She



A room painted in Dulux's Colour of the Year — Spiced Honey. Left: Jonathan Adler bronze aorta vase, £130

notes a growing trend for warmer colours, from light golden tones to darker terracottas.

"I like using this colour as it feels like less of an obvious choice and is a move away from the standard show-home interior-designed home palettes of grey or taupe," she says.

She suggests pairing it with warmer metallic tones, such as antique brass and bronze, to create an inviting feeling.

Rose Quartz was Pantone's colour of the year in 2016, Millennial Pink stole the show in 2017, and the shade is not

going away any time soon. Try Valspar's Scandi Blush range, a selection of soft, powdery pinks available from B&Q; to create a sophisticated palette, pair with neutral greys or deep, earthy greens.

Annie Sloan, a designer and paint expert, says: "Warm neutrals work beautifully with golds and a range of rich and bright colours such as Emile [a soft aubergine] and Emperor's Silk [a hot red]". She suggests using a warm neutral on one section and a richer, punchier shade on another to create drama.

Victoria Brzezinski



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