

# INTO *the* BLUE

ONCE OVERLOOKED  
KITCHEN STORAGE  
SPACES ARE REINVENTED  
WITH RICH, JUICY COLOR.

WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY KATHRYN GIVEN

"I love using bold color in a room that feels unexpected," explains Houston-based designer Lauren Haskett of this sophisticated butler's pantry scheme that packs a punch with its sensuous blue shade. Traditionally, the kitchen has been a neutral zone where clients steered clear of adventurous tones. Yet today designers are turning to bright and dramatic designs in the kitchen's auxiliary spaces: Think glamorous and vivid gem tones in a prep kitchen, butler's pantry or wet bar. These more modest areas are being transformed into rich jewel boxes—a surprising departure from what was once a purely functional room. As Haskett notes, "Color really sets the tone of the room." So why not add some drama to peeling potatoes and storing spaghetti sauce?



Hague Blue by Farrow & Ball decorates the butler's pantry in this Westlake, Texas, home, while Visual Comfort pendants hang from the barrel ceiling covered in a pale blue Elizabeth Dow wallpaper.





A Native Trails sink and Kallista faucet sit in front of a large window that looks out onto the patio and pool. Backsplash tile from Ann Sacks lines the walls.



## PANTRY PERFECT

LAUREN HASKETT

While using a strong color took some persuading (Black was the original pick!), designer Lauren Haskett always knew her client's butler's pantry needed something fresh. The trick was elevating the design of this space with polished surfaces and elegant details that were in keeping with the rest of this stately home near Fort Worth, Texas. [houstoninteriordesign.co](http://houstoninteriordesign.co)

**Tell us about the function of this space.** I call this the butler's pantry, but it really has a multitude of uses including acting as a connector between the main kitchen, media room and mudroom, so it gets used all the time. As the kitchen space only has one wall of cabinetry, this room doubles as a coffee bar, wet bar, charging station, storage area for china and catering kitchen. Several appliances, including a Perlick refrigerator, Scotsman ice machine and KitchenAid dishwasher, are also housed in the pantry.

**The color is so striking. How did you select it?** I'm so happy we went with Hague Blue because there is so much depth to it; it can go green, blue and gray all at the same time. However, what's most important when working with a darker color in a space is to incorporate contrast, so it won't ever feel like a cave. Here, we added lighter countertops, pale wallpaper, metallic hardware and glass-front cabinets that bounce light around.

**Is the same level of sophistication carried throughout the house?** The overall aesthetic of the home is definitely on the formal side and even the spaces that are casual still have an elegance to them, so I wanted to make sure the butler's pantry reflected how refined this residence is. I also wanted to inject a dose of glamour with this grand color.

PHOTOS: MAX BURKHALTER, MAX B PHOTO.



*“Even a galley kitchen in a pied-à-terre is an opportunity to showcase personality. Light from the acid-etched glass door allows the high-gloss green lacquer and mirrored backsplash to really shine.”*

—JOHN B. MURRAY,  
jbmararchitect.com



**“WE WANTED THE BAR TO LOOK LIKE A LITTLE GEM IN THE ROOM. THIS EMERALD TONE CONTRASTS SO NICELY WITH THE SATIN BRASS TRIM. WHAT’S RICHER THAN THE RIGHT SHADE OF GREEN?”**

—MICHELLE GERSON,  
michellegerson.com



**“THE TILE COLOR OF THIS PREP KITCHEN WAS INSPIRED BY THE CLIENT’S DINING ROOM WALLS—IT’S NOT AN EXACT MATCH BUT COMPLEMENTS IT PERFECTLY.”**

—REBEKAH ZAVELOFF,  
kitchenlabinteriors.com

**Clockwise from top:** Architect John B. Murray worked with designer Tom Scheerer on this apartment that overlooks Central Park in Manhattan. Waterworks’ District Tile in Privet Forest, Illinois, prep area designed by Rebekah Zaveloff. In a New York City apartment, designer Michelle Gerson chose opulent Calypso Green by Benjamin Moore for the bar.

MURRAY PHOTO: PETER ESTERSON; ZAVELOFF PHOTO: MICHAEL ALAN KASKEL, COURTESY REBEKAH ZAVELOFF, GERSON PHOTO: MIAMI WHELAN, COURTESY MICHELLE GERSON.





## PRETTY IN PINK

New from German fittings company Dornbracht is the Meta Slim faucet. The delicate design and slender lever provides the perfect backdrop for vibrant finish options that are sure to brighten up the bath. It's available in colorful matte options including light rose (shown), pastel green, yellow and grey blue, as well as 11 other metallic finishes. [dornbracht.com](http://dornbracht.com)

## ITALIAN INFLUENCE

Inspired by marbled papers and the art of traditional bookbinding, artist Federico Pepe has collaborated with CEDIT by FLORIM on a line of large-scale ceramic wallcoverings. The Araldica collection features graphic coat-of-arms motifs and inlaid stone-like patterns on multicolored backgrounds, such as Corallo Base with Corallo Blasone (shown), that add instant color appeal. [florim.com](http://florim.com)



## CRYSTAL CLEAR

Antoniolupi's stately freestanding Vitreo sink becomes the focal point of the bathroom with an intricate decagonal shape and translucent quality. Designed by Carlo Colombo and Andrea Lupi using Cristalmood, a shiny, durable resin material, the sink comes in 10 vibrant hues. [antoniolupi.it](http://antoniolupi.it)



## TRUE COLORS

If you ever need a range in the perfect shade of crimson or the palest robin's-egg blue, look no further than Dacor, which can now match its Heritage Collection Wall Ovens and Ranges to any color swatch. Personalize your appliances with any shade imaginable, such as this 36-inch Heritage Dual Fuel Pro Range glamorized in salmon. [dacor.com](http://dacor.com)



This adventurous bath design in West Hollywood, California, showcases Popham's Brasilia cement tiles in the lawn and milk colorway.

## SHAPE SHIFTER

Shannon Wollack and Brittany Zwickl, the designers behind West Hollywood, California, firm Studio Life.Style, wanted to make sure the spaces they created for a clients' home in Los Angeles had longevity and an enduring aesthetic for their growing family. In the boy's bathroom they decided to focus on a scheme that was fun and playful yet sophisticated enough to stand the test of time. "Patterned tiles are a great way to bring in color," the designers explain of a bath area lined with graphic green-and-white tiles, a combination that feels less expected than the traditional blue and brings in bit of whimsy. [studio-lifestyle.com](http://studio-lifestyle.com)

PHOTOS: STEPHEN BUSKEN, COURTESY STUDIO LIFE/STYLE