

BLUE

350 Inspiring Ways
to Decorate with Blue

House Beautiful



Lisa Cregan

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HEARST BOOKS

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“Put a little blue in everything you do.”

— T. KELLER DONOVAN, DESIGNER

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INTRODUCTION

SO YOU LOVE BLUE? YOU'RE NOT ALONE.

America's had a love affair with blue ever since Betsy Ross stitched those crisp white stars onto their deep navy ground. Blue can be cool and restful, swaggeringly bold, or bashfully neutral. It will soothe the cosmopolitan swirl of a city apartment or give a country place a dose of dazzle.

For some reason blue is also the color readers have always associated with *House Beautiful*. That's quite a compliment: There's no color with more range and versatility. Interior designers rhapsodize about the color blue the way Stephen Stills sang about Judy Collins's eyes ("Suite: Judy Blue Eyes"). Scattered across these pages you'll find a compendium of designers' bluesy opinions alongside photos of the real rooms where those opinions became practice.

In Part 1 decorators offer their insights through a room-by-room tour of blues for every space in

your home. Next, in Part 2 we take the mystery out of mixing blue with other colors, like white! And last, Part 3 examines how to calibrate your blues—from a lot to a little. Somewhere in here you're going to find your own "blue heaven."

Putting this book together required a deep re-reading of the delightful interviews that filled the pages of *House Beautiful* once Stephen Drucker took the reins as editor in chief in 2006 and that have continued to appear under Newell Turner's editorship. To *House Beautiful's* brilliant executive editor Barbara King and to the writers and interior designers whose lively conversations contributed so many insights, chuckles, and just sheer pleasure to *Blue*, a heartfelt "thank you." And to senior editor Christine Pittel, who provides the monthly color column, *House Beautiful's* most popular, thank you, too, for making this book's "Spectacular Blue Moments" a no-lose proposition.

—LISA CREGAN



1790-1800
100-1000



Part 1

America's top designers and the editors of House Beautiful take you on a room-by-room tour of the world of Blue.

As if it weren't charming enough, it's blue, too! JOHN PEIXINHO'S 1730 house is painted Newport Blue from California Paints.



FOYER BLUES

When you want to tell the world right up front you're seriously obsessed with blue.



ABOVE: "The Prussian blue gives the entrance hall a great sense of arrival: It announces itself." —Jeffrey Bilhuber

OPPOSITE: For the entrance hall of a Pennsylvania farmhouse, Jeffrey Bilhuber chose a regal blue based on a color he'd seen while touring Mount Vernon.