

house beautiful COLOR



great style series



house beautiful
COLOR

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The Editors of
House Beautiful Magazine

Louis Oliver Gropp, Editor in Chief
Margaret Kennedy, Editor

Text by Sally Clark

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FOREWORD

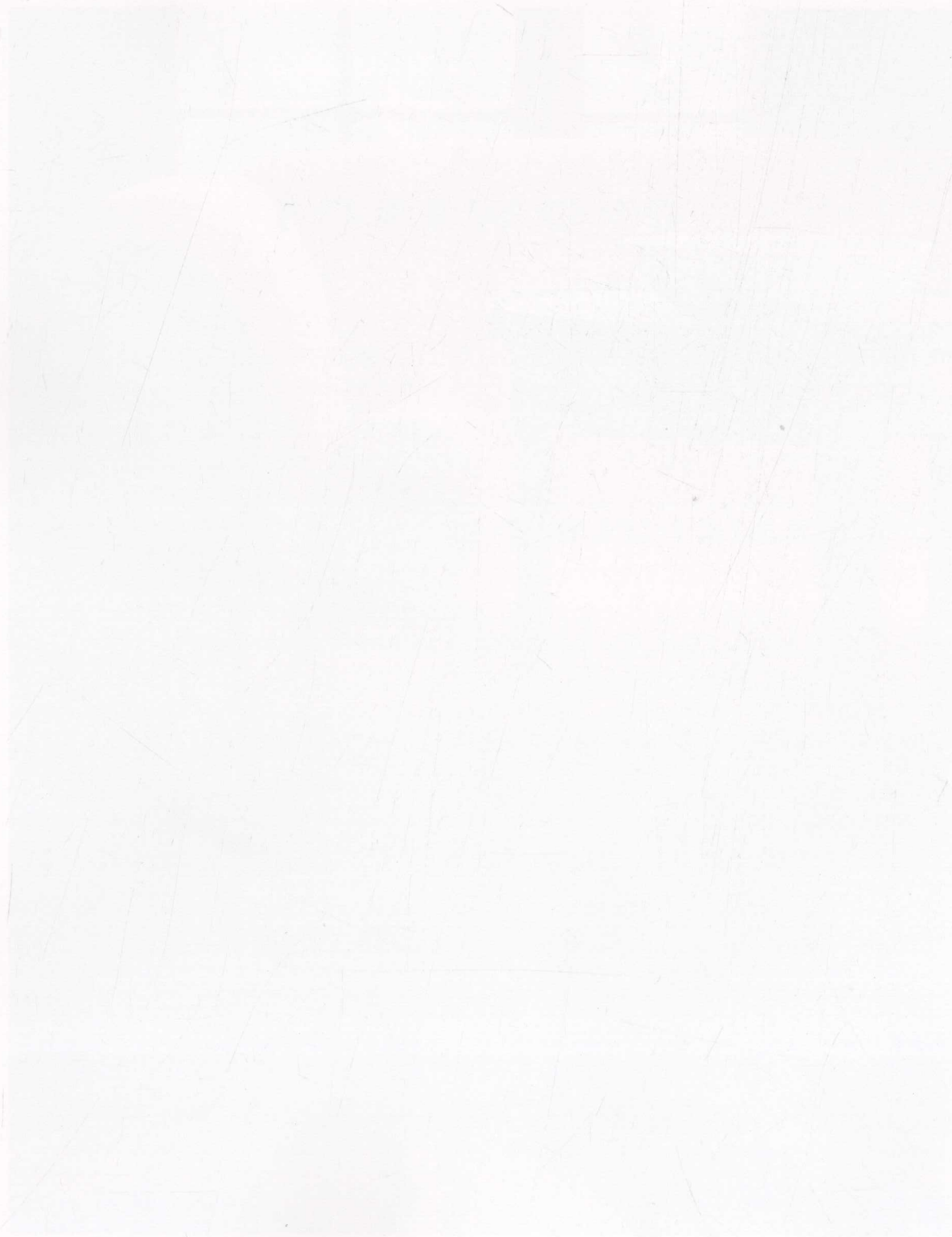
As the pages of *House Beautiful* have demonstrated throughout the magazine's 96-year history, color is the most democratic of all the tools employed in the high art of decoration. This book, one of a series published by *House Beautiful* to assist you in your own decoration projects, is designed to show just how rich and available a resource color is. Whether primary hues straight from a child's crayon box, the elusive tints of gentle pastels, or strong contrasting tones, the colors chosen do more to set the mood of a room than anything else in it.

Always the child of light, color has more change built into it than any other decorative tool. This book shows the many ways in which it can be used, and will leave you with a keener understanding of color's vocabulary. It will help you appreciate the difference between a pure color like red and its many tones, each achieved by the addition of black or white.

Most importantly, it will give you permission to become brave with color: to use bright pink instead of white, for example, on walls that will house an art collection; or, conversely, to turn to the naturals, the tones of nature, for one of decoration's most classic approaches. The important thing is not the choice, but its rightness for you: what it does to the rooms in which you live, and for the people who live in them.

Louis Oliver Gropp
Editor in Chief





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INTRODUCTION

Color is the element of decoration that naturally invites superlatives: It is the most exciting, the most versatile, the most elevating component of design. It can also be the most intimidating. With so many colors on the charts, and so many decisions to make about where to put color in a room ~ on the walls, the furniture, the accessories ~ it is easy to become confused and discouraged. Most people shy away from the bright yellow or intense sky blue room they really want and settle instead for something they have decided is "safe."

This book is intended to banish that fear. That there are no hard and fast rules about color is apparent in the rooms that follow. Most were designed by professionals; the numerous ways in which they have chosen to use color provides an arsenal of ideas, which are discussed in the accompanying text. *House Beautiful* offers solutions for creating harmony in relation to texture, light, and tone, for using color to show off interior architecture, furniture, and all kinds of personal collections.

The book is conveniently organized into two sections. The first part is devoted to

color schemes and combinations. True colors deals with pure color, as well as the infinite array of pastel tints and rich shades that can be derived from them. Next come the naturals, which take their colors from materials found in nature ~ wood, marble, sand, and clay. The dramatic value of classic light-dark pairings such as black and white is examined. And white, with its ability to change from setting to setting and its capacity to strongly affect mood, is explored in depth.

In the second part of the book the practical applications of color are addressed: the many ways in which paint assists in establishing the colored surfaces of a room; the role that fabric plays in filling out a color scheme; and the ways in which accents and accessories energize a room through color.

Every aspect of color is illustrated through profiles of homes across the country. The interiors chosen represent a range of styles, from traditional to cutting-edge contemporary. By studying them, borrowing from them, and adapting them, you can make color a force of beauty and self-expression in the decoration of your home.



