



Andrew Martin from RNI's warm colours enhance wellbeing



James Hare Ready Made Cushion Collection from RNI



GP & J Baker wallpaper from RNI



Andrew Martin's dramatic shade of apricot wallpaper creates an alluring, impressive and inviting space available from RNI

Brighten and soothe in equal measure with warm, fuzzy peach tones

This year's colours are cosy, enveloping shades of apricot, which are relatively easy to incorporate into home interiors, both modern and traditional, writes interior designer **Ruth Noble**

Each year for the past 25 years, Pantone has announced its colour for the coming year. This year, the influential paint company has declared 'peach fuzz', its colour of the year.

Trend forecasting agency WSGN predicted a similar shade, Apricot Crush, would be this year's trend on both fashion runways and in retail in general.

The driving force behind the colour of the year is usually the defining spirit or mood of a particular period in time. For example, in 2021, Pantone chose two colours: grey and yellow, highlighting the practical and solid zeitgeist post Covid (grey) but also supported by the warmth and optimism of yellow.

The following year it was the purple of Very Peri to represent personal inventiveness and creativity and last year's Pantone COTY was Viva Magenta, a strong red representing bravery, joy and optimism.

So, perhaps this year's warm fuzzy colours are driven by an awareness of wellbeing, warmth and comfort, but they also work well with deep wood tones and natural timbers as well as soothing forest greens.

Warm and refreshing

Peach, as an interior colour, lends warmth and softness simultaneously to a space. A versatile hue, it can be applied within any style of home or project to create a refreshing finish.

Peach is considered to be warm, neutral and incredibly inviting. It is a shade that sits comfortably alongside most other colours and is set off nicely by materials such as timber, stone, glass and wool.

Shades of peach can invigorate a home; there is no limit to how this colour can be creatively introduced and applied in interiors.

Of course, there is an endless selection of shades of peach or apricot paints available on the market. My advice is to apply soft and gentle matt finish hues to the walls of a hallway, stairs and landing to create a calm, contemporary and easy entrance space, a perfect backdrop for art and wall hangings.

Glaze and gloss finishes

A dining room in a dramatic shade of apricot wallpaper creates an impressive and inviting space to welcome friends any time of year.

Glazed wall tiling and gloss paints in fresh peach tones are really effective. Glossy peach or apricot wall tiles in either a bathroom or kitchen space sit as the perfect base for an uplifting and energetic scheme. Glazed wall tiles are also an ideal backdrop for cabinetry and brassware, and reflect light around a room fabulously.

Gloss finish paint is really effective when applied to cabinets in a pantry or utility/boot room space. A peach shade of glossy paint within these spaces will brighten every Irish winter's day.

The cabinetry of a dressing room painted in a deep apricot shade with the right lighting and a plush carpet on the floor introduces old world elegance and a certain warmth to the space.

Natural materials

The colour peach similarly lends a fresh and light feeling to modern spaces, incorporated alongside timber, glass, stone and matt finish



Peach blush on a terracotta Arabesque floor from Tilestyle

tiles or terrazzo. It also marries well with green, which will lend an earthy, calming and relaxing feeling to a space.



The Campden Collection from James Hare



Peach marries well with green, which will lend an earthy, calming feeling to a space



Peach and apricot tones with natural fabrics such as linen, wool and sisal from Little Greene

Peach and apricot tones sit nicely with natural fabrics such as linen, wool and sisal and introduce a warmth that white cannot. For an opulent, rich interior finish com-

bine peach with the colour brown. Peach and apricot shades sit incredibly well with brown textured or intricate wallpaper, plush brown velvet fabrics, antique brown furniture or brown leather occasional chairs and seating.

The rich chocolatey shades of brown set the delicacy of peach off well while the peach softens the depth and intensity of the brown.

Introduce texture and life to living rooms with apricot velvet upholstered pieces of furniture, textured weaves, wools and bouclés, peach braiding and trims as well as embroidered linens or heavily patterned wallpapers and rugs that will invigorate and energise the space.

A layered approach

Layer the colour peach shade-on-shade. For example, why not in a guest bedroom begin with a textured peach wallpaper to the walls, layer a plain peach fabric lined curtain to the windows and an upholstered peach headboard in velvet or wool, alongside bright white bedding.

Then introduce embroidered linen cushions, lighting and occasional pieces such as a small upholstered bedroom chair or storage trunk and a generously proportioned rug.

This shade-on-shade approach creates a calm, inviting, welcoming and timeless guest bedroom.

There is endless scope to comfortably incorporate peach as a staple colour into your home or interiors project this year and have fun while doing so.

With shades running the gamut from very soft and subtle to vividly bright or deeply intense, peach and apricot will add life, energy, character and effect to the home that will be enjoyed for many years to come.

Ruth Noble Interiors RNI was established in Dublin in 2016. Noble also recently launched an online store. See: ruthnobleinteriors.com or follow her on Instagram: @ruthnobleinteriors.



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