

Verdant and vibrant

The allure of nature's lushest tones keeps designers coming back for more.

Humans have long been drawn to verdant green hues due to their intrinsic connection to nature and the positive psychological effects they produce. The colour most commonly associated with lush vegetation and abundant life, green evokes feelings of tranquillity, renewal and harmony. This association stems from humanity's evolutionary past, where verdant landscapes signalled fertile grounds and sources of sustenance. In fact, the name for the pigment which allows plants to photosynthesise light and turn it into energy, chlorophyll, stems from chlōros – the Ancient Greek word for green. The colour itself is associated with growth, fertility and youth, but green is also the word we use to describe things that are fresh and new, such as recently cut timber or someone who has just joined the workforce.

Green has represented new life, healing and resurrection since the time of the Ancient Egyptians, who prized powdered green gemstones and used them ceremoniously and in ointments for their perceived protective powers. In fashion, green garments have historically symbolised status and prosperity. During the Middle Ages, green was a colour of choice for the nobility – often in sumptuous fabrics like velvet and silk. Verdant green dresswear, shoes and handbags continue to be associated with luxury today, and emerald and parsley greens have recently returned to the catwalk as one of the hottest colours for women's clothing.

For a long time, green was among the most elusive pigments as green earth pigments are not widespread. Since greens derived from plants are not lightfast, most green paints seen in pre-18th century artwork and decorations were made from mixtures of blue and yellow pigments. For centuries, the only truly green pigments were those derived from copper-



• **above:** The laneway behind Alfassi Group's Melbourne office delights passersby with an exciting street art mural featuring verdant pops of Eco Choice approved Resene Lumbersider Low Sheen tinted to Resene Home Run and Resene Neva complemented with Resene Carpe Diem, Resene Reef, Resene Trinidad, Resene Jaguar and Resene Black. To protect it from unwanted tagging and graffiti, the mural has been topcoated with Resene Uracryl GraffitiShield. Project by George Rose, www.georgerose.com.au. Image by Holly Hawkins, www.hollyhawkins.com.



• **above:** A curved feature wall at Mairehau Primary School painted in Eco Choice approved Resene Zylone Sheen waterborne paint tinted to Resene Chalet Green makes a statement in high contrast to the adjacent walls and bulkheads in Resene Half Villa White. Design by BCN Architects, www.bcn.net.nz. Build by Hawkins, www.hawkins.co.nz. Painting by G K Fyfe Painting Contractor, www.gkfyfeldt.co.nz. Image by Dennis Radermacher, www.lightforge.co.nz.

• **left:** Wakatipu High School features a verdant green splashback painted in Resene Enamacryl gloss waterborne enamel tinted to Resene Japanese Laurel before being protected with clear glass panels. Walls and bulkhead in main space in Eco Choice approved Resene SpaceCote Low Sheen Kitchen & Bathroom waterborne enamel tinted to Resene Black White and walls and bulkhead at left and right in Resene Triple Tea. Design by ASC Architects, www.ascarchitects.co.nz. Build by Southbase Construction, www.southbase.co.nz. Image by Marina Mathews Photography, www.marinamathews.com.

did you know?

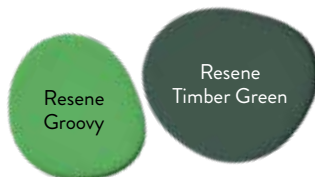
If you need a customised splashback to complete your space, Resene pigmented colours and metallics can be tinted into Resene ArmourX IF 503 and applied directly onto the back of the glass by your splashback supplier so that it's ready for quick installation.



above: Bold avocado greens like Resene Highball tap into today's retro revival trend that favours colour combinations, textiles and furnishings from the 70s. Wall painted in Resene Highball with stripes in Resene Doeskin, Resene Shakespeare and Resene Monza, floor in Resene Moroccan Spice and table and shell vessel in Resene Half Reservoir. Sofa and ottoman from Mr. Bigglesworthy, cushions from Baya. Project by Amber Armitage, image by Wendy Fenwick.



above: Many designers are drawn to using verdant Resene green paint colours on projects that have a direct connection to nature, such as these park toilets, and in combination with other biophilic design strategies. Precast concrete walls painted in Resene Uracryl tinted to Resene Dell, timber cladding and soffits stained in Resene Ironbark and topcoated in Resene Uracryl Clear and steel in Resene Uracryl tinted to Resene Sandstone Grey. Design and image by Citrus Studio Architecture, www.citrusstudio.co.nz. Build by Tims Construction, www.timsconstruction.co.nz. Painting by Steve Olsen Decorator.



left: With especially vibrant verdant greens like Resene Groovy, a little goes a long way. Layering this bold green with less intense greens will visually enhance softer shades, making them appear more verdant through relativity. Wall painted in Resene Rice Paper, shell vessel in Resene Groovy, bottle vase in Resene Timber Green and large vases in Resene Gin Fizz (left) and Resene Half Reservoir (right). Chair from Good Form. Project by Amber Armitage, image by Wendy Fenwick.



left: Cool blue-based greens and warm olive tones may come as a surprising pair, but when balanced with plenty of white and furniture in deep brown wood tones, the combination looks contemporary and chic. Background painted in Resene Kandinsky, testpots (from left to right) in Resene Tom Thumb, Resene Tree Frog and Resene Kandinsky and A4 drawdown paint swatch in Resene Tree Frog. Fabric samples from Mokum (top) and At Work (right), tile from Material Space. Project by Amber Armitage, image by Wendy Fenwick.

rich minerals such as malachite and chrysocolla – both of which can be poisonous to humans in powdered form. Verdigris, which is manufactured from copper rust, tended to dull and darken quickly. In the late 18th century, new copper-based pigments were derived using arsenic, however these proved to be highly toxic. It wasn't until the 19th century when vibrant, safe and stable green paint colours became accessible and only in the 20th century was phthalo green introduced – a hue that's become an iconic staple for artists looking to capture the essence of nature.

Phthalocyanine pigments were the first organic colourants to be called 'true' pigments. Until their discovery, all pigments based on organic matter had started out as a dye or lake before being converted into an insoluble pigment. Lightfast, chemical resistant and intense, the deep, cool emerald-like colour of phthalo green is beloved among artists for its purity and brilliance.

In architecture and interior design, green paint colours continue to be a top choice when creating spaces that feel serene and rejuvenating thanks to their calming properties and green is often employed in spaces intended for relaxation, such as bedrooms and living rooms, or spaces focused on physical and mental wellbeing, like spas and healthcare facilities. It is also frequently used as an accent colour in school design in New Zealand and Australia – likely for its association with youthfulness – and in the financial sector, for its associations with wealth. But, for the most part, the enduring appeal of fresh, verdant greens underscores humanity's timeless desire to reflect and incorporate the soothing, life-affirming qualities of nature into daily life. **BW**

-  Resene Reef
-  Resene Kandinsky
-  Resene Neva
-  Resene Home Run
-  Resene Tree Frog
-  Resene Japanese Laurel
-  Resene Chalet Green
-  Resene Tom Thumb
-  Resene Dell
-  Resene Half Villa White
-  Resene Gin Fizz
-  Resene Black White
-  Resene Rice Paper
-  Resene Doeskin
-  Resene Triple Tea
-  Resene Highball
-  Resene Sandstone Grey
-  Resene Ironbark
-  Resene Trinidad
-  Resene Carpe Diem
-  Resene Moroccan Spice
-  Resene Monza
-  Resene Half Reservoir
-  Resene Shakespeare
-  Resene Jaguar
-  Resene Black