

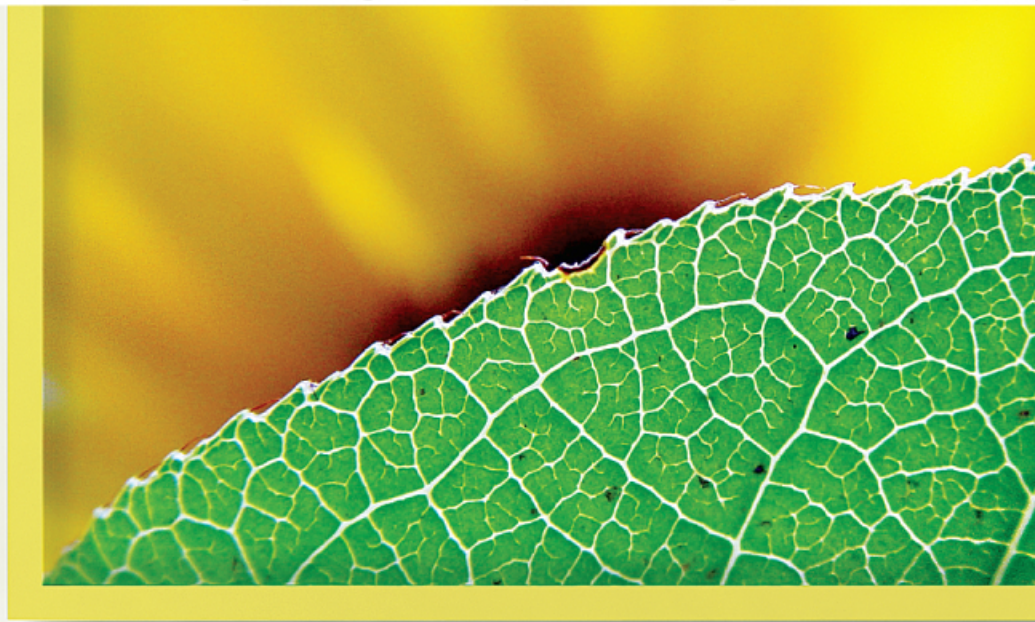


HOMEWORK
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TRUE COLOURS

warm, cool and white

Colour impacts the way we feel, and for us living in the Caribbean - it may help explain why we mostly have a relaxed, happy and congenial population as we are surrounded by the full spectrum of colour and light - therefore it remains an important factor in interior design and decorating.

Colour changes our moods, makes us happy or hungry, aggressive or lethargic, so it is vital that you have some colour theory knowledge to understand what each colour means to help you create and choose successful colour schemes for your home.

This includes the meanings of colour, the theory behind colour and why we see it as we do. The composition and how to coordinate colours together will help to create stylish colour schemes.

Colour Temperature:

The colours Red, Orange and Yellow are warm, and Blue, Green and Violet are cool colours. The Caribbean is probably the single most prolific user of all colours, warm and cool, as island life surrounds us with nature's palette and we try to blend in or stand out against the blue, green and earthy tones of the sky, the sea and of the land.

Colour Movement:

Warm colours and dark tones advance, they bring the colour closer towards you, the cool colours and pale tones

recede, as they seem to move away from you.

Using a pale cool wall and ceiling colour creates the maximum illusion of space. If your walls are in dark colours they seem closer and create a cosier atmosphere.

But playing the colour game can be tiring and confusing - we are told that this year's colour is Emerald Green - so the market is flooded with accessories, furnishings, and paint hues to direct you within the fashion. As a population we tend to find a trend and grab onto it and run, we fully saturate ourselves in it and then we get bored and find the next one to follow.

This is great for the retail stores selling linen, furniture and accessories and the contractors redecorating interiors on a regular basis. But not so good for your pocket. What happens next year when the new colour is announced? How many of us can keep up with a trend?

It has taken years to get rid of all the bright bold geometric wallpaper designs of the sixties and seventies, then we had to deal with the pink and grey era of the eighties, the nineties we started to see differentiation of colour on walls through the use of feature walls - and everyone wanted a feature wall.

Mix in the White!

Many people today want a more relaxed and refined colour palette for their homes but without necessarily sacrificing colour, this can be found by using juxtaposition

in colour by completely painting the whole interior white and using the warm or cool colours inspired by our Caribbean locales for the exteriors.

The good thing about this era is that there are multiple trends happening simultaneously, the earthy textured natural look of nature with a big emphasis on the environmental factors of products use and their sustainability.

Interiors can then be the jewels of a white interior, bringing wonderful rich fabrics and furnishings, chandeliers, lamps, loads of over the top cushions and throws. Wallpaper can be used as a feature here to provide texture and pattern to the walls, all done in white, it can be unexpected and the use of texture, different forms and materials carry it well into the realms of luxurious comfort, and an interesting spin on the use of white.

Caribbean living and the colours inspired by it allow design and decoration to suit the way that we want to relax in our homes, which many times are made up of items collected on travels, family photos, one off chairs and mix and match sofas, and a good way to tie all of this together is to use white as the backdrop. White provides a perfect backdrop to highlight sleek and well-formed pieces of furniture which is generally the focal point of these interiors, it reflects the natural light in the room and there is often an abundance of windows to provide this. It is also perfect for the display of pieces of artwork, and allow your eyes to focus on these features of the room.