



The trick is in balance, says Lara Michelle Feinsod. "You want to use the accent color to tie the room together, but at the same time, you don't want to go crazy." Here a hot pink does the job on an accent wall and some smaller pieces. SUBMITTED PHOTO



This living room gets its inspiration from items found in the room. The paint color here is Tupelo Tree from Sherwin-Williams GMS

## ARE YOU BLUE?

When it comes to color, we are true blue. The "First Annual House Beautiful Color Report," published in the magazine's September issue, chose the cool hue as tops based on an online survey taken by more than 4,000 people. Here are some of the other findings: According to the survey, 29 percent of respondents listed blue as their favorite color in home décor, with green coming in second at 21 percent. Red and purple tied at 8 percent, followed by pink (7 percent), yellow and gray (6 percent each), white (5 percent), orange (4 percent), brown (3 percent) and black (2 percent).

## SOURCE BOX:

Looking for some interesting accents pieces? Try these local shops:  
**Fleur**, 10 Dakin Ave., Mount Kisco, 914-241-3400, [www.fleur-newyork.com](http://www.fleur-newyork.com)  
**The Things I Love Interiors**, 191 Main St., New City, 845-639-6005, [www.thethingsilove.com](http://www.thethingsilove.com)  
**Kenise Barnes Fine Art**, 1955 Palmer Ave., Larchmont, 914-834-8077, [www.kenisebarnesfineart.com](http://www.kenisebarnesfineart.com)

# Ask the Expert

## DECORATING, WITH AN ACCENT

For fall, small changes are easy to achieve with a well-placed accent or a brushstroke

By **Katie Schlientz**

For The Journal News

Lara Michelle Feinsod loves the scone that hangs over her fireplace in her Rye Brook home. The green glass — a perfect match to the area rug that sits below — casts a warm glow on her entire family room as the sun goes down.

There's no luck in the placement. Feinsod, owner of 14-year-old design firm Lara Michelle Beautiful Interiors Inc., has created new looks in countless tri-state area homes. So you could say she knows what she's doing.

"I love working with color," she says. "And adding an accent color to a room is super easy!" For fall, here are some quick ideas on accentuated color in your home:

» **Start in neutral.** "The most popular way to add color is actually using a neutral color like ivory or beige as a base in large pieces of furniture," Feinsod says. "Use your brighter accent color on smaller items such as lamps, throw pillows and vases." Feinsod also encourages you to look at some of the smaller spaces in your home. "This concept can be easily applied to bathrooms as well. Keep the fixtures and tile in your bathroom neutral, but add pops of color with towels and bath mats."

» **Find your inspiration.** Once you've decided on your base color, you can choose an accompanying accent color. "Inspiration can come from many sources. Sometimes I find it in a fabulous new fabric. Sometimes the colors come from a painting I'd like to incorporate into the room."

» **Don't overdo it!** Spread your accent color throughout the room with several items. For example, you can cluster two or three vases together on your bookshelf. Or, try placing a pair of matching lamps on either side of the room.

"The trick is that you want to use the accent color to tie the room together, but at the same time, you don't want to go crazy. Too much color will be jarring to the eye!" While Feinsod's local workshop houses custom-designed accent pieces, she also relies on unique vendors and artisans for smaller items like bookends and centerpieces.

To pick up perfect touches of your own, try the antique offerings at Fleur in Mount Kisco. If you're looking for artwork and sculpture, Feinsod recommends visiting Larchmont's Kenise Barnes Fine Art.

» **Try a trend.** Some of the most popular color combinations for bedrooms



## THE EXPERTS

### Lara Michelle Feinsod (pictured)

Lara Michelle Beautiful Interiors Inc.  
 914-939-5777, [info@LaraMichelle.com](mailto:info@LaraMichelle.com)  
[www.LaraMichelle.com](http://www.LaraMichelle.com)

### Rona Brand

914-262-6179, [ronabrand@gmail.com](mailto:ronabrand@gmail.com)  
[www.rtbinteriors.com](http://www.rtbinteriors.com)

and living spaces are purple with beige and yellow with gray. Taupe is the perfect base color for hallways, foyers, and more open spaces. With kitchen and baths, Feinsod suggests starting with bright whites. "The glossier, the better. It's super chic and makes it easier to clean!"

Feinsod points out that this approach is one of the best ways to give your room an inexpensive makeover, but has the flexibility to update the design when you're looking for change. "When you start with a neutral base, it's easier to swap out colorful pillows or towels than purchasing a new sofa or tiles."

## Use paint

Looking to add just a splash of color with paint? Rona Brand, owner of RTB Interiors, puts her interior design expertise to good use by offering color consultations and staging homes to sell. She recommends you accent a view or focal point of a room by using a contrasting color or deeper palette.

"Deep colors actually give the feeling of more space," says the Haverstraw designer. "Most people think light colors open up a room and make it appear larger. Color is much more complicated. It's the combination of hue, value and chroma balance that creates a great color scheme."

Brand recommends talking to an expert before you decide on a paint color. "You have to look at your options in all of the available light and take setting into consideration. Color can change the space's energy. You may not want a calming blue in a workspace or a stimulating red in a bedroom."