

ORANGE

has its day in the sun

Yes, it's bold. But it has a subtler side. Honestly.

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Special to Newsday

This time of year, the word orange conjures up visions of jack-o'-lanterns and candy corn. But those who know color know this warm and versatile hue can play a host of respectable roles in your home decor year-round.

"It's funny to me how some people are so afraid of orange," says interior designer Libby Langdon. "But used in the right way, it can add a burst of energy to a room without being overwhelming."

Adds Keith Baltimore of Baltimore Design Center in Port

Washington: "It's kind of like an ace in the hole. It's always dramatic when you use orange."

That's easy for the well-schooled in design to say. But for those less intimate with the color wheel, orange can be intimidating. Fear not: With a quick lesson from the experts,

you can learn how to let orange take its rightful place in interior design.

First, decide how daring you are. "Either go with an accent or go bold with any strong color," advises Glen Cove designer Greg Lanza. For the fearless, orange may seem right at home on the walls, the upholstery, the carpeting or the window treatments. But not everyone has that kind of nerve. "If someone wants to tread lightly on the orange front and maybe not commit to furniture or wall color, small accessories are the perfect way to incorporate this vibrant hue into your space," says Langdon.

Next, look at the big picture.

"Never select from a paint chart without pairing with fabrics or wall coverings. There are too many color mistakes made by starting with paint color alone," says Lanza. And "start slow," advises Baltimore. "I don't mind a large piece of orange furniture, but let that be it and work another palette with it. It shouldn't be all about orange. It has to have some balance to it. There's an elegance to orange, as long as it's done tastefully."

Finally, choose your hue and bring it home. It shouldn't be hard to find.

"It's very much in vogue, as it was last year in fashion. . . . It tends to trickle down to interior design," says Baltimore.

"There are definitely more offerings," says Jackie Jordan, director of color marketing for Sherwin-Williams. "In all the various stores, you see a lot more orange accessories than you have in the past. In the paint industry, we have a huge assortment of color and we have lots of oranges in the palette," she says.

Scary? Hardly. There's a reason Sherwin-Williams has a shade of orange dubbed "Emotional." Read on for a sampling of the many moods of orange.

Inviting in the family room »

Orange walls envelope this Keith Baltimore-designed Manhasset family room like a warm blanket, creating a haven where boy and girl colors play nice. The chocolate-brown sofa anchors the room, allowing the hot pink to take flight, while the orange drops back to become almost a neutral. "Those dark colors are typically more masculine than feminine, so that sort of grounds it," Jackie Jordan says. "That makes it not girlie or kidlike."



PHOTO BY PABLO CORRAO

« Serene in the bedroom

There's a calming yin and yang to this Jericho guest bedroom, which was designed by Keith Baltimore. The dreamy sage on the walls is warmed by the rusty orange, while the softness of the velvet is offset by the headboard's geometric shape and dark frame. "Orange and green go together in nature," says Jackie Jordan. "An orange tree with a green background, a terracotta pot with green plants in it. You find it in nature, and it just goes."

