

BY EMILY REAMAN

blue tints



Inspired by the landscape of her native Maine, decorative painter and designer Angela Adams says, "any colors you find together in nature will work together in fashion and in your home." This philosophy has become a signature throughout her ultramodern collections of rugs, furniture and accessories.

COLOR CAST



Working in a palette taken from the sky and the sea, Angela Adams, who began designing rugs as a way to give her painted patterns a dimensional element, makes her textile designs an expression of both her creativity and her environment. "I consider blue to be my most natural color—the color I'm most easily drawn to," says Adams. Having always lived by the ocean, she never tires of the water's ever-changing hues of blue, "In Maine," she says, "the colors of the water can change with ever) tide—practically every hour. It's very inspiring. Each day, I dress according to the palette of the sky, the ocean and the foliage."

It's not surprising, then, that Adams chooses a range of nature-inspired blues for her own home. "I tend to like white walls and use color as accents so that I have more flexibility as the seasons and the outdoor palettes change," she says. "There's blue in most of my rugs at home, as well as in the pillows and other accessories." In her bathroom, Adams prefers a mixture of marine blue shades for the tiles and the floor. "Blue is such a clean color, which is why I like it in the bathroom," she says. For the walls in her study, she

selected a soft gray-slate blue to make it a relaxing place to work. The kitchen is the only room where she tends to use less blue. "I don't think it complements food as well as some other colors do," she says.

Since many colors work with blue, the versatile hue can play either the dominant color in a decor, or an accent. "My favorite combinations are blue and brown, blue and green, and blue and yellow," Adams says, but she also loves playing around with bolder combinations like blue and tangerine or just mixing many different shades of the color.

Regardless of shifting color trends, Adams believes that blue will always be among the most desirable colors. For example, dark turquoise has been a popular shade in home textiles over the past couple of years, but the wheels of fashion may be turning. Adams plans to re introduce more classic denim and French blue throughout her collections in the coming seasons. "It seems like every year I am drawn to a new color—this year I am very fond of yellow—but blue will always be my true favorite. It's friendly, peaceful, natural and comforting," she says. •

Natural instincts make a cool splash at home

ANGELA ADAMS



Blue-Light
Complete your d
artful overhead p
Jeweled Blossom
Pendant, availab
Shades of Light,
10 inches high ai
an 8-inch-wide E
acrylic shade. It
with a 6-foot wh
(60-watt bulb no
\$69. 800-262-66
www.shadesoflit

Into the Wild Blue

From cool aqua to regal navy, there's plenty to love about blue. Pair it with white or green for a calm spalike look, or match it with brown for a chic, sophisticated look.



Make Waves

Make a bare wall bold with a sequence of Stretched Wall Art by Inhabit. Check out all the styles offered from 2Modern in a range of retro suede fabric patterns and sizes. Shown here are Rain In Sky and Chocolate Lifesaver. From \$65, for a 16-square-inch size. 888-240-5333; www.2modern.com.



Blue-Light Special

Complete your decor with an artful overhead pendant. The Jeweled Blossom Party Pendant, available from Shades of Light, measures 10 inches high and features an 8-inch-wide Sea Blue acrylic shade. It comes with a 6-foot white cord (60-watt bulb not included). \$69, 800-262-6612; www.shadesoflight.com.

In Shape

Stylish swirls of Chocolate and Pool blue make the wool Kenga rug from Angela Adams' Studio collection a standout. Also available in red. From \$325 for a 3x5-inch size. 800-255-9454; www.angelaadams.com.



See Ya 'Round

On a budget? Cut corners by dressing up bare walls with functional color. A shapely, sapphire swoop makes the Horten mirror from Ikea affordable modern art. Measures 9 1/2 inches. \$5 in dark blue; \$6 in white or olive. 877-345-4532; www.ikea.com.



Sky's the Limit A

Carry out your color scheme with the right window treatment. These Smith+Noble silk Pinch Pleat Panels in turquoise can improve any view. From \$117 for a 12x20 1/8-inch panel. 800-765-7776; www.smithandnoble.com.