

Nest Building

2010 COLOUR OF THE YEAR

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January 13, 2010

It's official: Pantone has announced that turquoise is the 2010 Colour of the Year. Until recently, I was unaware that such an honour was annually bestowed upon a colour. Apparently, we have just emerged from a Pantone 14-0848 year—yellow mimosa. It was a colour that supposedly represented hope and assurance during uncertain times.

Turquoise—Pantone 15-5519—is a healing colour and a hue that transports us to exotic tropical places, in our minds if not in reality. It is the colour of escape and relaxation.

It is difficult to feel depressed around a colour that seems to show up in happy places: ocean reefs, gemstones, paintings, aboriginal and contemporary garments and, of course, interior décor.

As a decorating colour or accent, it is difficult to think of a colour turquoise doesn't get along with. Pair it with red for a vibrant, energetic presentation; with yellow to mimic summer days and sunshine; with beige neutrals to wake them up and give them a bit of punch; or with lime green to immediately bring in light and a sense of well being.

Turquoise happens to be my all time favourite jewel tone colour. It has been my colour of choice since I was a teen and allowed to paint my bedroom myself. Today, I have a bold turquoise wall in my living room. It is a colour that is as kind to my rustic furnishings as it is to my contemporary pieces and artwork. I don't know much about its healing properties, or its role as a talisman to ward off evil spirits; nor do I consciously recognise its purported ability to help combat loneliness and inspire clarity, inner reflection and creativity. All I know for sure is that it makes me smile.

Happy New Year, everyone—splash a little turquoise in your life!