

Creating your colourful home

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANDREW FEARMAN

Cottage-look interiors and exteriors on the rise

Choosing colour combinations to personalize your home can be delightful or daunting. And with so many colours to choose from, it makes sense to ask the experts for help achieving the colour scheme that's right for your space and lifestyle.

Pieter Venema is co-owner of Royal Homes, a company that has been building cottages and homes throughout Ontario for 45 years. That

experience has taught him the value of working with a professional team. "I know what I like in colours for my own home, but I will still hire a professional designer to help me refine my choices," he says. "Our designers know what's trending, what colours can help resale value, and they can help you match that knowledge with your own personal taste."

One of those designers is Royal Homes Design Consultant Leslie Heslip. She says she's seeing more demand for less formal, more cottage-inspired stylings in colours and in overall designs.

An exterior look that's very popular is to incorporate several different siding colours and finishes. "Some people are choosing finishes like HardiePanel, an engineered cement siding, accented with darker trim options," she says. For those going with a solid siding colour, charcoal gray, dark taupe, browns and blues are popular with trim in white or light colours to accent the darker look.

Inside the home, Leslie says kitchens and bathrooms are still dominated by classic white. Two-tone kitchens are also hot, with the focus on the island as a different colour from the main wall cabinets. "Sometimes the countertop materials are different as well, with quartz or granite on the island and laminate on the balance of the

kitchen." Still, she says neutral tones are always the best option for longevity. "Brighter accents can be brought in with furnishings and accessories according to your taste," says Leslie.

Crafting a colourful home is made easier by having conversations about colour and taste early in the design process. Exploring your preferred taste with a designer lets them look for ways to express those preferences in creative ways as they work on a custom home design.

To select the colours, textures and other features of the home, Royal Home designers use a range of tools to help their clients. First and foremost is the dedicated colour choice room.

"Our design centres have all the options displayed that are not shown in the home model itself," explains Pieter. "We have physical samples of various products, such as cabinet doors, ceramic tiles, hardwood floors and an array of paint colours. For every major product we have in a home, we offer actual samples you can physically touch and feel."

Clients are not limited to what is shown in the Royal Home colour choice room, adds



Pieter Venema, Co-owner of Royal Homes



Royal Homes takes customization and design changes seriously. The company has nine model homes at half a dozen design centres, and all of them are constantly being updated to keep up with trends and help spark ideas.

The Catalina model, located at the Innisfil Design

Centre, has had its exterior colour changed three times. Presently it has an iron grey on the walls with sandstone beige shingles and shutters in deep Bordeaux for an elegant accent. Trims and posts are painted Wicker White. The interior is mostly sage green, cream and gold with ceramic tile and solid maple hardwood.

"One of the physical features I particularly like about the Catalina is the end-to-end hallway. Some builders get away from hallways but this one is so unique in how it ties everything together. It creates a superb flow and enhances the ambience of a well-designed home," says Pieter. **DS**

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