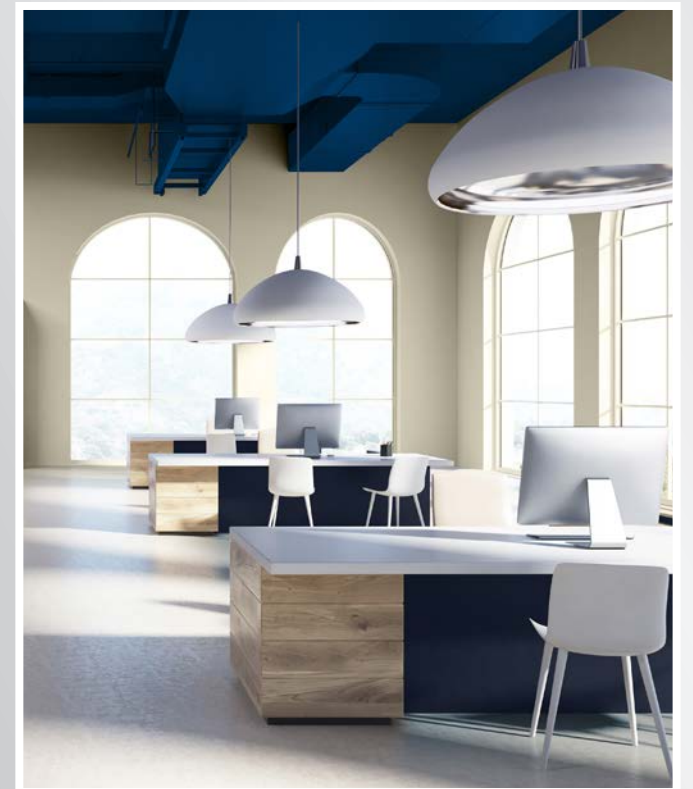




CF26

COLOURFUTURES™ 2026
INTERNATIONAL COLOUR TRENDS



AkzoNobel Decorative Paints

Global Aesthetic Center
Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Contact: Media.Relations@akzonobel.com

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Design – Above+Beyond London, aboveandbeyond.agency
Content – AkzoNobel Global Aesthetic Center

AkzoNobel

THE EVOLUTION OF COLOUR TRENDS

What will be influencing our living and working spaces over the coming years? That's what Dulux Trade aims to identify at our annual Trend Forecast – a collaborative brainstorm with a renowned team of international forecasters. AkzoNobel's Global Aesthetic Center takes insights from this seminal discussion and translates them into shades that reflect the mood of the moment. The result? A colour collection for your clients and customers that perfectly resonates with their needs.

THIS YEAR

With our always-on lifestyles, there's little time to stop, reflect and refocus. We need to offer our clients living and working spaces that can help them switch off, get back in tune with themselves and find their own personal rhythm. People need spaces where they can slow down, feel supported and enjoy a renewed sense of energy and possibility – spaces that flow at the right pace for them.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR COLOUR?

When life feels particularly demanding, private and public spaces must work harder than ever to help people feel comfortable and connected. With Dulux Trade's Colour of the Year, family of blues and new CF26 palettes, we want to empower you to transform interiors and exteriors into spaces that flow with positive energy; spaces that feel harmonious, connected and free; spaces in tune with their environment and with their users.



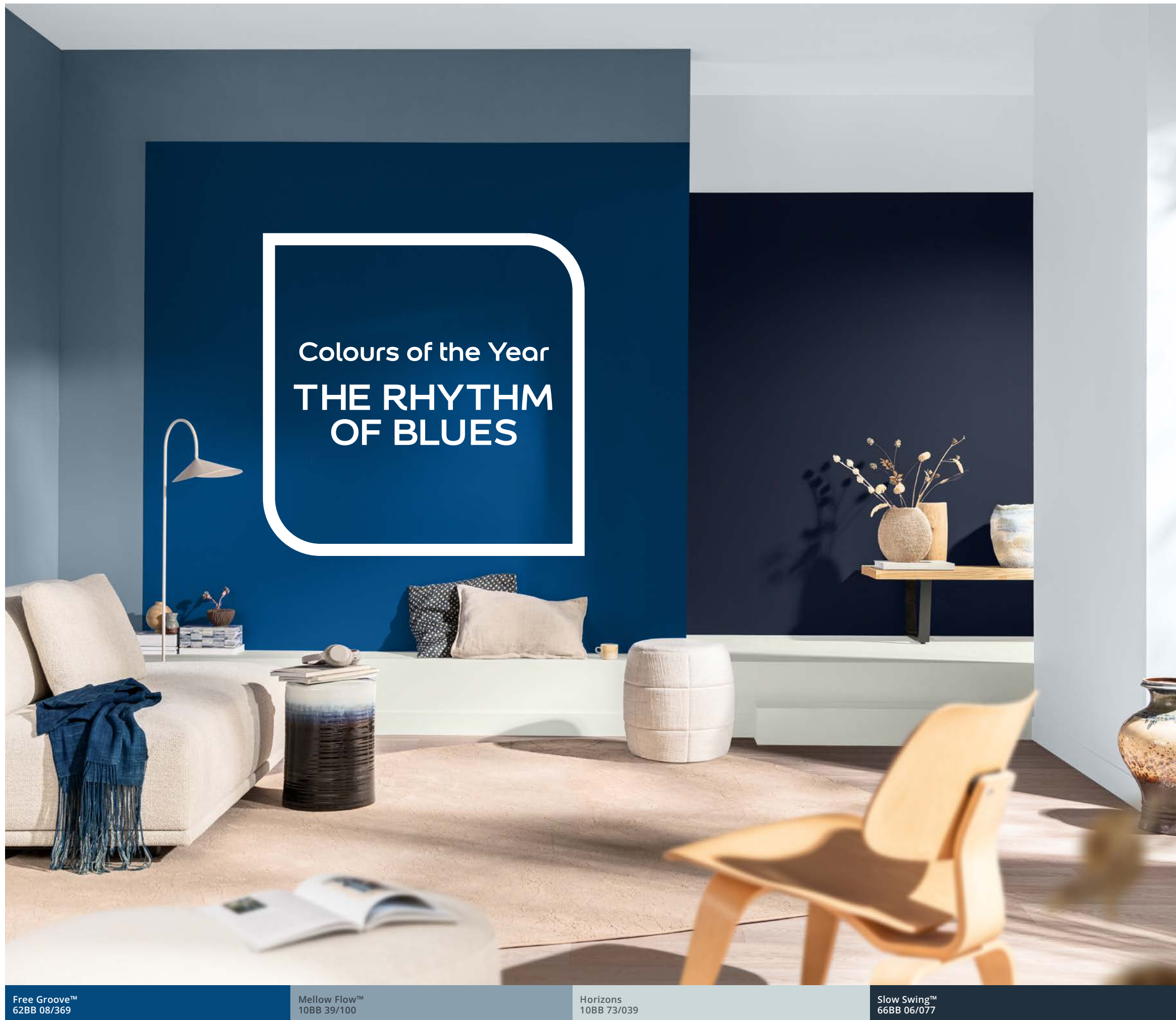
COLOURS OF THE YEAR 2026

THE RHYTHM OF BLUES

Dulux Trade Colours of the Year 2026 is the rich uplifting family of indigo. For the first time, we selected three colours to create a family of blues, because **we believe in blue** for 2026. These commercial tones share common ground but each brings a unique quality, from meditative to airy to uplifting. This inspirational colour family offers you a broader colour choice and the flexibility to create multiple expressions of energy, mood and pace in interiors and exteriors across every sector.

PALETTES

Dulux Trade has developed three colour stories – each of which includes the family of blues, heroing one shade. These easy-to-use combinations work across all sectors but, on the following pages, we offer a suggestion. We've mapped each palette to the sector it most resonates with, making it even easier for you to choose the ideal colours for your projects.



