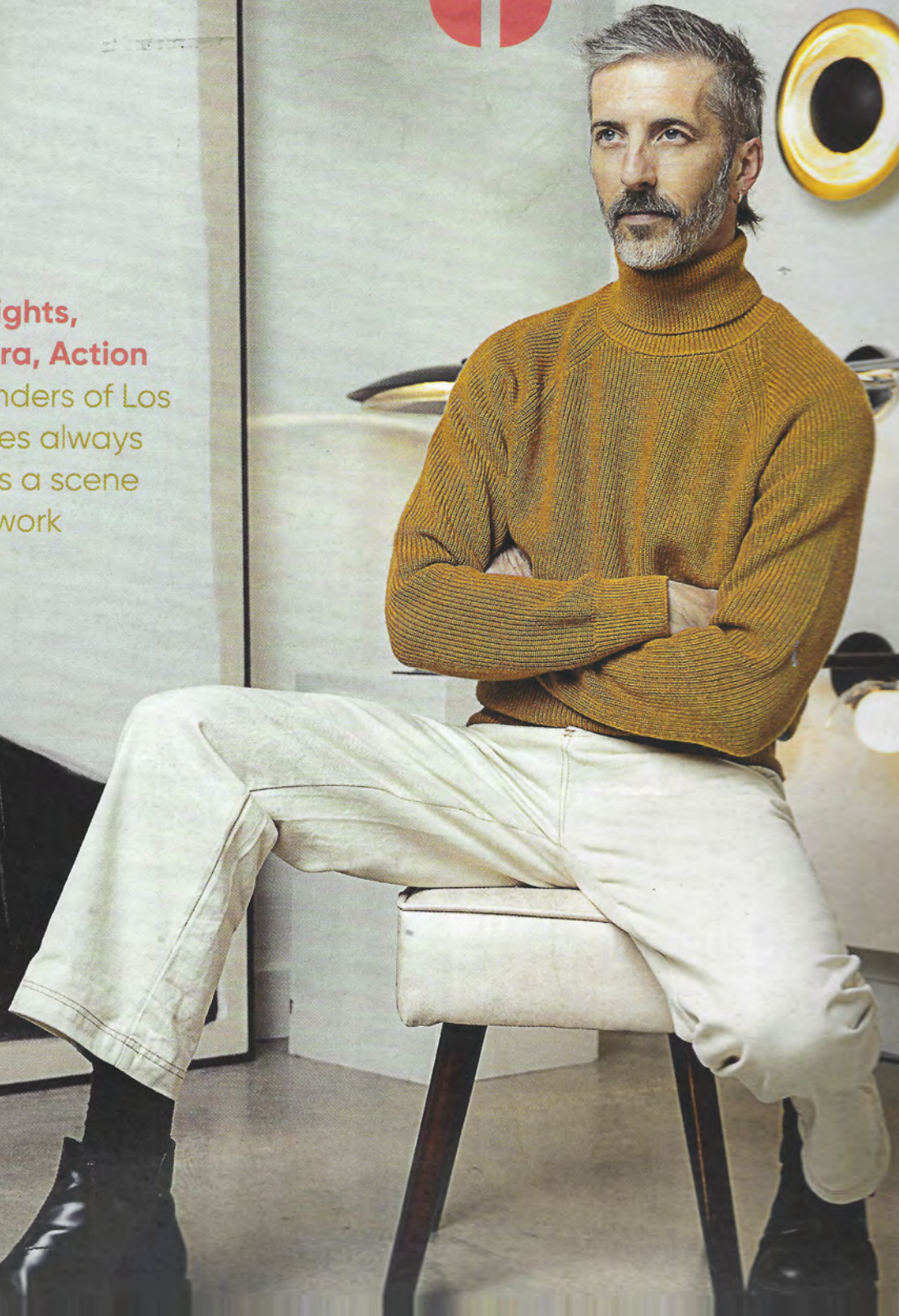


designer

**Lights,
Camera, Action**
Mat Sanders of Los
Angeles always
makes a scene
work





DREAM IN COLOR

Text
Jessica Elliott

EVERY DESIGNER HAS A FAVORITE SHADE ON STANDBY. THESE ARE THEIR NO-FAIL, UNOBTRUSIVE, UNEXPECTED COLORS THAT SHOULD BE IN YOUR REPERTOIRE.

