



Put Your Walls on a Diet! Illusions of Space from the Rohm and Haas Paint Quality Institute

As we move into the new year and holiday decorations disappear, many homeowners are searching for ways to cost effectively change the look of their interior spaces. Did you know that paint color can actually alter the dimensions of a room? Well, it can't literally do that. But it can alter how the dimensions are perceived, which is the next best thing. By taking a cue from fashion, your living space can be viewed as larger or smaller, taller or shorter.

Try the tips in this newsletter to change how you and your family and friends perceive your own living space.

Happy Painting,



Debbie Zimmer, Editor - dzimmer@rohmmaas.com



A light-colored paint will make a small room appear bigger, for instance. And darker shades will make a large room seem much more intimate. These types of paint-induced optical illusions can be used with excellent results in almost any space.

1. Raise or Lower the Ceiling

If a ceiling feels too low, bright white can "raise" your perception of its height. By taking a cue from clothing designers, adventuresome homeowners can paint their walls with vertical stripes to enhance the sense of height.

On the other hand, dramatic high ceilings may cause a living space to feel cavernous. Add a mid-tone to deep hue on the ceiling to visually lower the height. Another alternative is to paint horizontal stripes on the walls.



2. Shrink or Expand Rooms

Just as a dark monochromatic outfit can visually "slim" an appearance, a monochromatic paint scheme can do the same in a large space. Choosing darker shade for the walls will reign in a large room and create a cozy and intimate space. And, as mentioned earlier, a light-colored paint will make a small room appear bigger.

Is your room too narrow and long? Just widen it by painting the shorter walls a deeper color than the longer walls. If color alone isn't enough to change the perceived dimensions, use color combinations to create visual breaks. Divide your wall space horizontally with a chair rail and paint the upper and lower portions different hues.



3. Don't Forget the Sheen

For both visual and practical reasons, selecting the right sheen of paint is just as important as the actual color. Glossier finishes lend greater warmth and depth to surfaces than do flat paints. For example, a room with white gloss paint on the ceiling will seem larger than a room whose ceiling is painted with a white flat paint.



project planner

decorative techniques

room inspiration

digital color wheel

DIY feature & archives

newsletter archives

subscribe

unsubscribe