COLOUR MOOD OF THE MOMENT

Free Groove™
62BB 08/369

FREE GROOVE™

We've selected this striking cobalt, Free Groove™ supported by two other soulful blues. Vibrant and exciting, it's an uplifting shade that can bring individuality, depth and a bit of fun to a scheme. The hero indigo in the Free colour story, it's gloriously offbeat and upbeat.

Mellow Flow™
10BB 39/100

MELLOW FLOW™

The colour of cloudless skies, this natural blue – Mellow Flow™ – is familiar, timeless and soothing. A flexible, balancing tone, it works brilliantly with quiet neutrals; warm, earth tones; and bolder shades. The hero blue in the Flow colour story, it can add an airy, expansive feel to a space.

Slow Swing™
66BB 06/077

SLOW SWING™

The meditative Slow Swing™ brings stability and calm to an interior or exterior. Whether used for large surfaces or smaller architectural details, it can help to ground a colour scheme and give it weight. The hero of the Slow colour story, it's a shade that is deep, dark and a little bit magical.

Free Groove™
62BB 08/369

Mellow Flow™
10BB 39/100

Horizons
10BB 73/039


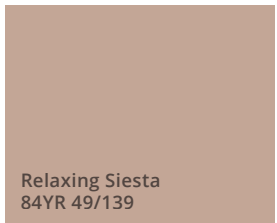
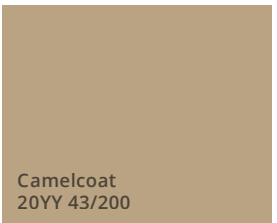
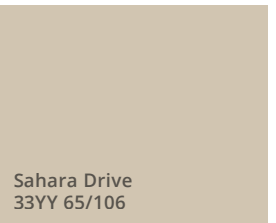
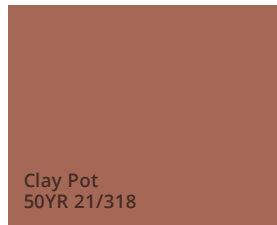

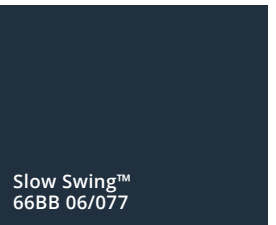
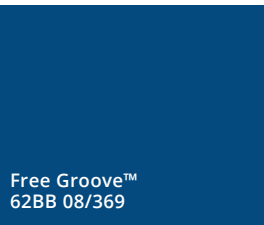
Slow Swing™
66BB 06/077

INTERIOR PALETTES



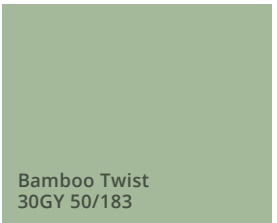
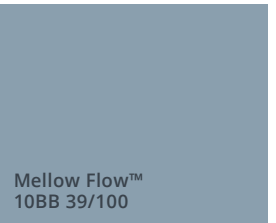
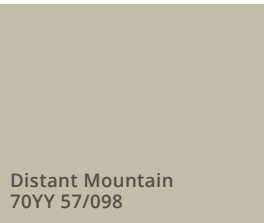
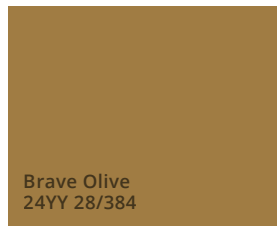

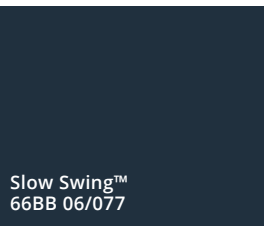
A SLOW COLOUR STORY

 <div>Cameo Stone 60YR 64/038</div>	 <div>Stone Sensation 19YY 61/057</div>	 <div>Gathering Dusk 96YR 46/065</div>	 <div>Mellow Flow™ 10BB 39/100</div>	 <div>Horizons 10BB 73/039</div>
 <div>Espadrille 18YR 05/072</div>	 <div>Cottage Chocolate 70YR 13/140</div>	 <div>Ancient Pottery 80YR 21/118</div>	 <div>Free Groove™ 62BB 08/369</div>	 <div>Slow Swing™ 66BB 06/077</div>

A FLOW COLOUR STORY

 <div>Taupe Pink 10YR 50/101</div>	 <div>Relaxing Siesta 84YR 49/139</div>	 <div>Camelcoat 20YY 43/200</div>	 <div>Sahara Drive 33YY 65/106</div>	 <div>Mellow Flow™ 10BB 39/100</div>
 <div>Clay Pot 50YR 21/318</div>	 <div>Soft Copper 50YR 18/223</div>	 <div>Teddybear Brown 98YR 26/291</div>	 <div>Slow Swing™ 66BB 06/077</div>	 <div>Free Groove™ 62BB 08/369</div>

A FREE COLOUR STORY

 <div>Del Mar Shores 65YY 84/081</div>	 <div>Spring Willow 70YY 66/265</div>	 <div>Bamboo Twist 30GY 50/183</div>	 <div>Mellow Flow™ 10BB 39/100</div>	 <div>Distant Mountain 70YY 57/098</div>
 <div>Brave Olive 24YY 28/384</div>	 <div>Citrus Sunburst 60YY 55/504</div>	 <div>Precious Jasper 10GY 40/296</div>	 <div>Free Groove™ 62BB 08/369</div>	 <div>Slow Swing™ 66BB 06/077</div>

THE PERFECT NEUTRAL

This year, we offer a universal neutral that will complement Dulux Trade's colour stories. Whether used for interior ceilings, walls or details, this white provides the perfect foil for all the other colours in the 2026 collection.

GN.01.88
83YY 88/033

CALMING SPACES

Natural shades of blue and brown, this family of wintery earth tones can help create contemplative spaces that quieten the mind and feel restorative. This palette works particularly well in office or healthcare settings – environments where people need respite from noise and stress. The meditative dark blue is the hero in this palette.



Clinic White
83YY 88/033

Slow Swing™
66BB 06/077

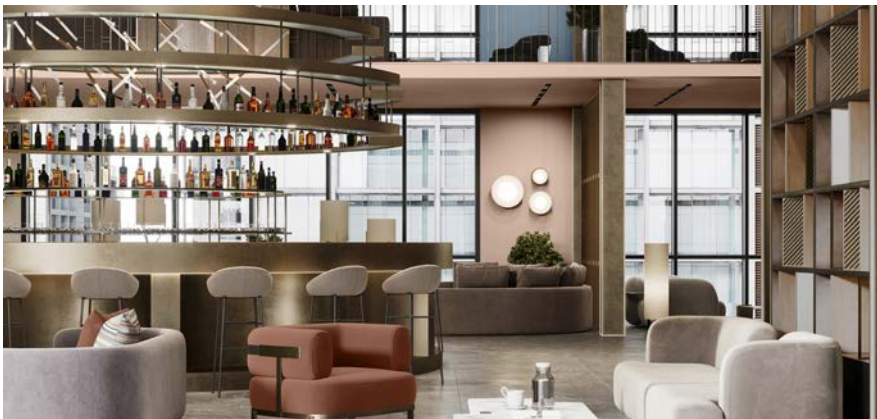
Stone Sensation
19YY 61/057

Free Groove™
62BB 08/369

Mellow Flow™
10BB 39/100

CONNECTED SPACES

Here, the family of blues, with airy sky blue as the hero, is joined by warm and tactile earth shades of terracotta, brick and clay. These familiar, natural colours can help create spaces that feel comfortable and harmonious. They work well in residential or hospitality settings where people want to come together and feel supported.



