



Behr Paint has chosen "In the Moment," a combination of spruce blue, soft gray and lush green, as its first-ever Colour of the Year.

## Behr Paint goes for 'soothing' with its first-ever Colour of the Year

In The Moment, a blue-green hue that honours nature to create a soothing atmosphere, has been selected as Behr's first colour of the year.

Versatile and welcoming, this 'grounding neutral' serves as a serene backdrop to spaces where you unwind and recharge, says the company.

"In The Moment speaks to our society's desire to disconnect and be present," said Erika Woelfel, vice president of colour and creative services at Behr. "Spruce blue, soft gray and lush green coalesce into a fresh shade that evokes a sense of sanctuary and relaxation amid our always-on lives."

In The Moment crosses multiple design styles — global, coastal, modern — and pairs well with other subdued colours to create harmony for interiors or exteriors.

For its first colour of the year, Woelfel comments that the company wanted a choice that is practical, that people connect with and use in real life. That is in contrast to other paint colours of the year that opt for the dramatic or to evoke a strong reaction.

The Behr 2018 Colour of the Year was introduced alongside the annual Behr 2018 Colour Trends palette, a spectrum of 20 hues forecasted to influence décor and design in the year ahead. (Behr paint products are sold exclusively at Home Depot stores across Canada.)

Like its Colour of the Year, the new palette is built around the theme of relaxing at home, ranging from warm neutrals to daring reds and oranges, and including names like Life is Good, Quiet Time, Casual Day and Unplugged.

# Choosing an outdoor pizza oven that really delivers



CARSON ARTHUR  
OUTDOOR  
LIVING

Pizza ovens hit the Canadian market in force about five years ago, but for whatever reason, 2017 has been the year that homeowners have decided to go for it — myself included.

Maybe it was all of the social media posts of my friends building their own pizza ovens in their backyard or it was sitting on the patios at my favourite wineries and smelling the aromas of wood and dough, I decided that this was my time to take the plunge and redo my BBQ area.

In my case, I inherited a brick wall made from one of the first Loyalist wine cellars in Prince Edward County, so I couldn't just tear it down. Instead, I wrapped it on three sides with a pre-stained pressure treated wood (MicroProSienna.com).

I also made a conscious choice to go with a less efficient design of pizza oven. The best ovens for wood consumption and for ease of use are the style that looks like an igloo, where the fire is in the same space as the cooking surface. These ovens get to the 700 degrees needed much faster and with less wood used.

Unfortunately, the doors are quite small and you don't really get to see the actual flames. I wanted my oven to be a focal point beside the patio and went with an open chamber for burning that is underneath a baking section for my pies.

To get this style of oven warmed up, it takes about six hours, which is a long commitment to something that can be deliver in 30 minutes or it's free.

I choose this option because I quickly realized that I would probably use my oven every couple of weeks for pizza or baking bread, however, I will use the fireplace every time I entertain outside.

Here are my simple design rules that you should consider for your own outdoor pizza oven.

- Try and work with one stone company for both the patio and the oven. In my case, I replaced the patio pavers at the same time as installing the oven, so it was pretty easy. I ordered everything from Rinnox.ca. The reason you want to use only one company has to do with the colouration of the stones. Patio stones will naturally fade and weather with the sun and the elements. By going with one company, the consistency in the pigments between the patio and the wall stones continue to look good as they age. I unfortunately learned this the hard way and installed a wall of stone from a different supplier than



Carson Arthur made his new oven a focal point on his patio and is confident it will allow him to bake outside for many years to come.

the patio and as they both aged, they started to look terrible together, and worse as they got older.

- Add lots of insulation into the empty pockets in-between the walls. I filled all of my gaps between the structural walls with sand. This helps your oven hold the heat, but it also prevents smoke from leaking out. Nothing looks worse than little puffs of smoke coming out of holes in the side of your oven.

- Having a tall chimney makes a huge difference. A taller chimney creates more of a draw for the heat, which as it rises, pulls more of the smoke up instead of having it leak out the front door of your burning or cooking chambers

Finally, make sure you use fire or refractory bricks to line your burning area. These ceramic-based bricks are designed to withstand high heats and will help prevent cracking or splitting of any manmade stones that you choose in the construction of your pizza oven.

Done properly, my oven will outlast me and I will be able to bake outside for years to come. It won't help the waistline sadly but I'm willing to make that sacrifice!

— Carson Arthur is an outdoor design and lifestyle expert and TV personality. Visit him at [www.carsonarthur.com](http://www.carsonarthur.com).

## Use fabrics to brighten a dull space



CYNTHIA SODA  
DESIGN RULES

Living in Ontario, our climate can be less than inspiring whether we've experienced a long, cold and dreary winter, or our hopes of a sunny spring and summer are sadly lost in days of endless rain and overcast skies.

We naturally end up spending a lot of our time indoors, so why make our living spaces as grey as the outdoors?

After a renovation or even just a paint freshen-up, the next thing you should look at are textiles — whether it's fabric for drapery, upholstered items and accent pieces.

Mixing metals can be seen in everything from hardware to furniture, lighting and even fabrics with metallic sheens. Check fabric companies like Alendel where they now offer vast array of collections like their new soft metallic faux leather with inspired shades of bronze, gold, silvers and creams that are extremely easy to translate into any design plan.

Among fellow designers, some of us joke that we'll completely lose it if

another client requests another grey sofa. We love our neutrals and grey has definitely had staying power over the years, but unless we're using it with some more high contrast patterns, colours or interesting textures, it can be boring.

If you prefer to stay in the neutral zone, remember to introduce various textures and weaves to create strong visual interest. Patterns will create further interest and movement into the living space.

Nowadays, navy and shades of green have found their way into the neutral zone. For some of our more daring clients, we've designed custom navy sectionals using rich luxurious velvets treated with stain and water repellents to survive family life.

Accenting these larger pieces with patterns are a fun way to inject some personality into your space. Using high contrast patterns, and saturated watercolour-inspired floral cushions bring light and dreams of sun-soaked lazy days to your indoor spaces.

Experiment with geometrics or organic flowing lines to play up your space, or throw a little animal print in there for good measure.

The point is to have fun and



Whether it's fabric for drapery, upholstered items or accent pieces, use textiles to add personality to a room.

express yourself. I personally adore working with heavy weave fabrics, luxe velvets and textured chenilles which add so much personality to a room. Combine these with richly coloured silks, textured mohairs or faux furs, and mixed patterns — stripes, abstracts, prints and you begin telling your story through textiles.

Your space should be a reflection of who you are and everything around you should make you happy.

— Cynthia Soda is owner and principal of Soda Pop Design Inc., providing custom renovation and design services throughout the GTA. Visit [www.sodapopdesign.ca](http://www.sodapopdesign.ca).