





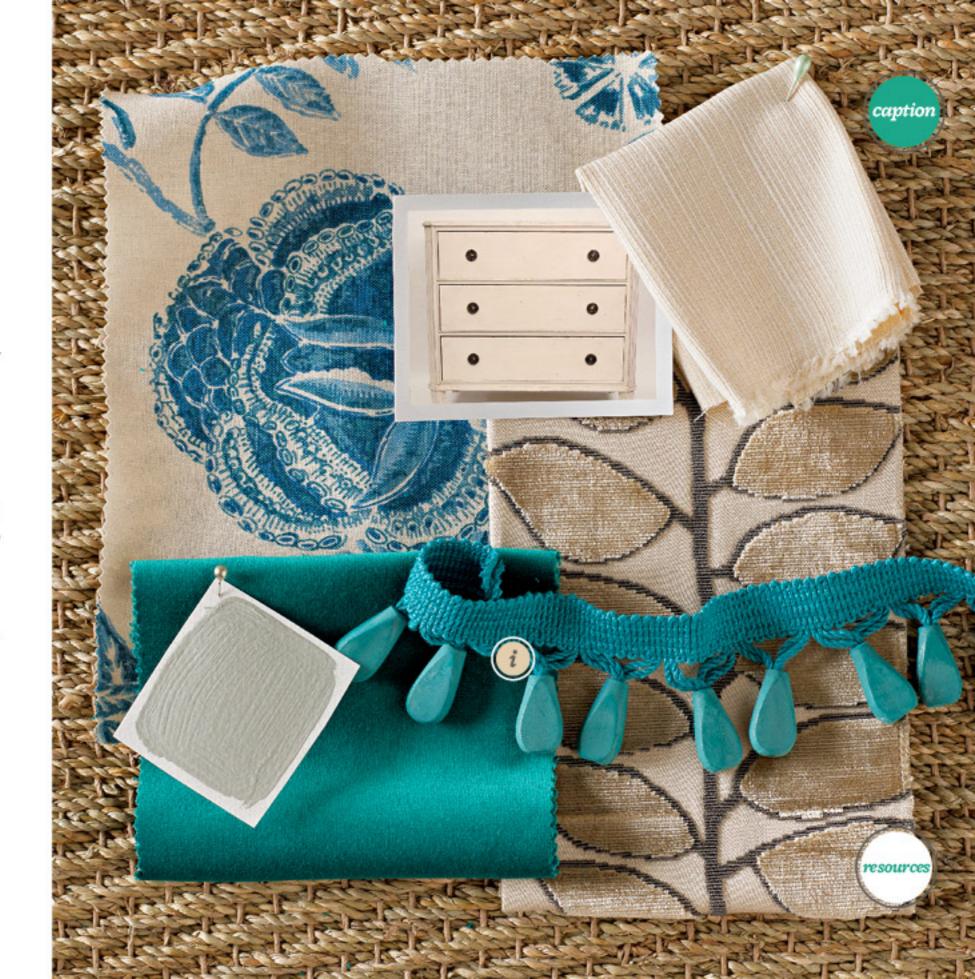


Gray matters

"Gray is a color you can have fun with—it has a lot of mileage," says Jenny Wolf, a New York City designer who's smitten with the warm shades she has brought into her home. See gray in a new light.

It's been called the new brown and the new black, but Jenny considers gray the new white. "It's a nice alternative to white," she says. "It's neutral. It's timeless."

Jenny prefers using gray as a room's "canvas"—on walls. High-sheen paints might look industrial; choose a flat finish for a softer look.



"To figure out if you're choosing a warm gray, put it against a taupe swatch and a blue swatch," Jenny says. "A warm gray will look closer to the taupe swatch; a cool gray will veer toward the blue one."

Pair warm grays with antique bronze finishes, rather than the more expected silver tones. "The warmer metals are nice because warm grays have more yellow in them," Jenny says. "A gilded frame offers contrast; a pewter one just blends in."

When adding patterns of any color to a gray scheme, choose ones with a white or creamy white background, such as a chevron or a zebra print. "What that does for a gray palette is exciting," Jenny says.