Sahara Drive
33YY 65/106

Slow Swing™
66BB 06/077

Relaxing Siesta
84YR 49/139

Mellow Flow™
10BB 39/100

CAREFREE SPACES

A combination of multicolours with the balancing blues, this palette feels young, energetic and uplifting. It can help bring momentum to a space and create a fun, 'anything-goes', forward-looking feel. It works well in settings where people seek stimulation and fresh ideas – such as education and office spaces. The energizing colour in this palette is the cobalt blue.



Slow Swing™
66BB 06/077

Free Groove™
62BB 08/369

Del Mar Shores
65YY 84/081

Images: From top: Shutterstock, Alvarez, iStock, iStock, iStock.

EXTERIOR PALETTES

A SLOW COLOUR STORY

Gathering Dusk
96YR 46/065

Horizons
10BB 73/039

Mellow Flow™
10BB 39/100

Cottage Chocolate
70YR 13/140

Slow Swing™
66BB 06/077

Free Groove™
62BB 08/369

CALMING SPACES

Recalling the quiet colours of a wintery landscape, this palette is understated and peaceful. The blues and soft browns work naturally in any environment and can bring a sense of stillness and stability to an exterior scheme. Painted in these tones, even a contemporary building will feel rooted and timeless.

A FLOW COLOUR STORY

Camelcoat
20YY 43/200

Sahara Drive
33YY 65/106

Mellow Flow™
10BB 39/100

Soft Copper
50YR 18/223

Slow Swing™
66BB 06/077

Free Groove™
62BB 08/369

CONNECTED SPACES

Set against warm, tactile tones of terracotta, brick and clay, the family of blues takes on a cooling and balancing role here. Inspired by the shades of the world around us, this palette can help create an exterior that feels in tune with its surroundings, and a building that feels harmonious.

A FREE COLOUR STORY

Spring Willow
70YY 66/265

Bamboo Twist
30GY 50/183

Mellow Flow™
10BB 39/100

Brave Olive
24YY 28/384

Slow Swing™
66BB 06/077

Free Groove™
62BB 08/369

CAREFREE SPACES

With the hero deep, cobalt blue, this mix of multicolours offers energy and momentum to any exterior scheme. Modern, fresh and uplifting, it can help to bring an experimental, lighthearted and creative feel to any building project, and give it a sense of personality and individuality.

THE PERFECT NEUTRAL TO WORK WITH ALL THE COLOUR STORIES

Clinic White
83YY 88/033



Images: Top and centre: Unsplash; bottom: digitalmagnation, iStock.

BLUE BRINGS A SENSE OF CALM, CONNECTION AND FREEDOM TO ANY SPACE

Cool, fluid and creative, blue of any kind feels the perfect response to the needs of clients and consumers this year. With Dulux Trade Colours of the Year, the hero blues and new palettes, we want to help you transform interiors and exteriors into spaces that flow with positive energy. It's all about creating harmonious and connected places that feel in tune both with their environment and with their users. There is a blue for all moods.



EDUCATION



OFFICES



HOSPITALITY



HEALTHCARE



RESIDENTIAL

Images: Top two: Asbe; Smaglov. Bottom two: Pixdeluxe; Provesempre. All iStock.



Mellow Flow™
10BB 39/100

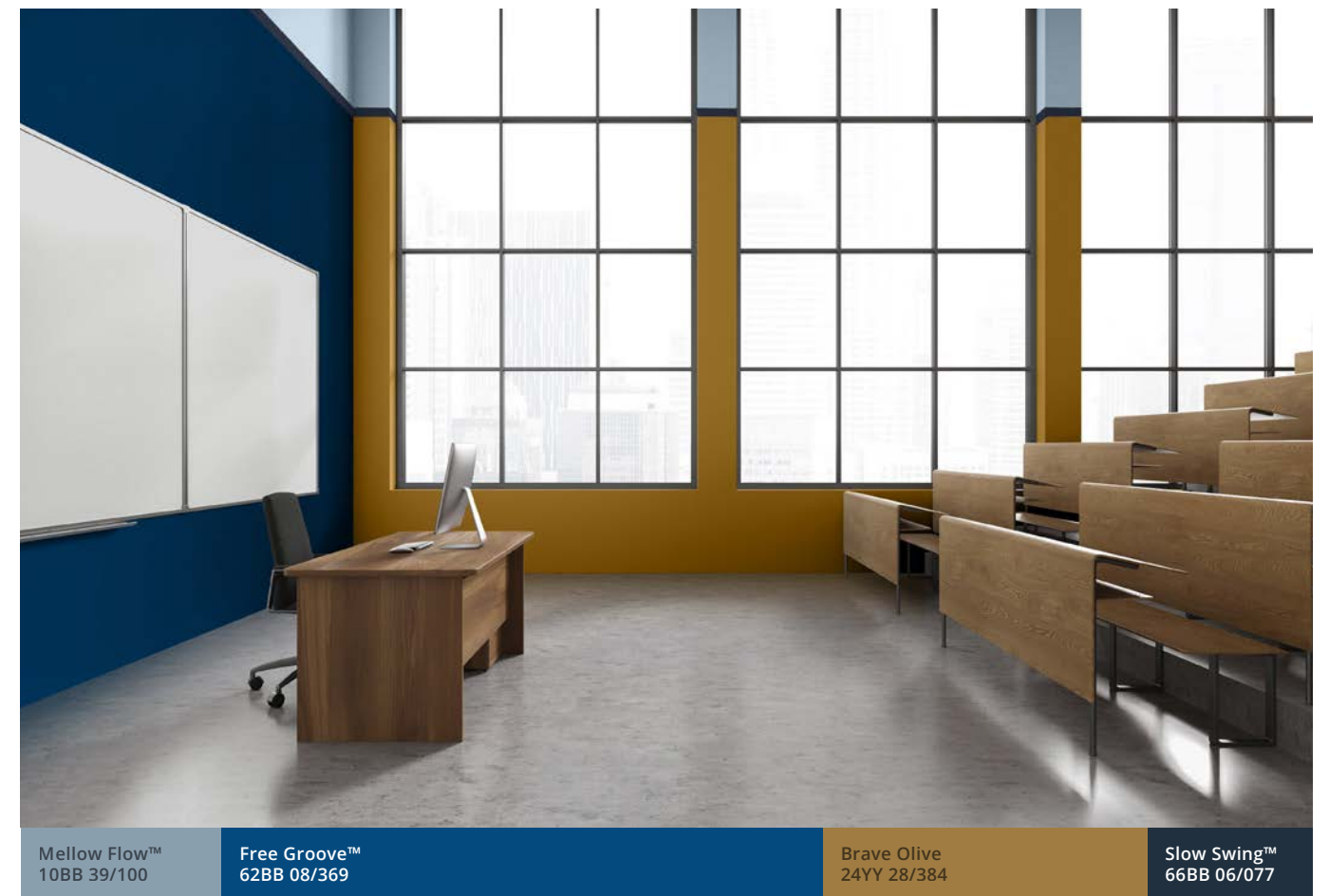
Citrus Sunburst
60YY 55/504

Del Mar Shores
65YY 84/081

Bamboo Twist
30GY 50/183

FREEDOM TO LEARN

The design of schools, colleges and universities is becoming less rigid to encourage the free flow of students and ideas. Blues and uplifting colours can help create a limitless, carefree and positive feel – perfect for inspiration.



Mellow Flow™
10BB 39/100

Free Groove™
62BB 08/369

Brave Olive
24YY 28/384

Slow Swing™
66BB 06/077



Free Groove™
62BB 08/369

Precious Jasper
10GY 40/296

Del Mar Shores
65YY 84/081

Citrus Sunburst
60YY 55/504

FREE COLOURS CAREFREE SPACES

Colours: Vibrant cobalt and its two accompanying indigo blues are set against modern yellows and greens for a palette that brings energy and momentum to a learning space.

Relevance: School design is evolving away from walled-in classrooms towards more flexible, multipurpose, informal and transformative designs [1]. These new learning spaces demand an exciting colour palette to create an upbeat, unrestricted feel.

