

6 Dark and Glamorous Paint Colors That Designers Are Choosing to Decorate With Right Now — Exact Brands and Shades to Copy in Your Home

Turns out, dark colors are the shortcut to glam interiors (without the glitz)



BY [AMY MOOREA WONG](#) PUBLISHED 3 DAYS AGO IN [IDEAS](#)

When making over a room, it's not often we reach straight for dark colors. But, while the idea of dark walls and ceilings can summon images of cave-like teenage bedrooms and spaces steeped in gloom, in reality, dark [paint](#) can have the opposite effect on a home, making it feel rather glamorous, as well as cozy, warm, and welcoming.

Several dark tones are predicted to be big [color trends in 2026](#). Why? Because they have an intimate, wrap-around-you-like-a-hug effect. They make a room feel moody, infusing it with charge and drama. They ground an interior, creating visual weight, stability, and emanating a profound sense of calmness. They speak of indulgence and luxury, imparting a muted refinement and opulence. They are texture-enhancers, making timber, fabric, metals, and more stand out against their duskiness. And, as a bonus, they helpfully hide small imperfections on walls, making flaws, dents, or imperfections less obvious.

It can be easy to foster a blind spot for the shadowy end of the paint color spectrum — but now's the moment to fully open your decorative eyes. I spoke to six interior designers and creatives on the deep, expressive tones they turn to when they want to bring out an intriguing, intense dark glamour. Here are the exact dark colors they use.

1. FARROW & BALL'S MAHOGANY



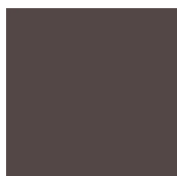
A dark color so close to black might seem intimidating, but get it right, and it's magic.

(Image credit: Jules Lee. Design: Dart Studio)

An intense, dark brown, almost edging on black (especially in hidden corners), [Farrow & Ball's Mahogany](#) takes its name, as you may have guessed, from the red-tinted wood we associate with heritage, craft, and luxury. It has a comforting, organic edge that's familiar, as well as bold.

"The deep, nuanced brown of Mahogany feels rich and enveloping, the dark tone softening the atmosphere like a velvet filter over everything — it strikes a beautiful balance between classic and unexpected," explains [Olivia Botrie](#), creative director at Toronto-based interior design firm Dart Studio, who recently used it in a project's living room.

"It feels calm, inviting, and quietly glamorous due to its depth and contrast," she adds. "We used a [high-gloss finish](#) on the millwork and a flat finish on the walls to create a subtle shift in texture, which makes the space feel layered and intentional. It absorbs and reflects light to add dimension, and its warm undertone stops it from feeling flat."



Farrow & Ball
Mahogany

£5.50/SAMPLE AT FARROW & BALL