



PERSONAL SHOPPER  
Marianne Rahlelich

## Worth a Detour Off the Color Wheel






1. 2. 3.

Photography: Suzanne Glavinet for The New York Times; Neve Koshkin/The New York Times (2)

**A**s decorative styles change, so do wall colors. Walls lighten and darken, shifting from stark white to linen white to darker, more intense colors — and back again. But these days, there are unexpected deviations from the standard paint store color wheel. It is now possible to paint a wall metallic copper, gold or silver with water-soluble latex. For modernists, there is a range of paints reproduced from the colors ordered by the architect Le Corbusier, who specified color details in his otherwise all-white houses. A textured wall can also add interest to a room, and some textures come right out of a paint can. Once you think beyond linen white, the possibilities are endless.

1. Chromatone, by Crescent Bronze, is water-based metallic wall paint, which comes in six ready-mixed colors: oyster-pearl, silver, pale gold (reddish), rich gold (brass), copper (on the wall) and roman gold (orange). It is sold in two-ounce jars (\$3.98 to \$4.50), half pints, quarts and gallons, \$75 to \$95 each. Chromatone can be used on any interior walls, but is not recommended for bathrooms unless it is sealed with a coat of polyurethane. The most uniform effect is achieved by spraying the paint, but it can also be rolled or brushed. For stores that sell Chromatone paints:

[www.crescentbronze.com](http://www.crescentbronze.com) or (800) 445-6818.

2. Devine paints were created by Gretchen Schwaefler, an Oregon artist, who thought house paints should be displayed as invitingly as lipsticks. She has limited the color

choices to 128, ranging from neutrals to a children's collection with bright primaries. As an alternative to traditional color chips, which can be hard to use, she makes bars 8 by 1 1/2 inches. For testing at home, the paint can be bought in mini-pouches. Devine, \$34.95 a gallon for wall finish, is

made by Miller Paints, (800) 832-3254, or [www.millerpaints.com](http://www.millerpaints.com).

3. River Rock latex paint, in 12 colors, has a sandy texture, and its matte surface has a slightly mottled effect. It requires two coats and must be applied with a special roller for textured paint. By Ralph Lazarek, it is \$35 a gallon; (800) 379-7686 for local dealers, or [www.rhomepaint.com](http://www.rhomepaint.com).

4. Textures can also be achieved with special brushes. Antiqued leather is a finish that requires applying a tinted translucent glaze over two coats of semi-gloss base coats. The texture is then applied with a special brush (instructions are included). This finish is best used on walls that are not perfectly smooth. At Janovic Plaza, (212) 772-1490.

5. In early modernist white houses, the occasional wall was painted a primary color. In 1931, Le Corbusier developed a line of wallpaper for a company called Sabco as a means of standardizing wall colors for houses. His "color keyboard" of 43 wallpaper tones, as well as a second line of 30 wallpapers, developed in 1958, have now been reproduced as flat, silicon-resin mineral paints. They are made in Switzerland by kt colors; bright colors, \$195 a gallon; panels, \$130; and white, \$85. Available in the United States from (718) 699-9477. Shipping is extra.



Le Corbusier

**Devine Color®  
as seen in the  
national  
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