

The mix of green and white fabric on the table, antique chairs match the theme of the delicate iron table. This works to help the design flow together.

THE BLUE *and* THE GRAY

Two colors that have always been strong matches are blue and gray. Correspond with classic patterns such as plaid, stripes or textual solids, and the mix and match possibilities are endless, always with a finished result.

BY JACQUELINE DEMONTRAVEL



Mix and Match

A spirited guide to gray and blue combos

1. Consider your room and what the outcome should be.
2. Find inspiration through magazines, websites and stylish friends.
3. Analyze your pieces and accents, edit accordingly and perhaps add new pieces to achieve your look.
4. It may take a few trials to get the look; thus, be patient and experiment with different arrangements.
5. Consider revamping existing pieces to balance the room. Upholster an ottoman, create valances or paint and wallpaper a wall.

As children, we were taught never to clash, as the idea of wearing plaid with stripes was as frightening as a dodgeball game with mean-spirited bullies. Now that we are all grown and secure in our styles, blending patterns and textures is a talent that elevates a look from blah to beautiful.

To achieve a designed look, start with a theme in color. Two shades covering styled homes are blue and gray. The classic shades are timeless and modern. They also have the specialized ability to act as a neutral, like white or cream. Just think in terms of fashion, where charcoal gray and denim are the foundation to your look. Then weave in accessories for finished, personalized appeal.

Motley patterns and finishes work when there is a unifying connector, such as color. Do not go overboard like the batty aunt who grabs every available garment, topped off with fuchsia lipstick. Stay true to one or two colors, and perhaps add in one statement color with an accessory, like coffee table books, a throw or pillow.

Since childhood, mixing and matching has always been a fun process. Take your time, give a lot of consideration to the room and take risks.

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gray SIDE



2. RAILINGS NO. 31, (888) 511-1121 or farrow-ball.com.



1. POUCH, \$65. Visit stoneycloverlane.com



4. FINE MICRON WOOL BLANKET, (800) 545-9347 or brahmsmount.com.



3. COLLEGIATE BOW TIE COLLAR, (416) 271-3944 or theoverboutique.com.



6V. CACHE POTS, Visit belleandjune.com.



5. GREYVILLE TARTAN BEDDING, (877) 586-4771 or pineconehill.com.



7. ROYAL BEIGE/CHARCOAL RUG (8X10), (800) 843-2446 or Overstock.com

blue SIDE

1. SAPPHIRE PAINT, Visit finepaintsofeurope.com.



2. PLAID FRAME, \$88. (888) 99-BELLE or belleandjune.com.



3. NEWBURY PICNIC BASKET, Visit CoolStufffortheKitchen.com.



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6. PINE CONE HILL NORMANDY THROW, (877) 888-2584 or tuvaluhome.com



7. ELLORA BLOCK PRINT QUILT AND PILLOW, (617) 396-7065) or kalyanatextiles.com.



8. FARROW & BALL TENTED STRIPE, (888) 511-1121 or farrow-ball.com.

9. BYERS PLAID DUFFEL, Visit holdernessandbourne.com.



10. SANBORN PADDLE, Visit unitedbyblue.com.