Result: Fresh, fluid tones and vibrant multicolours can help an institutional space feel uplifting and expansive, inspiring and engaging students and staff.

Images: Left: Onur Gordange. Right, from top: Ismagilov, Monkeybusinessimages. All iStock.

1. Niemi, K. (2020). 'The best guess for the future? Teachers' adaptation to open and flexible learning environments in Finland. *Education Inquiry*, 1(25), 282-300. <https://doi.org/10.1080/20004508.2020.1816371>



Del Mar Shores
65YY 84/081

Spring Willow
70YY 66/265

Precious Jasper
10GY 40/296

Mellow Flow™
10BB 39/100



Bamboo Twist
30GY 50/183

Brave Olive
24YY 28/384

Citrus Sunburst
60YY 55/504

Clinic White
83YY 88/033

Free Groove™
62BB 08/369

Slow Swing™
66BB 06/077



G4.06.87
65YY 84/081

Mellow Flow™
10BB 39/100

Brave Olive
24YY 28/384

Citrus Sunburst
60YY 55/504

Images: Left: Explora_2005. Right, from top: JohnnyGreig; Nikada. All iStock.

A play of upbeat multicolours can bring a bright, lighthearted feel to an educational space – both inside and out. Colourful schemes also make the ideal backdrop for a fun and creative learning environment.



Free Groove™
62BB 08/369

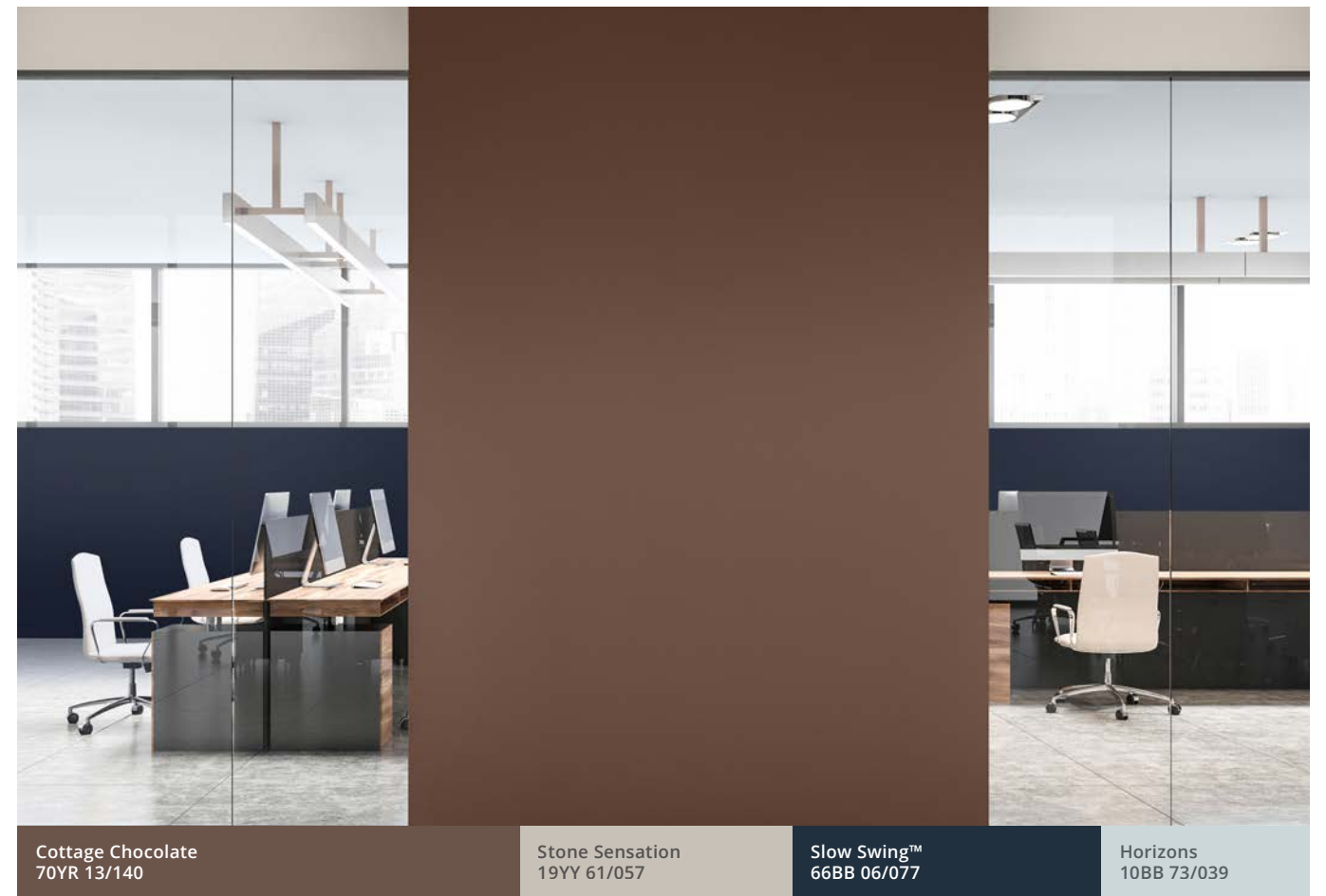
Slow Swing™
66BB 06/077

Clinic White
83YY 88/033

Gathering Dusk
96YR 46/065

OFFICES THAT WORK

With staff wellbeing now a key priority for businesses worldwide, companies are eager to create office environments that can mix carefree, collaborative areas with calm spaces where employees can reflect, recharge and refocus.

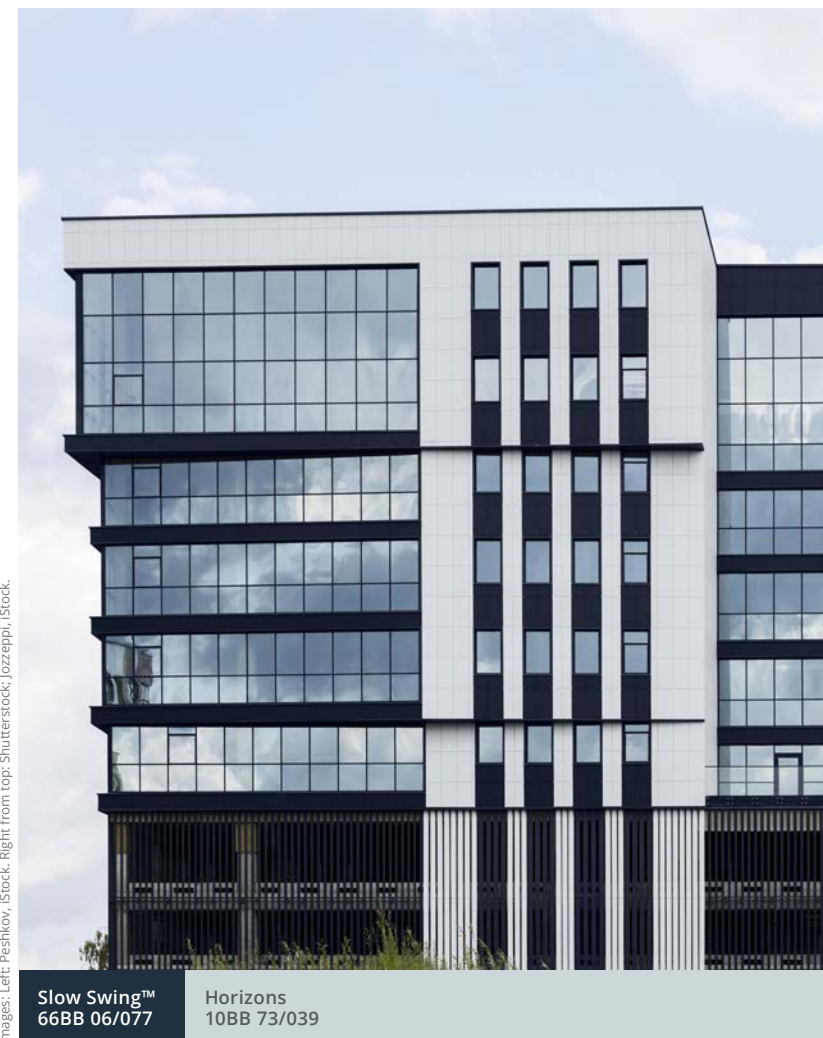


Cottage Chocolate
70YR 13/140

Stone Sensation
19YY 61/057

Slow Swing™
66BB 06/077

Horizons
10BB 73/039



Slow Swing™
66BB 06/077

Horizons
10BB 73/039

SLOW COLOURS CALMING SPACES

Colours: Blues have a natural cooling and quietening effect. When mixed with browns, they offer the perfect antidote to the stress of an open-plan workspace.

