

INTERIOR DESIGN > PAINT

Blue and brown is the unexpected pairing
that's more livable than you think – here's
how to decorate with this trending
combination

This pairing might sound on the more dramatic side, but designers are loving this
cool and warm combination

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Blue and brown is a color pairing that sounds more dramatic than it appears. Pairing a bold cool tone with a dark warm tone? It does go against a lot of color rules, but done right it's a combination that's surprisingly livable, unexpectedly versatile, and endlessly chic.

A lot of brown color combinations have connotations with retro decor, the '70s in particular, loved bringing brown into a color scheme. But in 2025, brown has shed its dated skin, as have the colors you can pair with it. We've seen plenty of evidence of brown and blue coming together beautifully, creating rooms that are rich, full of interest and elegance.

'Browns and blues are both organic colors,' explains designer Stephanie Larsen. 'We see them appear naturally in the world around us all the time, and that's a big reason why they're such a beautiful and easily accessible pairing. As humans, we're drawn to colors that we see appear in nature, and studies have shown that incorporating these organic tones in our spaces can have calming effects on our well-being.'