

COLOUR confident

Industry experts explain how to decorate with desert-inspired hues

COLOUR ME HAPPY
 Vibrancy is the key, whether you choose shades inspired by the scorching sands or the showstopping flowers. Be bold and brave with your choice and soften the look of these deep, energetic tones with furniture that's well-loved and gently worn. Your reward – a gorgeous, uplifting home.



CACTUS COLOURS

For an oasis of calm, look to exotic plants and lush leaves

Reflecting the trend for tropical colours, Bamboo Leaf (on left wall above) is a lovely green. Use as a burst of colour in a white kitchen or bathroom, or create a work zone by painting out a large square on the wall in front of a desk then watch it intensify with natural light.

JUDY SMITH CROWN

The agave plant prefers shade in its home in the Mexican desert and the same could be said of the paint colour Agave; its blue-green undertones are enhanced in shady rooms. Team with soft heather – the colour of its flowers.

IAN WEST ECOS ORGANIC PAINTS



Bamboo Leaf emulsion, £24.99 for 2.5L, Crown



Agave Ecos Super Chalky matt, £28.65 for 2.5L, Ecos Organic Paints



SAHARAN SPICE

Incorporate your home with golden yellows and burnt reds

Nothing inspires quite like yellow and despite the name, Melancholy Monkey (above) is a happy and optimistic colour that lifts the mood. Combine it with tones of grey or deep shades of plum to create an energising scheme.

CLAIRE CULLEN VALSPAR



Melancholy Monkey Premium emulsion, £26.98 for 2.5L, Valspar

Warm and robust, Russet No 4 has a vibrancy that would work well on a feature wall. It's fantastic on vintage furniture – gilt finishes are the perfect accompaniment. Powerful in a south-facing room and cosy in a north-facing space.

EDWARD BULMER POTS OF PAINT



Russet No 4 emulsion, £40 for 2.5L, Pots of Paint



DESERT FLOWERS

Generate a frisson of heat with hot pinks and deep reds

Summer Plum (similar to above) is a sassy, delicious hue, perfect for creating a summer feeling all year long. Use it in an alcove or as feature wall, or choose a room that can carry this bold shade, such as an office or bathroom.

RISHI SUBEATHAR EICÓ PAINTS



Summer Plum emulsion, £34.50 for 2.5L, Eicó Paints

Satchel Red is deep and earthy with a brown undertone inspired by clay pottery and worn leather. Use with flagstone floors and vibrant bohemian textiles with pink and orange accents and add in Moroccan-style tiles for an eclectic look.

VANESSA GALLOWAY KONIG COLOURS



Satchel Red Low Sheen emulsion, £42 for 2.5L, Konig Colours



BURNT DUNES

Embrace deep, opulent tones for a sophisticated space

Bronze Red (above) has a boundless, rich tone that's synonymous with the sands of the Sahara. Set against bold blues and golden yellows, it adds depth and harmony; or team with Hollyhock and Yellow-pink for a softer look.

DAVID MOTTERSHEAD LITTLE GREENE



Bronze Red 15 Absolute matt emulsion, £37 for 2.5L, Little Greene

Evocative of the deep, night desert sky, Blue Moon creates a feeling of vastness. Almost velvety, it has endless possibilities and envelops an interior, creating a feeling of warmth and calm. Use with richer metallic tones and spiced hues.

REBECCA CRAIG SANDERSON



Blue Moon matt emulsion, £41 for 2.5L, Sanderson

WORDS: JO ATKINSON; SWATCH PHOTOGRAPHS: HEART STUDIOS; HACIENDA HUES IMAGE DECKCHAIRS, £30 EACH; CUSHIONS, £12 EACH; STRING LIGHTS, £15; LANTERNS, £10 EACH; ALL: TESCO

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