Relevance: In today's hybrid office, it's crucial to include some quiet areas within an open-plan scheme [1]. Many studies are now showing that, while open-plan offices are beneficial for interaction and communication, employees also need quiet, private spaces to boost concentration and be more productive [2].

Result: With the hero dark indigo, this palette of blues and browns offers a calming counterbalance to the noise and stress of the office.

1. 5 Benefits of working in a quiet environment, Workplaces, May 2024. 2. The business case for a healthy office: a holistic overview of relations between office workspace design and mental health, Dan Kropman, Pascale LeBlanc, Rianne Appel-Meulenbroek, Lisanne Bergdort, Ergonomics, August 2022



Slow Swing™ 66BB 06/077	Del Mar Shores 65YY 84/081	Free Groove™ 62BB 08/369	Bamboo Twist 30GY 50/183
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Slow Swing™ 66BB 06/077	Distant Mountain 70YY 57/098	Free Groove™ 62BB 08/369
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FREE COLOURS

CAREFREE SPACES

Colours: With its hero cobalt blue, this joyful palette can bring fun, freshness and energy to any office environment.

Relevance: Colour and design need to reflect a new set of priorities in the contemporary office: flexibility, collaboration, sustainability and employee wellness [1]. To boost employee mood, hybrid offices must match the expectations of their users by being comfortable, innovative and aesthetic spaces [2] – places people want to spend time in.

Result: This modern, carefree palette with pops of bold colour can create an upbeat scheme in a workspace, and help employees feel inspired.



Slow Swing™ 66BB 06/077	Brave Olive 24YY 28/384	Free Groove™ 62BB 08/369	Precious Jasper 10GY 40/296	Del Mar Shores 65YY 84/081	Spring Willow 70YY 66/265	Citrus Sunburst 60YY 55/504
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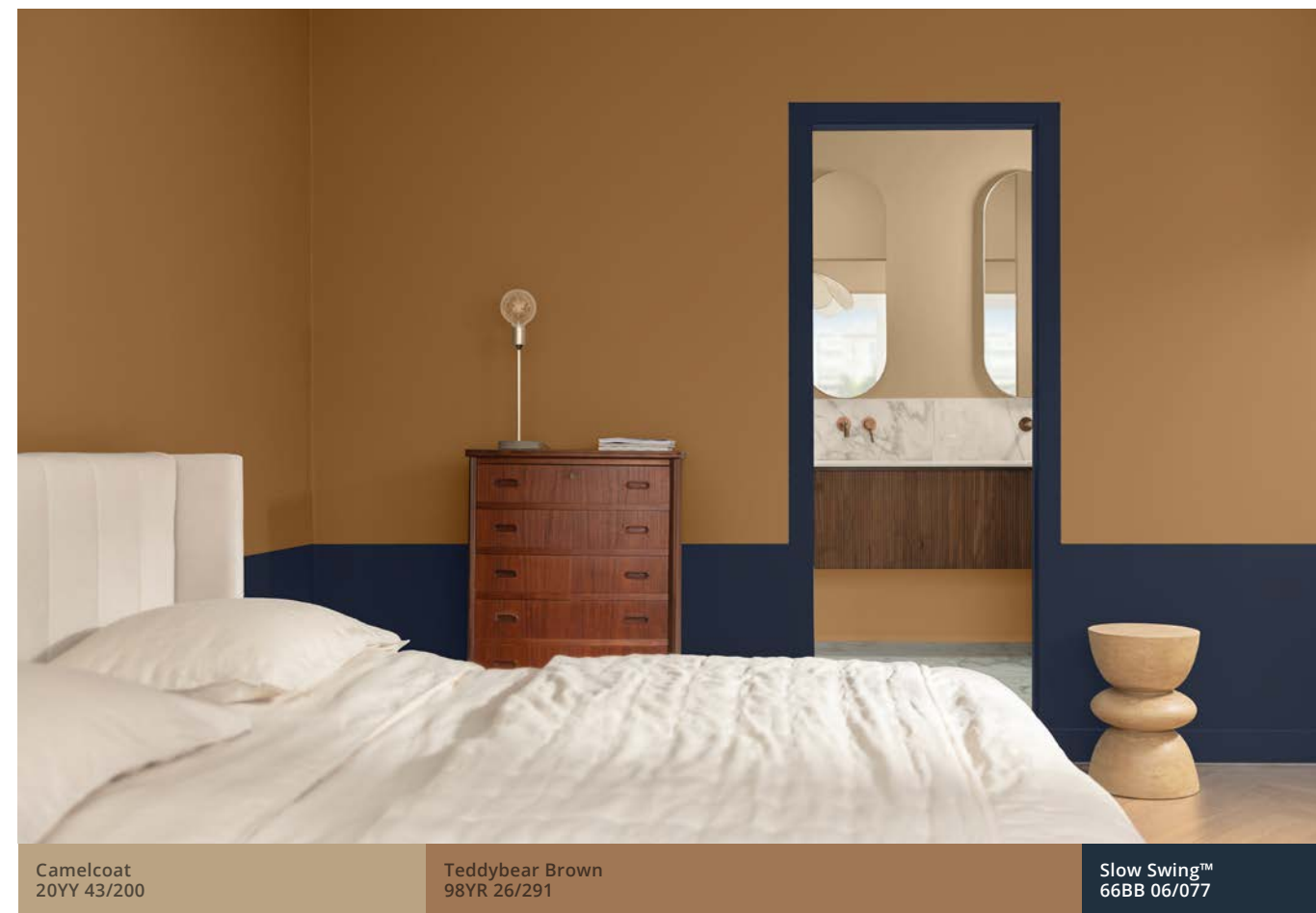
Images: Left from top: Venti, Stock; Shutterstock. Right: Imagio, iStock.

1. Top 10 office design trends for 2024, OP office design company blog, February 2024.
2. Seven reasons aesthetic office design is important in the modern workplace, Dealer Support, September 2023.



COME ON IN...

Hospitality is all about connecting. Hotel, restaurant, gallery or library – any public space that welcomes guests needs to feel warm, authentic and friendly to invite people in and encourage them to stay.



FLOW COLOURS CONNECTED SPACES

Colours: Terracotta, brick, clay – these timeless earth colours, balanced with blues, offer a natural way of creating an inviting home-from-home space.

Relevance: To increase dwell time, hospitality venues need to feel cosy and warm to welcome guests in and encourage them to stay [1]. The industry must embrace 'the implementation of tech innovation for improved operations while preserving the human need for connection, authenticity and real-life discovery' [2].

Result: Tones that echo the colours of natural materials are perfect for creating an authentic, human space that encourages social interaction and connection.



