



*The*

# Kitchen & Bath

*Color Book*

ROCKPORT

Melanie & John Aves

GLOUCESTER MASSACHUSETTS

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藏书章

*Color Book*

ROCKPORT  
PUBLISHERS

Melanie and John Aves



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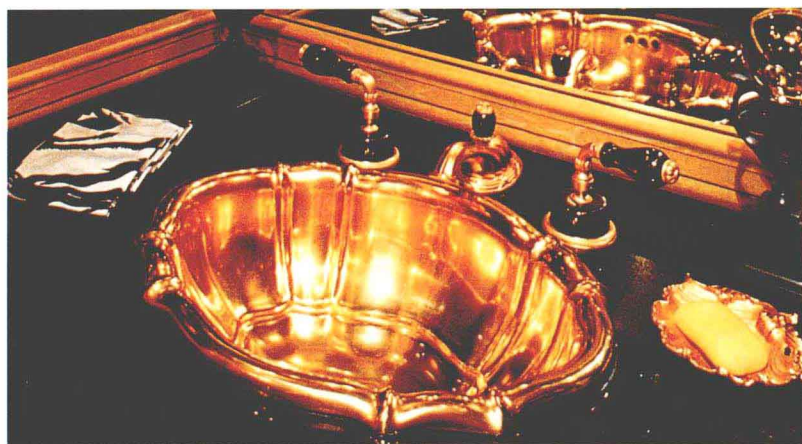
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# PREFACE

This book is about design decision making. Like all decisions, the quality of the result will depend on the process and the raw materials that are fed into the process. Good design isn't a mystery. It isn't something one must be born with, either.

Good design can be learned by reading and by looking at homes designed by the top professional designers such as those who have graciously contributed illustrations for this book. That intimidating phrase, "good taste," is really another way to describe a good education. People who seem to have intuitive design sense are probably just the product of a lot of good reading, long visits to beautiful spaces and the most important ingredient, the catalyst of curiosity.

We have both been fortunate to have spent our youth with parents who cared enough about home to spend time studying and planning carefully. Then we studied art together in

college, and later we found ourselves among many friends and associates who continued adding to our education. We would like to pass our good fortune along to others with the help of the talented editors, designers and publishers at Rockport Publishing, Inc.

The mission of this book and the others we have authored and developed is to make more people aware of the possibilities for comfort and stimulation within their homes, and to build their self confidence. Fear inhibits many people from getting involved in the design process, and fear frequently pushes us toward making the absolutely safe decisions which will not offend anyone...and which will also not bring joy to anyone. Color is one of the most fearsome decisions of all. We hope our readers will unshackle their imaginations and use color to bring comfort, joy and stimulation to the most important people in their lives.







# INTRODUCTION TO THE LANGUAGE OF COLOR

The two rooms that add the most value to a home and contribute the most to personal rejuvenation are the kitchen and the bath. They are very important rooms, and can be extremely costly to maintain. The choice of color in these spaces will influence the mood elicited as much as the color applied to any other area of the home; however, design choices can be complicated by the different types of appliances, furnishings, and utilities which may be present. In the kitchen and the bath one must consider the color which appliances, plumbing fixtures, floors, and counter surfaces bring into the space. In other rooms of the home it is usually much easier and less expensive to make changes, because the palette consists of paint, fabric, carpet, and perhaps wallpaper colors.

Not many homeowners are prepared to buy a new refrigerator when they want to change the mood of the kitchen. Perhaps that's a reason many people select neutral color palettes, especially white or beige, for their kitchen and baths. It's a safe decision, likely to stay in style, and the initial purchase of materials is relatively inexpensive. But as applies to most design decisions, the safe choices that satisfy everyone probably don't thrill anybody. Some things never go *out* of style because they are never *in* style. The best personal sanctuaries should inspire on a unique, personal, and timely level.

To properly manage this process, a vocabulary of color is helpful. Although we aim for many subtle reactions when we apply color to a kitchen or bath, the three basic definitions of color that people can readily describe are *hue*, *brightness*, and *saturation*.

*Hue* refers to the name of the color. The names revolve around the color wheel, where they can be further categorized as *analogous* (next to each other, like blue and green) or *complementary* (across from each other, like green and red). White and black are not truly colors—they are the absence of color, but are mixed in with other true colors to form a range of neutrals which can be very interesting and subtle.

Another scale of reference is *brightness*, which ranges from white to black. The length of light wavelengths and the reflective quality of a color will have an important effect in determining light levels. This may affect not only mood, but also safety in the functional space of a kitchen or bath.

The third scale is *saturation*, which describes the apparent purity of the color. *Purity* is the absence of white or black.

In our secondary research on the psychological effects of color we have found anecdotal evidence that color has a cause-and-effect relationship on mood. Anger or joy, violence or peacefulness, elation or depression have all been observed as outcomes of various experiments with color in controlled circumstances, such as hospitals, prisons, schools, and businesses. One of our associates was responsible for selecting colors for quarters that would help the first astronauts adjust to their return to earth, an assignment that shows how seriously scientists and designers alike take the effect of color on mood.







◀ A sophisticated showplace with subtle gradations of black appliances, dark gun-metal-color cabinets and gray-streaked countertops, this kitchen is an appropriate stage for the preparation of gourmet meals.

DESIGNER: RAND ELLIOTT, FAIA





▲ Rich color has entered the kitchen with the advent of artfully finished cabinets, colored and rubbed by skilled hands. Note that the wood finish of the island cabinets is a contrasting natural color, varying the palette and greatly increasing the appeal of this space. Kitchen color schemes have evolved beyond monotone monotony.

DESIGN AND PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF CHRISTOPHER PLACOCK KITCHENS, INC.



*Clusters of  
color create  
a rich palette.*







◀ ▲ A spectacular architectural plan includes surface colors and texture over, under, and around the fortunate family that gathers in this space. This is a stimulating area that will encourage creative food preparation and bright conversation.

DESIGNER: BARBARA LUDWIG



▲ Details make the difference. The color and pattern in this tile are visually appealing and enhance the appetite!

DESIGNER: BARBARA LUDWIG

*Color comes from many different sources on the ceiling, the walls, and the floor.*





◀ The stainless steel surface is a distinctive color element that also reflects color and light from other surfaces. Some surfaces absorb light and some reflect, another element in a complete plan.

DESIGNER: EURO-CONCEPTS, LTD.

*Serenity is created  
by removing color  
distractions.*





◀ A small bathroom with lacy traditional details that exudes personality. The pink, peach, and red hues cast a healthy reflection.

DESIGNER: ANN HITTENAN

*Guests can sense the personality of their host through minute details and color choices.*

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