

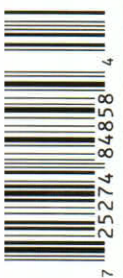


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# Brush Up on Color This Spring

Transform a winter-weary interior with nature-inspired hues.

STORY BY JILL TRAN AND CARMEN THOMAS

Everywhere you look in Kansas City, it's spring. From tulip trees and dogwoods to green grass and chirping birds, we welcome everything bright and new, including cheerful colors and playful flourishing greens for interiors.

This season, don't focus on just planting your garden—instead, think about cultivating indoor happiness with color. Nature offers countless visual cues to work with—from fabulous textures to color groupings that are fun to mimic throughout the house.

Stash the heavy, subdued winter woollens in favor of lighter-than-air accessories (pillows rule) and color-drenched beauty. One of the least expensive sure-fire ways to channel spring and make your mood bloom is to freshen up existing spaces with a simple coat of paint.

Paint breathes life into a drab room—fast. Watch a space change from ho-hum to belle of the ball with freshly painted walls, and revive tired trim and brighten a ceiling with dazzling white paint. Wallcoverings are another quick fix to punch up a room's personality.

Here are four beautiful colors from Sherwin-Williams and two wallcoverings from York that pay homage to our favorite season of the year.

Jill Tran and Carmen Thomas are principals of Kansas City-based Tran + Thomas Interior Design Studio. For more information, visit [tranthomasdesign.com](http://tranthomasdesign.com).

Photos courtesy of Jill Tran and Carmen Thomas of Tran + Thomas Interior Design Studio.

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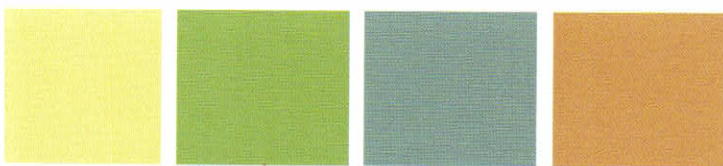












## Yellow: Butter Up/SW #6681

Imitate the sunshine outside with a splash of yellow paint inside. Repeat the color in textured pillows and patterned throw rugs to spread brightness around your room. Open the windows to drench the room in natural light and place mirrors and shiny accessories around the room to bring shimmer to every corner. Do your windows have shutters? Take them down; opt instead for blinds that allow you to open the window completely. And don't forget there is nothing like a good cleaning to make a room fresh as a daisy.

## Green: Great Green/SW #6430

Avoid juvenile neon greens or drab dark greens; with just the right hue you can capture the fresh growth of spring grass, awakening leaves and flowers coming back to life after a long hibernation. Literally match a color from an object outdoors as your starting point—bring potted plants and fresh-cut flowers to the mix to get up-close and personal with nature. Floral patterns are back in style; choose wallpapers and drapes with green accents to really liven things up.

## Turquoise: Meditative/SW 6227

Springy blue is everywhere in Kansas City—our Kansas City blue sky, the Boys in Blue out at The K and even the blue waters of Lake Jacomo are in concert with the season. In fact, spring tends to make the blues stand out even more and with flowers brightening the scene, it's a visual delight. Turquoise, when used correctly, can be exciting; try using variations of it throughout the room in layers and different tones. Start with a light tone on the walls, a deeper saturation on the sofa and a brighter version on your table. Prepare to be amazed.

## Coral: Persimmon/SW 6339

Bring the pink family into your home without being overly feminine. Coral is a pretty color that contrasts well with Erwin-Williams Great Green. Need more inspiration? There is nothing better than visiting your favorite garden and nursery center to admire the greenery and petals. ●

Spruce up your space with colorful wallcoverings. Here is Chunky Yellow and Threaded Links (below) by York Wallcoverings.

