

International Design Trends Spring Summer 2011 Part 2

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Tord Boontje Interview



COLOUR PURPLE

Purple, the colour of royalty and spirituality, needs to be handled with care. This is not a safe option and careless use can kill a design stone dead. This is probably why designers tend to be wary but recent activity seems to indicate we are ripe for a reappraisal of this colour's more sterling qualities. Certainly Mix trends panellists think so; for spring/summer 2011 report, shades from soft lilac to more rich and regal deep purples all feature.

This colour trend can already be seen filtering down into forward thinking designs. For example, take a look at young designer Fredrik Ohlén's Meet project, which accentuates the lines of the chair with judicious use of grape and lilac.

The colour purple gives bold definition to Mattias Ståhlbom for Muuto's E27 pendant light, that celebrates the simplicity of the naked bulb, or there's Karim Rashid, a designer never afraid to pack a punch, and his Pal collection for Vondom, which features a purple that verges on magenta. Also nudging magenta is Moustache's Bold chair by Matali Crasset.

Finally Danish contract furniture Softline knows just how much impact this colour can have on flat corporate spaces and has teamed purple with yellow for Hugo, a lounge chair, along with opting for a rich shade of violet for Planet, a modular sofa system designed by Stine Engelbrechsten. ■■■

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