

# History repeats itself as bold colors return

A new trend in decorating sees history repeated as the bold, vibrant hues reminiscent of the Victorian era come to life once more for use in contemporary homes, apartments and offices.

Victorian colors are becoming more popular due to a growing romantic trend in decorating. The bright pastels such as peach and turquoise, which were seen in home furnishings in the past few years, are giving way to rich but low-key shades washed with light.

Furnishings with sensuous, curved designs and delicate, lacy fabrics complement these romantic colors, one interior decorator noted.

The average homeowner doesn't need to spend thousands of dollars to bring the subdued, classic look of the Victorian era into his own home. A few accessories, the right draperies, a throw pillow and perhaps a new stain added to existing wood furniture can give a Victorian aura to any home. And the right wall color is

essential to pulling together any look.

The Victorian era saw bold, intense colors with a large amount of pigment being used. But the colors were slightly cooler, more ash-toned instead of bright, noted a color expert at Fuller-O'Brien Paints, originators of The Cape May Victorian Colors Palette, a 70-color spectrum that faithfully reproduces the beautiful hues of the late 19th century.

In contemporary homes, the colors work especially well because they offer a perfect "canvas" for the decorator, enhancing, without overpowering, the decor. The subdued quality of these colors makes them an ideal choice for use with nearly any style of contemporary furnishings.

So go ahead — experiment. Whether the look you want is 19th century or modern, a few simple touches, with the right wall color as a backdrop, can add elegance to any room.

## Plan before remodeling

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atural materials like wood and marble to man-made products like laminated plastics and "Corian."

The type and color of material your choose will depend on your needs and personal preferences, as well as the amount you want to spend.

Kitchen counters take a lot of abuse, from spilled foods and splashed juices, to

accidental burns and knife cuts — even the footprints of the child who just can't keep from climbing up to reach the cookie jar.

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