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PAINT

High Gloss

Designers share their favorite hues—and insider tips—for a lacquered finish.



WATER'S EDGE 1635
BENJAMIN MOORE

"For a client's library that opens to a garden and pool, we chose this beautiful blue-gray to give the illusion of bringing the outside in. We color-matched the shade to a true lacquer paint for a mirror-like shine that regular high-gloss paint can't achieve. The process was laborious—this room took eight coats—but the end result is absolutely show-stopping."
PALOMA CONTRERAS



MILLION DOLLAR RED 2003-10
BENJAMIN MOORE

"This lipstick-red room was my answer to a client's request for a red library, since I didn't want to compete with the legendary one designed for Brooke Astor by Albert Hadley. The finish feels fresh for a guest room, and the surprising pop of color is both warm and chic. The only trouble is that your guests may never want to leave!"
BRIAN J. MCCARTHY



H00730
FINE PAINTS OF EUROPE

"Some clients fear that red can be too bright and hectic, but this deep, rich shade—which we used in the library of an Upper West Side apartment—is anything but. The result is a room that feels exotic and warm, equally suited to curling up with a good book or entertaining guests late into the night."
ALEXANDRA PAPPAS AND TATYANA MIRON

COPEN BLUE SW 0068
SHERWIN-WILLIAMS

"I grew up vacationing with my family in Bermuda and was later married on the beach there, and this shade of blue brings back memories of watching the breaking waves hit the island's white sand. Try using it in a glossy finish on the inset panels of a coffered ceiling, or the paneled walls of a small library, powder room, or front entry."
COURTNEY THOMAS

RAILINGS NO. 31
FARROW & BALL

"I used this cool-toned, blackened-steel shade on the stair spindles of my own home. The color really pops against the neutral palette of the space around it. My advice for working with a slick finish: Make sure the raw surface is free of any blemishes, because once you apply the paint, the shine will magnify them!"
CHRISTINE STUCKER

DKC-51
DONALD KAUFMAN

"For a living room facing Central Park, a reflective white ceiling became a mirror for the light, trees, and changing colors of the park throughout the seasons. This particular white is crisp but has just enough warmth to soften any glare. I believe that high-shine ceilings work best when paired with textured walls; in this room, we clad the walls in a dimpled cream leather."
PETER PENNOYER

CHARLOTTE'S LOCKS NO. 268
FARROW & BALL

"I wanted to add some drama to a family den while also disguising the room's low ceiling, so I decided to go with a lacquered ceiling—it's a great way to trick the eye and make a space seem more expansive than it is. Charlotte's Locks gives a gorgeous glow and provided just enough tension with dark faux croc on the walls."
GREGORY SHANO



BS 114 RAIL BLUE
FINE PAINTS OF EUROPE

"Interiors can become fussy, and a monochromatic look is an easy way to quiet all the craziness. I used this dark ocean blue—it reminds me of the point where the horizon meets the sky—to blanket the ceiling, walls, and trim of a room, giving it an almost paint-dipped effect."
CHAD JAMES

HOUSEPLANT SW 6727
SHERWIN-WILLIAMS

"This lush shade of green echoes the color of the forest outside a client's dining room near San Francisco. To create a high sheen, artisans buffed and lacquered the surfaces. They were the perfect backdrop for lots of dark woods and ivory textiles, illuminated by a gilt-and-crystal chandelier."
KENDALL WILKINSON

CHANTILLY LACE OC-65
BENJAMIN MOORE

"I like to add a high-gloss finish to walls in dark rooms, since the shiny texture reflects light. We used this white in an eat-in kitchen nook to make the space feel modern and bright. The other thing I love about glossy walls: They're easy to clean, making them ideal for a kitchen or other family areas filled with little sticky fingers!"
LAUREN BEHFARIN

TOMCAT V114-3
VALSPAR

"I adore the drama of lacquered walls. I recently created a luminous dining room for a pair of famous actors in their New York apartment using this jet black, which has just a touch of midnight blue. The painters sprayed on the finish to make it look like glass—no brushstrokes. The end result was pristine but still a bit naughty, especially with a hot-pink piece of Pop Art by Banksy!"
KARI WHITMAN

VINTAGE CLARET 1364
BENJAMIN MOORE

"If you are going to do a lacquered finish, always go bold with the color—the more saturated, the better! This moody berry is the perfect muse for an entrance or dining room, with dramatic art-filled walls and dark-stained floors; it's also great paired with hints of blush, navy, and orange. The look is sophisticated but full of energy."
LESLIE PRICE

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