


**NEW HOMES & CONDOS**


Unite ceiling and walls with a single colour contrasting with white trim, while keeping all the other elements in the room minimalistic and neutral.

# Time to show your true colours



SANDRA NASH  
**DESIGN  
BASICS**

last element that I choose when decorating a space because my inspiration comes from the room's environment, including the architecture, furniture, lighting, drapes, rugs, etc. If you think about it, it's much easier to match a paint chip to a fabric than the other way around. Many people make the mistake of painting their room around a \$70 can of paint.

So before playing with the palette, it's also important to understand what I call the "tonal value" of colour. Tone describes the lightness or darkness, which is altered by the addition of black or white.

To translate colour into tone is to imagine the room as it would be seen in a black and white photograph. If it were all the same tonal value, the pic-

ture would appear completely flat. Tone shapes the layers of the space, while colour creates the atmosphere.

Next, consider how much natural light the room receives. A room flooded with sunlight will always look great in a rich, bold colour where a room with less light warrants a light colour. Whether warming up a north-facing room or cooling down the south facing one, all can be accomplished through the subtle use of colour.

Aside from dazzling your guests with striking colour foundations your space will feel classy, elegant, inviting and cozy — a wow-worthy space full of character that showcases your furniture, lighting and accessories. So this fall turn your ordinary rooms into extraordinary spaces by using some daring colour. Be bold!

## Tips

- Unite ceiling and walls

with a single colour contrasting with white trim, keeping all the other elements in the room minimalistic and neutral. You may think using one colour is boring. But in fact, it is quite the opposite because of the variety of tones.

- To create the illusion that your room extends on and on in every direction, pick similar colours for the walls, trim and doors.

- A recipe for a winning combo is to pick shades from the same sample colour strip.

- A splash of colour adds dimensions, making a small room seem larger.

— Sandra Nash is a Toronto-based, award-winning designer with 20 years of experience and is principal of Making-A-Scene Designs. For more information, visit [www.making-a-scene.com](http://www.making-a-scene.com).



A daring colour could be a dark shade or a bold bright but whether it's dark or bold, colour is all about balance and proportion.