

# COLOURS OF MOROCCO

Colour consultant Samantha Bacon looks at the characteristics of some favourite colours and explains the best combinations of paint, wallpaper and fabric to add impact to decorating schemes.

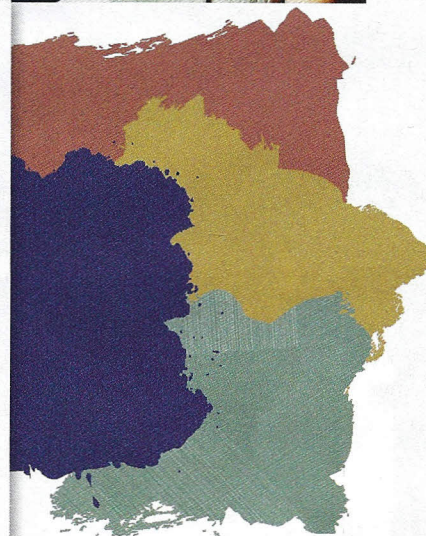


Morocco undoubtedly has one of the most evocative colour palettes.

Conjure up images of exotic spice markets with terracotta bowls laden with cinnamon, turmeric, saffron and nutmeg and you have the foundations of a typical Moroccan palette.

Terracotta – derived from the natural clay of the country – ranges from soft pink to a deep, fiery red ensuring this is also one of the warmest palettes around. The bright, highly saturated colour is derived from the beautiful, intricate designs of the tiles which adorn many surfaces both indoors and outside. Cobalt blue, bright red and emerald green are characteristic shades used in Moroccan tiles and they inject stunning uplifting hues into the earthy heart of the colour scheme.

Walls in Morocco can also be whitewashed with accents of green, which is the colour of Islam, and blue, a traditional hue throughout the Mediterranean. Mirrors are typically framed with embossed cool metallic finishes which bring a cool contrast to the richness of the palette. Moroccan gardens are generally courtyard affairs that have an abundance of green foliage and running water, usually in the form of a fountain, and of course both natural terracotta and decorative ceramic tiles. All these elements create a stunning environment for those people who love the warmth these rich, exotic colours bring to a scheme.



[colours by Porters] Fired Earth, Turmeric, Vatican Blue, Villa

[fabric] Image of fabric doorstops from Mokum Modern Maroc collection

Traditionally made paints are preferable in a Moroccan scheme as the finish should be natural and as matt as possible. Porter's limewash and distemper finishes work well in this situation and its Fired Earth, Turmeric, Vatican Blue and Villa colours are perfect examples of classic Moroccan hues. Mokum Textiles has launched a number of Moroccan-influenced designs over the past few years and the latest from its Modern Maroc collection is perfect for a contemporary Moroccan scheme.