

Take the plunge into the deep, dark blue

Laura Whateley

August 26 2016, 12:01am,
The Times



Blue Blood paint from Paint & Paper Library is used throughout this living room

Watch out, grey — there’s a new colour poised to be all over our walls, sofas, cupboards and crockery this autumn: deep, dark blue in shades from ink and denim to Scandi-inspired slate.

Once found only in nautically themed bathrooms and Cornish New England-style beach houses, navy blue has been creeping back into urban spaces in the past couple of years, and is now officially hip, according to Susie Rumbold, the president of the

The interior designer Simone Suss, of Studio Suss, thinks deep colours have become popular as a backlash to the excessive use of beige and taupe in the early millennium.

“We do whole rooms in dark blue. We even use it on the ceiling, which is a bold choice, but it has the effect of making you feel cocooned,” Suss says. “Painting everything in the same shade — from the skirting board to the door to the ceiling — adds a contemporary feel. You don’t necessarily notice it’s all blue, but it creates a calming space. I wouldn’t go for a feature wall in blue; I prefer to adopt it wholesale.”

Elizabeth Moloney, the founder of the design studio Amber Design Group, based in Notting Hill, west London, says dark blues are an increasingly popular choice among her clients: “Rich tones like Blue Blood from Paint & Paper Library are a great option if you want to go bold on the walls and step away from safe neutrals.”

Yet you don’t have to ditch the charcoal and marl palette: “The new navys work brilliantly with greys,” Moloney says, “especially the deeper tones, such as the Little Green Company’s Urbane Grey or the Paint & Paper Library’s Perse Grey. A good way to use deep blues is on woodwork like panelling and bookcases, and then paint the walls grey. The contrasting colour of spicy mustard also works well with dark blues — yellow accessories like lamps and wall