

Artful Nature

Inspired by organic hues, splashy artwork, and lush texture, designer Nicole Gibbons puts a livably chic spin on a traditional scheme.

Style
IS
COLOR

VANILLA MILKSHAKE

OC-59 This always-right white is equally yummy on walls or on furniture—like Nicole's table and chairs.
benjaminmoore.com

TROPICAL OASIS

5004-8B Peacock blue (strutting its stuff on a velvet sofa) launched Nicole's palette. It's also brilliant brushed on—think dining chairs, a console, or an accent wall.
valspar.com

CORAL GABLES

2010-40 Nicole's go-to coral plays well with blues, golds, and grays. Try a little on picture frames or a lot on the front door.
benjaminmoore.com

GOLDEN CANDLESTICKS

RM35 A touch of gold metallic—on a lamp or a bookcase—brings in feminine glam.
ralphlaurenhome.com

GREEN BLUE

84 Keep calm and brighten up. Nicole pulled this serene shade from the sea to wash across her walls.
farrow-ball.com



Green Blue 84
Farrow & Ball

FAVE FIND
A vintage buy from Nicole's hometown, Detroit, gets current in aqua fabric.



Nicole Gibbons

BRIGHT IDEA After seven years of living with gray, this dynamo was ready to welcome color into her New York apartment—without saying so long to serenity. Her solution: A palette rooted in harmonious shades of blue.

TOUCH OF INSPIRATION One little swatch of velvet set the entire scheme into motion. “I knew I was going to have a peacock blue sofa,” Nicole says.

ON THE WALL “I was toying with super pale shades of blue, but I didn’t want it to read as white—I wanted to feel the color. So I went deeper, but still serene.”

GROUND CONTROL Neutral elements anchor the palette and add texture to a room not blessed with architectural interest. Whites and ivories give the small space a little breathing room.

ACCENT MARKS Coral and yellow-gold make a splash in a new abstract painting and on the accessories Nicole chose to round out the room.

“I like traditional silhouettes with a new twist. Color and pattern make a room feel modern.”

Nicole Gibbons



GET THE GLOW
Gold is having a moment. Here’s an affordable way to turn on to the trend. Perch Table Lamp, \$89; westelm.com



GATHERING SPOT
Found: a pretty place to stow a whole lot of little things. Lennox Faux Shagreen Boxes, \$50 each; plantationdesign.com



SPICE TRADE
Bring in a bold accent color with pillows—swappable as the mood strikes. Chadna Coral Decorative Pillow, \$100; pineconehill.com



We expanded Nicole’s palette so you can play with different looks. Add the iPad to your subscription and try our color tool! BHG.com/DigitalNow



Signature Style Step inside Nicole's colorful world

This designer goes on the air to bring DIY design to all.

I GET INSPIRED BY

"The deserving families I meet on *Home Made Simple*. It's all about simple makeovers that are DIY-focused. Seeing regular people get inspired and tackle their own projects is heartwarming, rewarding, and incredibly fulfilling." (Watch it at 9/8 a.m. Saturdays on the Oprah Winfrey Network.)

CHEAP TRICK

"Shopping Craigslist and eBay. It's such an affordable way to decorate—and you get the thrill of the hunt."

LATEST OBSESSION

"*Scandal* on ABC. I did an entire blog post on how to get the look of Olivia Pope's apartment." (Find it at sohautestyle.com.)

DIY IT "Who doesn't want to save money? Paint can make vintage dining chairs look new (left) or give an inexpensive bookcase a high-end look."

BEST ADVICE "Think about the colors you love—what you wear, what you're drawn to. Then own that. Create a palette with different shades of the hue you love most."



MEMORY SERVES
Heirlooms from her grandmother brighten Nicole's table.

A few of Nicole's favorite things **COASTAL VIBE** This self-professed beach bum collects shells and seaglass. **WEARABLE WHIMSY** Sperry Top-Sider Linden Ballet Flats in Leopard, \$98; dillard.com **PUCKER UP** Tarte LipSurgence pencils make Nicole's days more beautiful. \$24 each; sephora.com **GARDEN TOUCH** Soft flowers deliver instant color. ■



PHOTOS: (ROOM) DAVID A. LAND, (PRODUCTS) ADAM ALBRIGHT