

TRADITIONAL HOME

SPRING 2000

# Decorator

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COLOR GOES COOL  
COTTAGE MEETS CHIC  
BEDROOMS MAKE A BIG STATEMENT



# TWO COOL

It's an inevitable union. The proverbial match made in heaven. As natural as the meeting between unblemished blue sky and leafy-green treetops, between icy-blue brook and cool forest glade. Blue and green are inextricably linked, in nature as well as on the color wheel.

More than kindred spirits, blue and green have the same spirit. And that's cool to the core. ■ With none of the passion of the ultimate warm color, red, to arouse and agitate, this cool combo delivers an opposite effect. Rested, relaxed, reflective. Harried urbanites seek secluded mountain retreats or tropical seaside settings to bask in their blue and green aura and dissolve into calm. The psalmist him-

self lay in green pastures, settled beside the still waters, and knew he'd been delivered. ■ Indoors, seductive stagings of blue and green can re-create nature's calming palette. The renowned retreats of history's rich, famous, and royal are full of them. Catherine the Great recruited the cool color duo in her St. Petersburg winter palace (now one of five buildings in The Hermitage museum complex). George IV favored blue and green for his father's library, which he had transplanted to the Royal Pavilion at Brighton. The library's mint green walls soar up to a trompe l'oeil ceiling, where puffy white clouds skid across a pale blue sky. Well pleased, the king chose the blue-and-green palette again for his own bedroom at the pavilion. ■ Played one off the other like rhyming couplets, blue and green are twice as effective in tandem as they are on their own: They caress, calm, and coddle. They wash across a space gently, visually enlarging their surroundings. Unlike in-your-face warm colors that incite an adrenaline rush, their demands are few, making the blue-and-green scheme a contender for any space where soothing serenity is the order of the day.

SEPARATELY, BLUE AND GREEN EPITOMIZE SERENE BEAUTY, BUT TOGETHER THEY ARE TWICE AS NICE.

BY CANDACE ORD MANROE

**A CABINET WALL** of blue and green color blocks keeps this linen closet cool and collected. Frosted glass doors with etched content labels maintain the icy look while keeping clutter out of sight. Shelves without doors are alternately painted lively kelly green, periwinkle, or grayish blue. The abutting window wall glaze echoes the kelly green of the shelves. A flowing white linen curtain is banded with periwinkle silk. A classic black-and-white checkerboard marble floor repeats the timeless block theme that can weather any palette changes.

**San Francisco Decorator Showcase**  
**San Francisco, California**  
**Interior designer:** Kathleen Navarro  
**Photographer:** Matthew Millman  
**Regional editor:** Carla Breer Howard

For more information, see the Buying Guide on page 146.