

# Colour control

Avocado: evocative of sun-drenched evenings, margarita in hand, nachos and guaco dip within easy languid reach; smooth guitar music in the background; relaxing company...

Stop! But not for your bathroom!! Whatever possessed you to fit that acrylic avocado bath — with matching basin and loo back in the 80s? Did the mistress of good taste fly out of the window? Okay, hands up who still has this archaic beauty of a suite? Well, now is the time to plan for a better morning routine: how can anybody have a good start to their day with the sludgy green shower tray staring back at them?

My parents still have their avocado suite, but gone is the matching avocado paint and terry-towelling sludge-coloured curtains. In their place are stark white tiles and natural tones. However, judicial use of another strong colour and the room could (very possibly) look trendily retro. But remember: trends are quick to come and go. If you invest a fair chunk of money in updating the remaining items in the room you may well be utterly disappointed in 12 months' time. Use colour in other ways. Warm tones for floor and wall tiles, with or without underfloor heating, will seem cosy. Use strong colours for the painted wall areas — exciting, daring and easy to change if you get it wrong. You may find it pleasant to



have some va va voom in the house, especially in a room where you don't spend all day. Or opt for a stylishly simple room: a contemporary bath, concealed toilet cistern, semi-slung basin, gloriously simple slatted blinds — and a shot or two of colour you can call on when you desire a bit of 'oomph'. Colour can come in the form of towels, toiletries and pictures — the list is endless. When you've had enough, bring out the calm, neutral tones.

So, pass me another margarita: and kick the guitarist — he's making a racket!

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