

HOT hues

Choosing the perfect red is not *tom-eb-toe, tom-ab-toe*.

It looked great at your cousin's in Toronto, but is a little off in your Coal Harbour condo. You're not crazy, says interior decorator Hilary Stephens (www.hilaryannestephensinteriors.com).

"Our light is so diffused ... because it's marine light it's much cooler and has more blue in it," she says, adding: "You can't use as bold colours [on the West Coast]. They have to be tweaked and made just a little bit more muted."

And if that makes you green with envy, you're not alone. "Colour can be a very emotional thing. I've had people break down in tears," says Stephens, who draws heavily on her masters degree in counselling psychology to help clients find shades that make them feel at home. Here are her hot-right-now hues.

■ **Soft green:** Out with the Zen, in with the new. "I see us moving into fresher, newer greens that are like new growth on the trees in the spring," says Stephens. Choose a green that has yellow undertones. **Try:** *Benjamin Moore Glazed Green*.

■ **Tiffany blue:** "Tiffany opening up on Robson St. is very apropos," says Stephens. It's a wonderful vibrant colour. I wouldn't do a whole room," she says. Instead infuse it in accents – pillows, throws and candles. **Try:** *Benjamin Moore Waterfall*

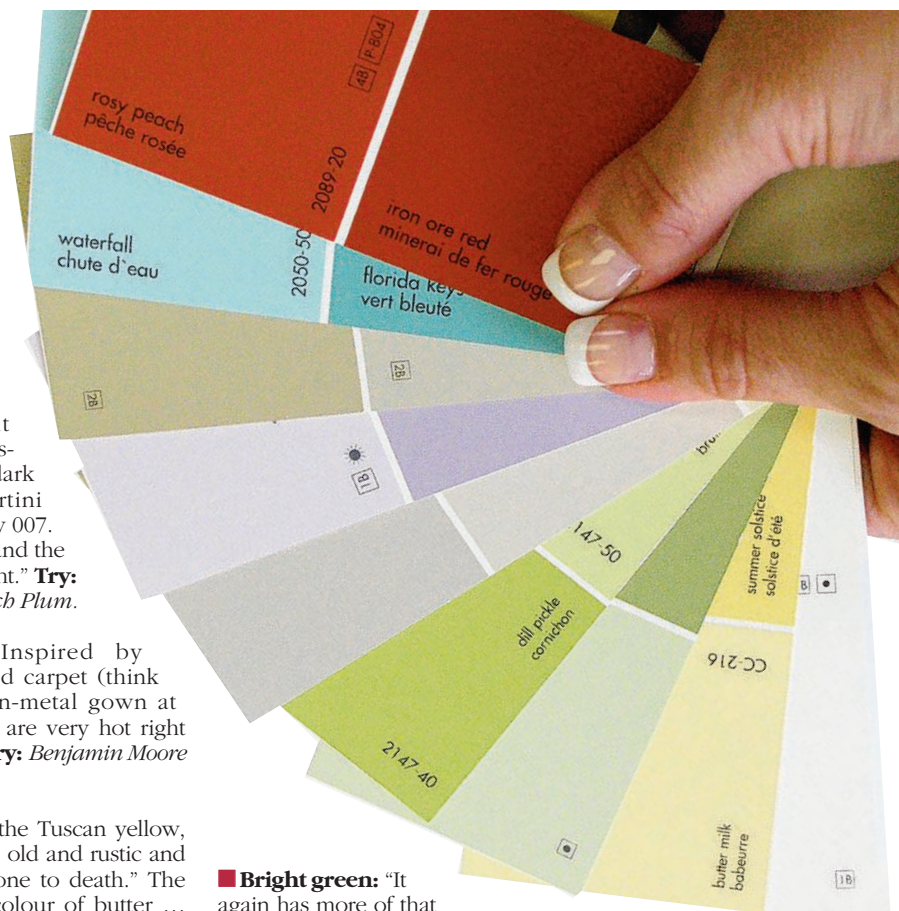
■ **Lavender:** It doesn't sound very masculine, says Stephens, but pair it with loft living, espresso-coloured floors, dark woods, a silver martini shaker – and it's "very 007. Think cocktail hour and the sky at that time of night." **Try:** *Benjamin Moore Beach Plum*.

■ **Silver grey:** Inspired by celebrities on the red carpet (think Cate Blanchett's gun-metal gown at the Oscars) metallics are very hot right now, says Stephens. **Try:** *Benjamin Moore Revere Pewter*.

■ **Soft yellow:** Toss the Tuscan yellow, says Stephens. "It's so old and rustic and gold and it's been done to death." The new yellow is "the colour of butter ... creamy, soft and gentle." **Try:** *Benjamin Moore Buttermilk*

■ **Tropical pink:** Here's the alternative to that tomato red we love but can't pull off in Vancouver, says Stephens. "It's a pinky red ... rather than a blue pink." **Try:** *Benjamin Moore Rosy Peach*

■ **Sandy green:** So long beige, the new neutrals are a little more interesting, more complicated, says Stephens. Choose a taupe that has a little more pizzazz with green undertones. **Try:** *Benjamin Moore Bennington Gray*.



■ **Bright green:** "It again has more of that yellow undertone to it. It's a bolder green," says Stephens, who loves it as an accent colour in pillows, throws or candles or on an accent wall such as a fireplace wall. **Try:** *Benjamin Moore Dill Pickle*.

■ **Warm white:** Sounds simple until you see all the different shades of white available. "A nice warm white, yet stark enough for the contemporary look," says Stephens. Choose one with very subtle yellow undertones. **Try:** *Benjamin Moore Snowfall White*.

- Carly Krug, 24 hours

- Graeme McRanor, 24 hours
Metallics aren't just hot on the red carpet, they are making their way onto the walls.



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