



BRIGHT ADVICE

Unlike major design overhauls—retiling floors, installing new cabinets—a little paint goes a long way toward revamping a space. So go on—add color. But before you embark on your next hue-infusing painting project, mind these tips from local designers.

Sunlight matters

If the room in question sees indirect sunlight, designer Kate Wannemacher advises avoiding cool color palettes. “Even if you do a blue, choose a blue with more gray or yellow in it. That would make it warmer,” she says. If you’re painting a room you’ll use mostly in the evening after sunset, choose a paint color that will glow in indoor lighting. “Rich, darker colors are good,” says the owner of Wannemacher Interiors. “Think dark gray, cinnamon or fleshy pink.”

Make a statement and go bold

Bold colors work well in small bathrooms or hallways, as paint in small spaces carries most of the heavy design lifting. “You’re making a big impact fast,” Wannemacher says. Designer Pam Yost, owner of Grand Design Group, agrees. “You’re not changing the size [of the room], so you might as well make some kind of statement,” she says. “Dark colors in small spaces can be really dramatic.” She adds, though, lighter colors tend to expand small spaces, so those are your best bet in rooms that feel cramped.

Don’t forget the ceiling (or windows)

“Ceilings are getting a lot more attention,” Yost says. “It’s not just ‘ceiling white’ anymore.” Instead, try a lighter shade of the wall color or a faux finish for some texture. To add drama to walls with windows, Yost suggests painting the trim around the windows a light color while staining wood between window panes a dark shade.

LOCAL COLOR: K.A. MENENDIAN

The beauty of a beautiful rug is it offers immediate color gratification. “Bring a rug into a space, and [the space has] been changed,” says Megan Hirsch, sales manager at K.A. Menendian Rug Gallery in Grandview. “Everything else can stay the same, and a rug will still make a huge difference.” Walking into the Fifth Avenue shop offers a colorful feast for the eyes: Rugs in various sizes, price points and countries of origin (including Nepal, Pakistan and India) are stacked high and hanging from the ceiling. Deep navy with looping scarlet patterns, bold orange with a turquoise fleur-de-lis, gold-and-blue ikat ... everywhere you look, a new design, a new hue. K.A. Menendian is known for keeping on top of trends, often before they’ve reached Central Ohio. Take their super-soft, bold-hued Moroccan rugs, now all the rage, for example. They featured their first Moroccan sample nearly four years ago. “Sometimes you end up ahead of the trends. That’s part of the fun of this business,” Hirsch says. The benefit of shopping here, co-owner Chad Martin says, is you can sample rugs in your home before making a commitment. “If you really want to add color to your home but are hesitant to do it, see the rugs in your own space, your own lighting,” he says. The team at K.A. Menendian, naturally, is all for more color in the home. “Neutral has its place,” Martin says. “But color is what makes a space unique.”

