

GIANT PAINT SECTION!



Summer Style for less
178 easy, breezy change-ups



32 CURB APPEAL BOOSTS

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I'm worried about scuffs on my molding, so I want to paint it black. Is black as neutral as white or wood trim?

-Alicia Garant, Freeland, MI

DAVID SAYS: Black may be neutral, but it's actually the toughest color to take care of. I put black floors in my house and, honey, I'll never make that mistake again! They show every footprint, paw print, and piece of lint. White trim, on the other hand, hides dust and is easier to touch up. If you're set on darker trim, try an espresso stain. A stain seeps into the wood, so you're less likely to see dirt on it.

My house has an open floor plan, and everything in it is beige. I like pale blue, gray, and plum. How do I work them into the space so they flow together?

-Cheryl Rykwalder, Old Hickory, TN

DAVID SAYS: To break free from your beige prison, I suggest making a big move: Paint the walls a mid-tone gray. It's a soothing color that will make the space feel sophisticated. People think painting walls different colors in an open plan will help define the space, but it ends up looking disjointed, so use one color. Then bring in the blues and plums with upholstered furniture, an area rug, art, and accessories.

What wall colors look good with dark woodwork? I don't want to paint the trim that's original to my house.

-Linda Nicholas, East Liberty, OH

DAVID SAYS: Dark woodwork can be incredible, but only if the wall color majorly contrasts with it; otherwise it'll look like a haunted house. That's why I would go with white. (Yes, Mr. Color Splash loves white walls. Shh!) The lighter the walls, the more high-end the trim appears. If you love color, choose a pale shade, like a gray-blue or muted green, which will freshen up the dark wood.



66Love a crazy wall color? Keep your furniture neutral—try white or wood.

-David Bromstad



Are feature walls outdated? I'm trying to figure out how to treat this tricky wall in my great room, which is one and a half stories tall.

-Judi Gerstein, Rockford, I

DAVID SAYS: I love a good feature wall, especially one with sky-high ceilings, but this one isn't working. Don't get me wrong—the window's shape is stunning, but the wall color is too dark. You end up looking at the paint instead of the view And the color is too orange, which clashes with the built-ins. I'd try a neutral like taupe or beige to bring the focus to the window itself. Want to know the real surprise? The feature wall in this room isn't the one with the arched window—it's the one with the fireplace, because that's actually where people most often look. If you want to paint it, try a cool color like blue, purple, or green that will complement the honey-hued built-ins.

one last question

We tossed out a single Q to some of your favorite HGTV stars.

l can't resist a cute dog bowl for my labradoodle, Harper. This one with a rainbow of paint strokes is really adorable.

-Sabrina Soto, The High Low Project

Geometric Stripes Watercolor 7"-diameter ceramic pet bowl, \$27, zazzle.com



Jacqueline Maldonado Epiphany 2 16" x 16" polyester outdoor pillow, \$45, denydesigns.com

"Painted" accessories are big right now. What's your favorite?

> Avril Loreti Paintchip linen and cotton place mats, \$64 for a mixed set of 4, brika.com

An outdoor pillow with a psychedelic vibe is the perfect pop of color for a patio.

-Tiffany Brooks, **HGTV Smart** Home 2014

painted look makes it feel personal. And I like that it's versatile—good for anyone and any occasion.

-David Bromstad, Color Splash



• Flowerpots are an easy way to have fun with color. These look like they're dipped in paint and can be used inside or out. 🥍

Leave these paint-chip place mats out between meals

to brighten up the table.

-Meg Caswell, Season 6 *Design*

Star winner

-Chris Lambton, HGTV Smart Home 2014

Colada 8½"H x 8¼"-diameter terra-cotta planters in cool and warm, \$15 each, crateandbarrel.com

• This wrapping paper's hand-

Paint Palette wrapping paper in warm tones, \$12 for a set of three 20" x 30" sheets, dearhancock.com