Clay Pot
50YR 21/318

Relaxing Siesta
84YR 49/139

Mellow Flow™
10BB 39/100

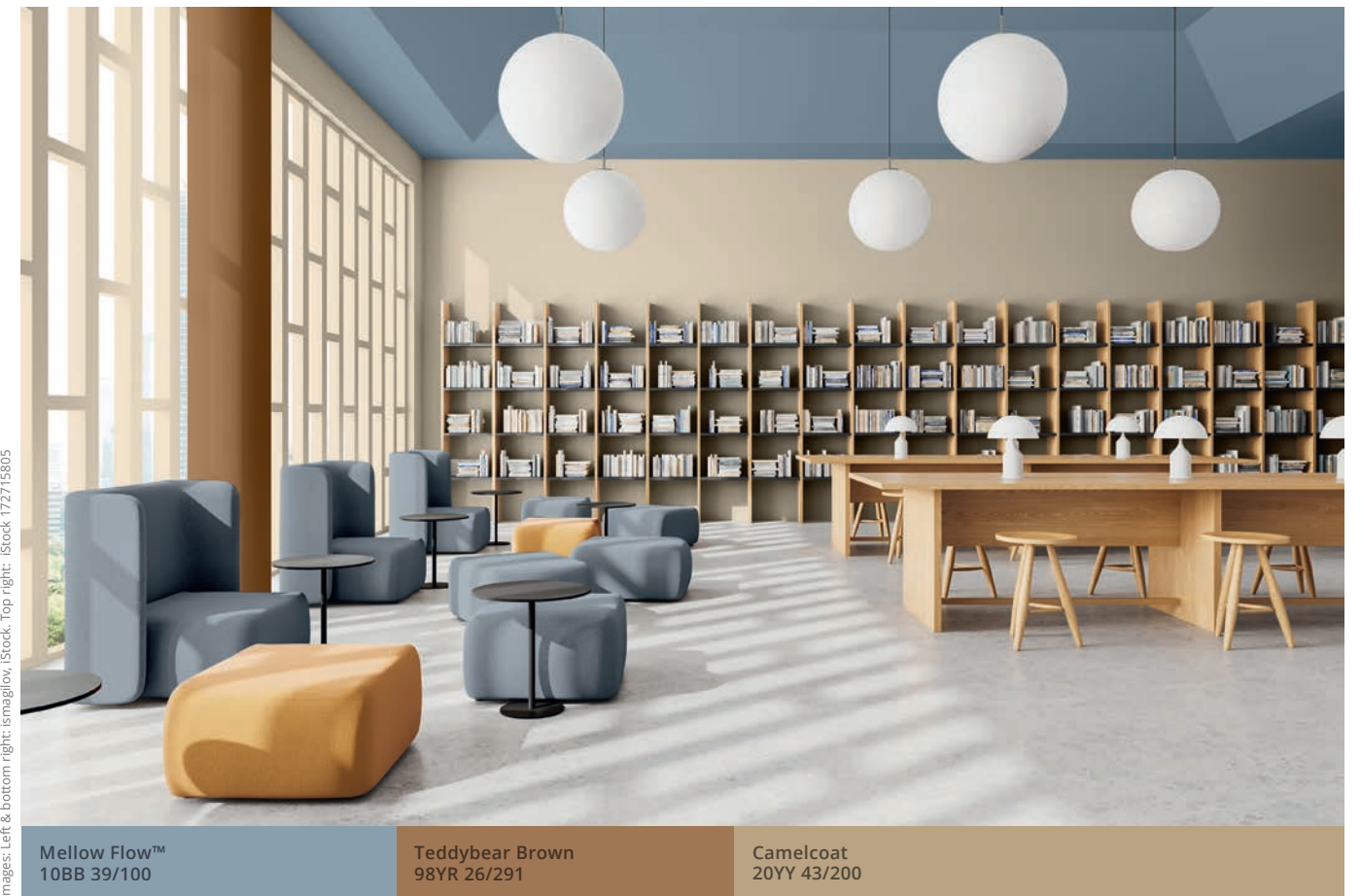


Mellow Flow™
10BB 39/100

Sahara Drive
33YY 65/106

Camelcoat
20YY 43/200

Soft Copper
50YR 18/223



Mellow Flow™
10BB 39/100

Teddybear Brown
98YR 26/291

Camelcoat
20YY 43/200

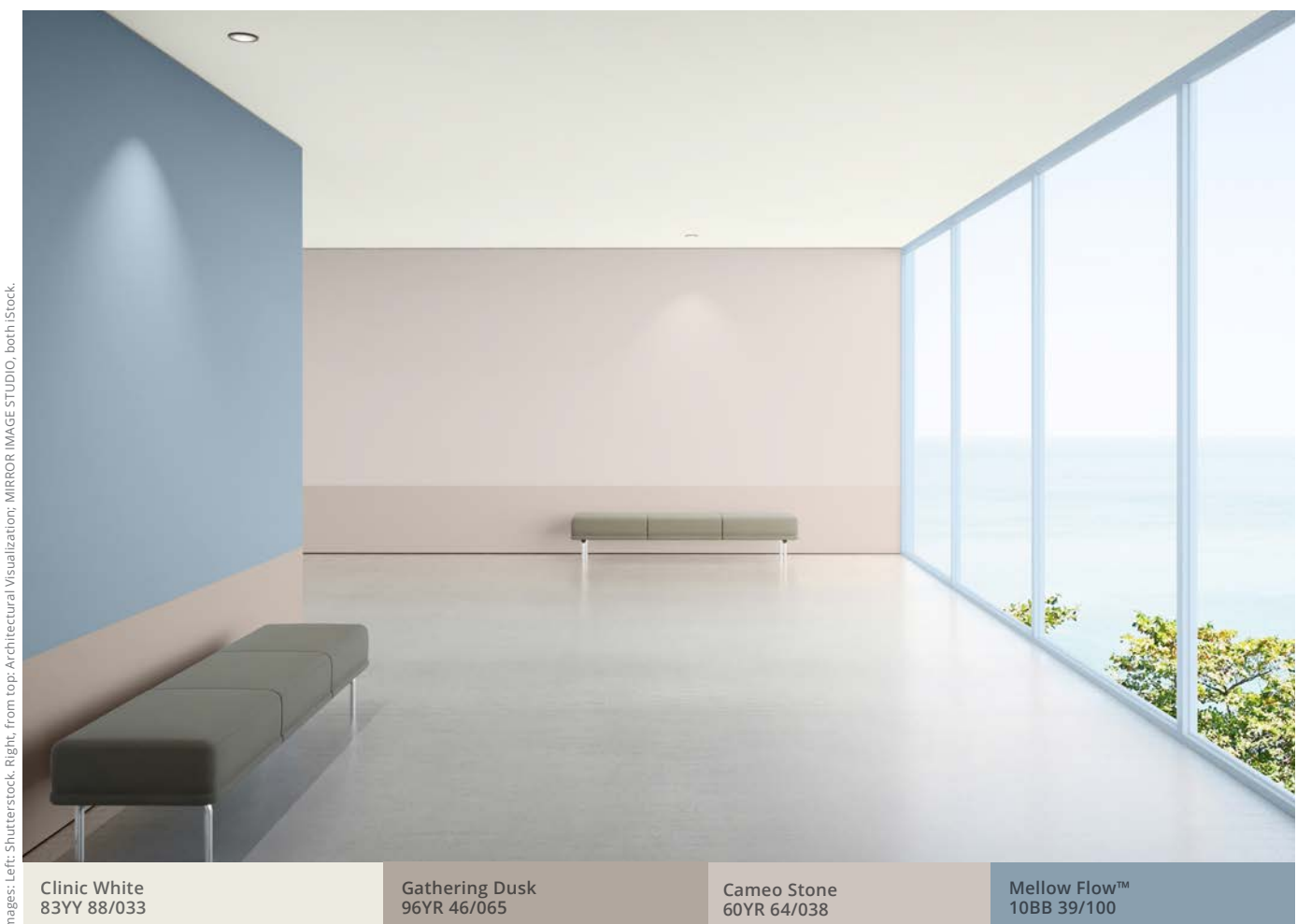
Images: Left & bottom right: Ismaglov, iStock. Top right: iStock 172715805

This palette's hero airy blue brings a balancing lightness to the warm earth tones, creating spaces where people can feel cosy, connected and inspired.