Paint. It's the crucial factor even the most talented of designers struggle with most. Light altering, mood shifting, décor puzzle-piecing—it all comes down to that one, integral hue. It sets the tone for an entire space—no pressure, right? So, we wanted to know—what are designers' stalwart shades? The ones they flip to in their sample books without a flinch? To lessen that wall-of-paint-chips anxiety, we asked—and they delivered.

The Hue: "Greens" by Sherwin-Williams (SW 6748) in High Gloss

The Designer: Roz Murphy of Roz Murphy Design

The Allure: "I love a strong, dramatic color that can pair with almost any other color," Murphy says. "This shade evokes nature but

It is remarkable and bold—you can always guarantee that it will create a dynamic space."

Room Service: A client's upstairs lounge was recently bathed in "Greens," and created a "fun, energetic space for entertaining," Murphy says. She also applied it in the laundry room of a historical Tudor restoration for an "English hunting club vibe," she says. "The shade has significant range."

Perfect Pairings: She recommends blending

and textures, and says the color goes particularly well with black. She favors "Caviar" by Sherwin-Williams (SW 6749). "The shade has a way of complementing a maximalist aesthetic, which is always

Paint-Chip Tip: "Ask yourself, what is the room going to be used for? It should reflect the function of a space that dictates the color. So if you want electric, social vibes, go with a bolder selection, and if you're looking to create a calming, soothing

Photo:
Dan
Piassick





Photo: Michael Hunter

The Hue: "Santorini Blue" by Sherwin-Williams (SW 7607)

The Designer: Barbara Owens of Owens Interiors

The Allure: "Right now, I'm vibing with blue," Owens says. "This particular shade is inspired by the colors of the Adriatic Sea and brings to mind images of coastal views and sundrenched beaches."

Room Service: "I used the same color in two rooms in the same home, creating a different effect in each room," Owens says. For a soothing effect in the living room, she accented the front wall to highlight the architecture and intermixed a warm white on trim and walls. In the study, she took a more spirited approach, applying the shade on cabinetry.



Perfect Pairings:

"Neutral shades of white and soft blue in the furnishings with crisp art keep the look fresh," she says. "In the living area, the blue accent wall acts as a palette cleanser, creating a serene vibe." In the study, she struck a "global influence through the use of color, antiques, and a mix of textures and patterns," she says. "Perky emerald-green chairs sit on a vibrant 'overdyed' orange rug, bringing an energy to the room. It shows that it's not just about what color you use but how you use a color that can change the effect."

Paint-Chip Tip: "Start with what you love!" Owens says. "Don't be afraid of color. After all, it's only paint."

Hue: "Iced Marble" by Benjamin Moore (1578)

Designer: Emily Johnston of EJ Interiors

Allure: "It's such a tranquil soothing color," Larkin says.

Room Service: "It's an ideal color for bedrooms, as it encourages a sense of peace. I've also used it in offices."

Perfect Pairings: "I love pairing 'Iced Marble' with drapes in the same shade so the space feels cozy and inviting that it envelops you," Larkin says.

Adjacent trim painted "White Dove" by Benjamin Moore (OC-17), "makes 'Iced Marble' stand out and looks so fresh. I also like incorporating elements of black and dark woods, which bring a sense of elegance. You could even go with pops of deep pink for a fun accent."

Paint-Chip Tip: "I always recommend pulling colors from an inspiration fabric or bold rug that you love. If a client wants to incorporate something they already have, such as a piece of artwork, you could also start there."



Photo: Stewart Cohen