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House Beautiful

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PAINT

High Gloss

Designers share their favorite hues—and insider tips—for a lacquered finish.



WATER'S EDGE 1635
BENJAMIN MOORE

"For a client's library that opens to a garden and pool, we chose this beautiful blue-gray to give the illusion of bringing the outside in. We color-matched the shade to a true lacquer paint for a mirror-like shine that regular high-gloss paint can't achieve. The process was laborious—this room took eight coats—but the end result is absolutely show-stopping."

PALOMA CONTRERAS



H00730
FINE PAINTS OF EUROPE

"Some clients fear that red can be too bright and hectic, but this deep, rich shade—which we used in the library of an Upper West Side apartment—is anything but. The result is a room that feels exotic and warm, equally suited to curling up with a good book or entertaining guests late into the night."

ALEXANDRA PAPPAS AND TATYANA MIRON



COPEN BLUE SW 0068
SHERWIN-WILLIAMS

"I grew up vacationing with my family in Bermuda and was later married on the beach there, and this shade of blue brings back memories of watching the breaking waves hit the island's white sand. Try using it in a glossy finish on the inset panels of a coffered ceiling, or the paneled walls of a small library, powder room, or front entry."

COURTNEY THOMAS



RAILINGS NO. 31
FARROW & BALL

"I used this cool-toned, blackened-steel shade on the stair spindles of my own home. The color really pops against the neutral palette of the space around it. My advice for working with a slick finish: Make sure the raw surface is free of any blemishes, because once you apply the paint, the shine will magnify them!"

CHRISTINE STUCKER



DKC-51
DONALD KAUFMAN

"For a living room facing Central Park, a reflective white ceiling became a mirror for the light, trees, and changing colors of the park throughout the seasons. This particular white is crisp but has just enough warmth to soften any glare. I believe that high-shine ceilings work best when paired with textured walls; in this room, we clad the walls in a dimpled cream leather."

PETER PENNOYER



CHARLOTTE'S LOCKS NO. 268
FARROW & BALL

"I wanted to add some drama to a family den while also disguising the room's low ceiling, so I decided to go with a lacquered ceiling—it's a great way to trick the eye and make a space seem more expansive than it is. Charlotte's Locks gives a gorgeous glow and provided just enough tension with dark faux croc on the walls."

GREGORY SHANO