COLOUR THERAPY

Today, healthcare facilities around the world are often in overdrive. Using colour to create areas where staff, visitors and patients can find moments of calm and quietness can help reduce stress and aid recuperation.



Images: Left: Shutterstock. Right, from top: Architectural Visualization; MIRROR IMAGE STUDIO, both iStock.



Slow Swing™ 66BB 06/077 Espadrille 18YR 05/072 Cottage Chocolate 70YR 13/140 Cameo Stone 60YR 64/038 Mellow Flow™ 10BB 39/100 Clinic White 83YY 88/033

Clinics, hospitals and medical centres can be hectic and stressful places. Using a cooling palette of blues and soft natural browns can provide a calming antidote, slowing the visual pace of a space and offering the opportunity for quiet contemplation and recovery.



Espadrille 18YR 05/072 Cottage Chocolate 70YR 13/140 Stone Sensation 19YY 61/057 Clinic White 83YY 88/033 Mellow Flow™ 10BB 39/100



Mellow Flow™ 10BB 39/100 Stone Sensation 19YY 61/057 Slow Swing™ 66BB 06/077 Clinic White 83YY 88/033

SLOW COLOURS

CALMING SPACES

Colours: Cooling blues and natural browns create the ideal setting for reflection and recuperation. This palette's hero dark blue is perfect for subtly highlighting interior details.

Relevance: Noisy and frenetic environments are detrimental to both staff and patients in healthcare spaces [1]. Creating quiet areas in hospitals or clinics, where patients can reflect and connect with their inner selves can be beneficial [2].

Result: Using quiet colours to define areas where staff, visitors and patients can recuperate and unwind can help healthcare spaces function more effectively. A visually calm aesthetic can also help reduce stress and aid recovery.

1. Hospitals are noisy. They don't have to be. Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), August 2023. 2. Aristizabal, S.; Byun, K.; Porter, P.; Clements, N.; Campanella, C.; Li, L.; Mullan, A.; Ly, S.; Senerat, A.; Nenadić, I.; et al. Biophilic office design: Exploring the impact of a multisensory approach on human wellbeing. J. Environ. Psychol. 2021, 77, 101682.



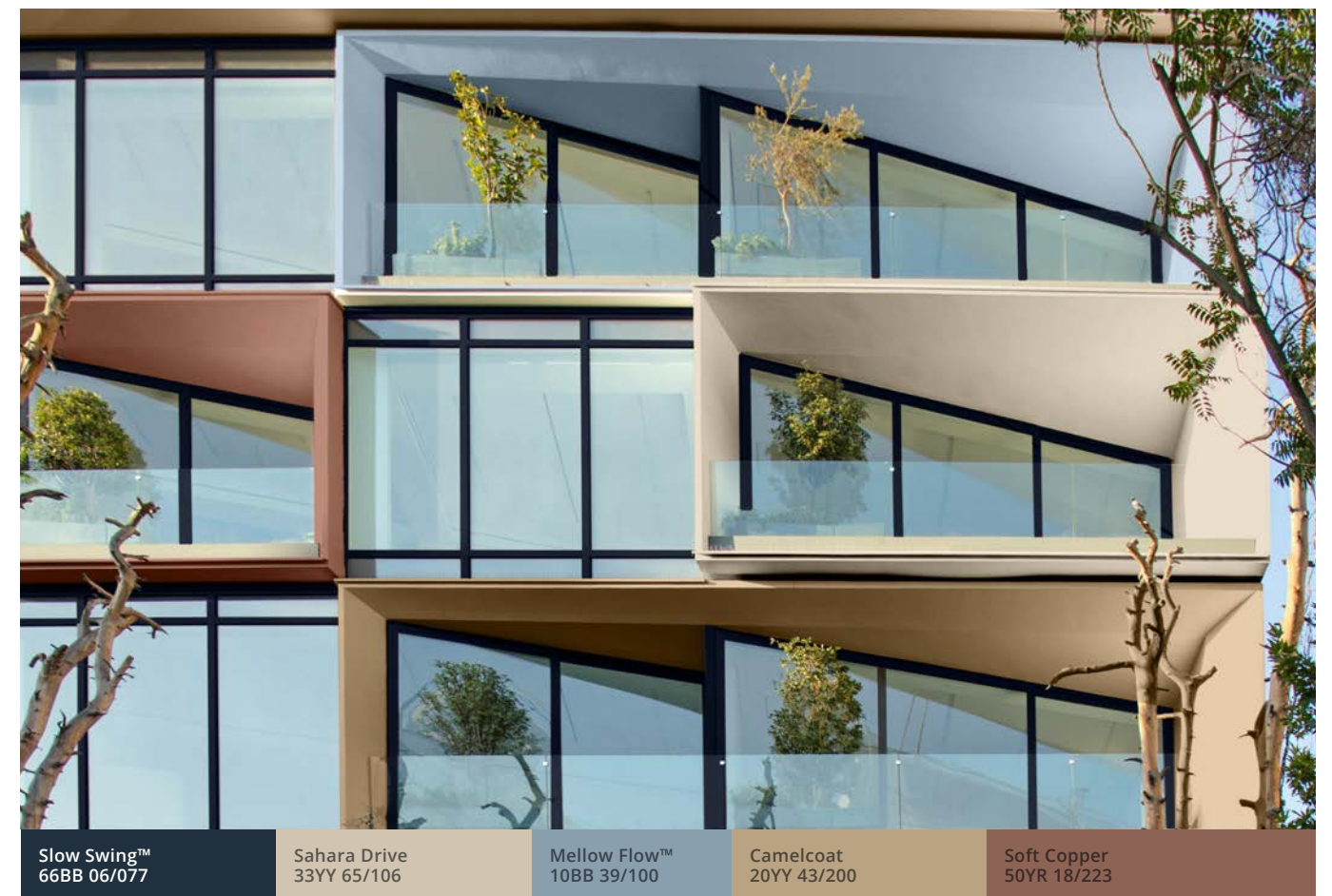
Camelcoat
20YY 43/200

Slow Swing™
66BB 06/077

Teddybear Brown
98YR 26/291

HOME SWEET HOME

Terracotta, brick, clay – these warm, natural colours can create an inviting feel in residential spaces, both inside and out. Here, they are balanced with our collection of indigo blues for a contemporary take on cosy.



Slow Swing™
66BB 06/077

Sahara Drive
33YY 65/106

Mellow Flow™
10BB 39/100

Camelcoat
20YY 43/200

Soft Copper
50YR 18/223



Mellow Flow™
10BB 39/100

Relaxing Siesta
84YR 49/139

Teddybear Brown
98YR 26/291

FLOW COLOURS CONNECTED SPACES

Colours: Tactile earth tones work naturally together to create a warm feel. Offset with indigo blues, they can build a scheme that feels comfortable and up to date.

Relevance: Our relationships are crucial to our survival [1]. We need welcoming spaces where we can gather and make connections. There is increasing evidence that 'grounding' or connecting to the earth also has a positive impact on our body, health and mood [2]. Using earth and sky tones in the home can only boost this benefit.

Result: These natural, harmonious shades are perfect for creating welcoming spaces where we can relax, entertain friends and family, and feel supported.

