

# Painted Spaces

BRUSH UP ON STYLE USING SMART TRICKS WITH COLOR AND SHEEN FROM OUR WELL-VERSED EXPERTS. BY KATHERINE LAGOMARSINO

Furniture looks sculptural in a purple bedroom designed by Benjamin Noriega-Ortiz.



## **Benjamin Noriega-Ortiz,** *interior designer*

I like to paint the furniture the same color as the walls. It makes everything become more sculptural. Also, consider the underside of furniture. Try painting the bottom surface of a table red, especially if you have white floors. The light from the floor will reflect up, producing a reddish cast under the table. Guests won't know where the color is coming from. It's like magic.

Another trick is painting the ceiling a light lavender instead of white. When you come in from outside, a lavender ceiling gives the perception of the sky. Finally, I have a lot of clients who are afraid of color, but there is no reason why a coat closet can't be orange, a kitchen pantry purple or a laundry room magenta. Every room can be fun, and if you don't like it, you can change it. What's the worst thing that can happen? It's only paint.

## **Josette Buisson,** *artistic director, Pittsburgh Paint*

A white ceiling can be a big mistake, especially when your walls are very dark. Visually, it's going to bring it down so that it appears too close to your head. Instead, wrap the entire room in color, including the ceiling. I know a decorator whose kitchen is coated entirely in black, and when you walk in, the ceiling seems to go on forever.