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Living with coral

The Pantone Colour Institute's 2019 colour of the year is Living Coral. Interior designer Clair Strong offers up some ideas about how to use this bold, resonant hue at home

Living Coral, a vibrant, fresh and fashionable tone, is a bold, welcoming colour that sits neatly between orange and pink, a fun and versatile hue that inspires playful self-expression both in fashion and in the home. It has been chosen in response to the escalation of digital technology and social media in daily life, with the shade's natural warmth designed to offset this. Pantone believe that the colour "embraces us with warmth and nourishment to provide comfort and

buoyancy in our continually shifting environment." In interior design, it has the potential to create a warm, welcoming space with a sense of joy and sociability. The beauty of home is its ability to make us feel at ease; a place where we are able to rest, relax and entertain. Promoting warm serenity, Living Coral an ideal player in this interior vision.

The institute's choice has been influenced by environmental issues too, society's impact on the ocean's coral. Here are a few ways to use this colour in your home.



Annie Sloan chalk paints on panelled wall



Atkin and Thyme Carnaby footstool in coral pink

Blend with other colours

Living Coral plays well with other colours and its versatility lends it to many aesthetic styles. It can be sultry and sophisticated, funky and cool, or cute and playful, depending on the accompanying tones.

For a fresh spring look mix coral with a lush dark green. This inspiring blend has hints of the tropical and is a pleasing alternative to spring pastels. Such a lively palette is ideal for the kitchen or bathroom and adds interest to a neutral space.

If you prefer moody and dramatic, pair coral with rich plum, deep burgundy and luxe gold. This deeply soothing and enticing colour palette is perfect for the bedroom. Paint the walls dark and accessorise with hints of coral and metallic accents to create light and shade.

Go boho

Living Coral is a natural match for one of the top trends of 2019: boho interiors. This bright

colour brings out the beauty in natural materials like bamboo and rattan, it perfectly frames green plants, is a close friend of terracotta, and it blends really well with earthy neutrals. A truly excellent match. To bring a touch of coral-infused bohemian to your home, accessorise with patterned cushions or bazaar-inspired rugs with coral hues. Coral goes with pretty much anything, but even when it clashes, it has attitude. For a true boho vibe, embrace the eccentricity and layer mismatching colours and textures.

Upcycle

Upcycling is an affordable and creative way to try this colour. Nothing helps you get to know a colour better than working directly with it. Only when you get up close and personal can you understand the intricacies of a hue. So stock up on chalk paint in the tone of your choice and start transforming old and tired furniture. If you'd rather not paint furniture,

a can of spray paint can help revive accessories such as vases, lamp bases and plant pots.

Be discreet

If you don't want to commit to a whole new interior scheme, make Living Coral an accent rather than a feature. It's a bright, lively colour and doesn't work for everyone in large doses. Instead of painting all four walls or purchasing large pieces of furniture in the shade, opt for smaller accessories, textiles or decoration instead. There are no hard and fast rules when it comes to decorating your home. Do what feels right for you. ■

Pantone.com; trhayes.co.uk; anniesloan.com

Clair Strong Interior Design is a small, friendly, creative business based in Bath and London, providing services for residential and commercial clients. Visit: clairstrong.co.uk or contact: clair@clairstrong.co.uk

Harlequin Zapara wallpaper from TR Hayes, 15-18 London Street, Bath