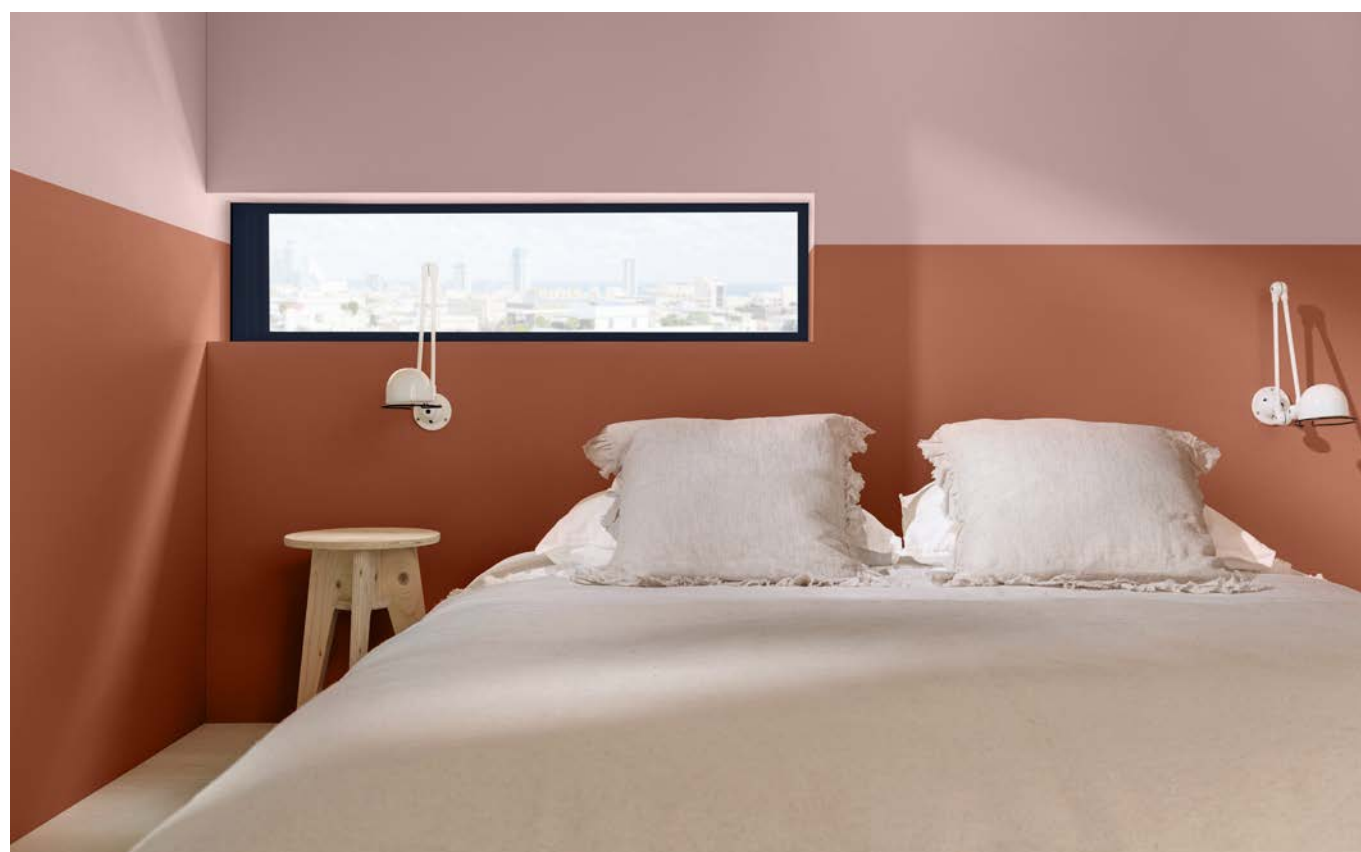
1. Social Connection, CDC – US Centers for disease control and prevention, March 2024. 2. What is grounding?, health.com, October 2023



Sahara Drive
33YY 65/106

Camelcoat
20YY 43/200

Mellow Flow™
10BB 39/100



Slow Swing™
66BB 06/077

Clay Pot
50YR 21/318

Taupe Pink
10YR 50/101

Combining the colours of the earth and the sky, this palette is perfect for creating harmonious spaces where people can feel at ease.



Soft Copper
50YR 18/223

Mellow Flow™
10BB 39/100



ONE ROOM, FOUR WAYS

ONE LIVING ROOM, FOUR PALETTES

Colour is the most effective way of transforming the mood of a space. In the following pages, we take one room and show how different combinations of colour can radically alter the way it looks and feels. Dulux Trade's easy-to-use family of blues and 2026 colour stories offer you endless possibilities for creating impactful looks that last.



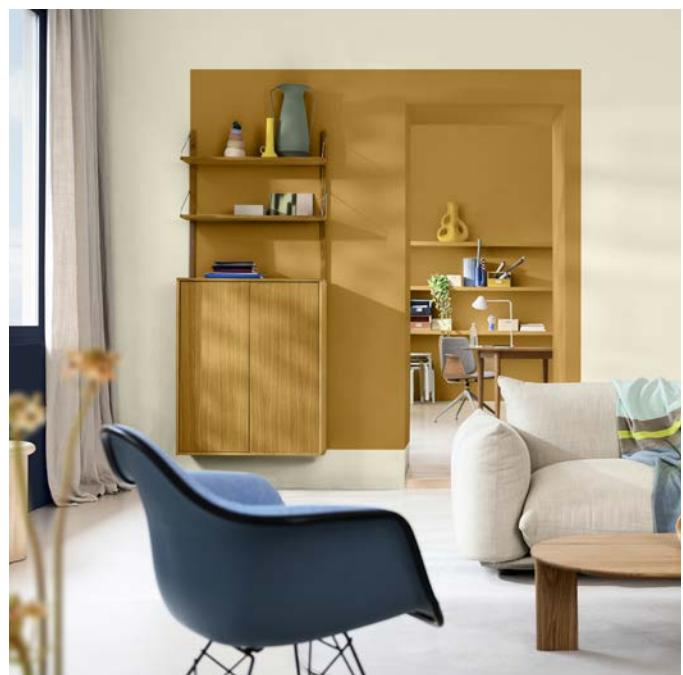
BEFORE



THE SLOW SPACE



THE FLOW SPACE



THE FREE SPACE

COMMERCIAL COLOUR SERVICES

Our Commercial Colour Services team can help you create harmony between your space and the role it fulfills. From vibrant and dynamic to calm and focused, choosing the right colour scheme is key to delivering your brief's objectives.

Step 1: Brief - email & photos

Contact your Dulux Trade representative. They will gather all the necessary information about the space in question, including digital photographs if possible, and pass the information to the Dulux Trade Commercial Colour Services team.



Step 3: Design research & development

The Commercial Colour Services team will immerse themselves in the project, research its background, analyse its elements and use their knowledge, experience, and flair to create an original yet appropriate colour scheme.



Step 2: Design service level confirmed and process activated

The brief will then be handed over to the designers from the Commercial Colour Services team via email. Depending upon the size and scale of the project, the Commercial Colour Designer will then arrange a site visit, telephone call or video consultation if required.



Step 4: Design presentation

The resultant colour schemes will be presented to you in the format most appropriate for your project or client: digitally coloured imagery, printed mood boards or bespoke colour cards.



For more information about the colour support provided, contact one of our Dulux colour consultants today: Call 0333 222 7171, or e-mail TAC_supportedservices@akzonobel.com or visit Duluxtrade.co.uk

CHANGE STARTS HERE

We're determined to make a positive impact on your business, your client's, your projects and communities while reducing our impact on the planet. We believe that every time you paint, there is an opportunity to make a positive difference. That's why we are committed to developing innovative products and solutions that have lower VOC emissions, protect surfaces for longer and use renewable materials.

We're also proud to partner with organisations like **Volunteer It Yourself, Community RePaint** and the **CRASH** construction industry charity to improve communities and transform lives across the UK.

And with our digital tools like the **Paint Calculator** that helps you save time and money, while also reducing waste, or the **Colour Schemer** that helps you create bespoke designs, you're getting great support too.

So when you choose **Dulux Trade**, you're not just getting great products and tools – you're also **helping change communities**.

To find out more visit:
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