spaces defined

Let colour be the cue for space definition.

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As we seek a life of multiple purpose, our spaces and possessions need to do the same. A living space includes a study, a dining area and a reading nook. A bedroom morphs into living or study. Or becomes a retreat in which to watch streamed media.

We divide spaces into zones where we decorate to share with guests as well as creating very personal areas that are for us alone. We seek separation and function at the same time as we seek togetherness and mutable purpose. And as our homes shrink, our spaces grow in use.

Colour defines space in new ways. It visually anchors a desk top or bed to the wall, makes a dining space distinctive, or defines an entry.

Half-painted walls, two feature walls not one, a tone change of colour... it's all possible with paint.



Left: A change in wall colour – Resene Sea Fog and Resene Half Chateau Grey – and a shelving unit in Resene Steam Roller are used to divide this bedroom and living space. The floor is Resene Colorwood Greywash, the chair and plant stand are Resene Nero, the top pot is Resene Organic and the vase and cactus are Resene Grass Hopper.

top tip

Use high contrast to exaggerate the boundaries between spaces – use light with dark, and let colours happily clash.





Left: A sharp green lower wall in Resene ASAP anchors the desk and defines a study space. The upper wall is in Resene Dusted Blue, the filing cabinet is in Resene Seachange, the trestle legs and a shelf crate are Resene True Blue, the plywood desk top is finished in Resene Aquaclear, a shelf crate and rubbish bin basket are Resene Whirlwind, the chair is Resene Alabaster and the floor is Resene Colorwood Walnut wood stain



Above: Complementary colours red and green give energy to this living space. Which is the feature wall? You decide. The walls are Resene Salsa and Resene Unwind, the floor is Resene Chalk Dust, the tray is Resene Poppy and the sideboard is Resene Dawn Chorus. The Amber Armitage pots are in Resene Black White, Resene Paper Doll and Resene New York Pink, and the Amber Armitage artwork is in Resene Unwind, Resene Poppy, Resene Whirlwind, Resene Coast, Resene Dawn Chorus and Resene Sazerac.



Below: Define an entrance way or hall not in a different colour, but by adding a tonal colour to create a mock dado. This living room wall is Resene Zinzan, while the hall is in Resene Biscay (bottom) and Resene Half Dusted Blue (top). The floor is painted in Resene Chalk Dust, the hall table is Resene Biscay, the wooden hooks and bowl are Resene Frozen, the pot and coffee table are Resene Bunting and the cabinet doors are Resene Breathless.



