

Follow simple painting rules

If you're planning to pep up your living room, bathroom, or house or apartment with paint, the profusion of paint colours on the market can be somewhat daunting, but they don't have to be.

"By following a few simple rules you can indulge your personal tastes and enjoy the results for years to come," says David Beech, Manager - Colour and Design, Para Inc., manufacturer of paints and coatings.

Unless you are starting from scratch, you seldom have the luxury of selecting colours carte blanche, so existing carpets, appliances, bathroom fixtures, etc. will necessarily dictate your selection of colours to a certain extent.

The room exposure will also influence your colour decision. A cook, north facing room will need warm colours, a southern one, cooler colours. The size of a room is also a factor. The deeper the colour, the smaller a room looks, thus the proportions of long, narrow rooms can be effectively changed by painting the end walls in a deeper shade. The same goes for painting a high ceiling in a small room.

Interesting architectural features should always be emphasized, as they add a tremendous amount of character to a room and in some cases can make up for a lack of furniture.

Knowing where to stop and start colours in an open plan situation can be tricky, and instead of using different colours, it's best to delineate changing areas with different shades of the same colour. As an example you might select one of Par's popular neutrals from the warm beige family such as New Beige Shadow and then choose lighter or darker hues such as Soft Wool or Bronco Grey.

For a series of rooms running from one to the other, be sure to select colour themes that relate well to one another.

Consider the purpose of the room also. Family rooms, kitchens, family bathrooms and bedrooms, should be relaxing, a hall warm and welcoming. Lesser used rooms such as the living room, guest bedroom, powder room, and even the dining room, if not a part of the kitchen, can afford to be a little more daring and imaginative. In addition, consider when the room will be used the most, i.e. colours look very different under artificial light.

Finally, only use the trendier colours if you are personally happy and comfortable with them. Or, if you do hanker for an exotic colour scheme, try it first in the powder room or guest bedroom. Then it's not too hard to change if you tire of it. A good quality paint will ensure the best result, whatever your colour scheme.

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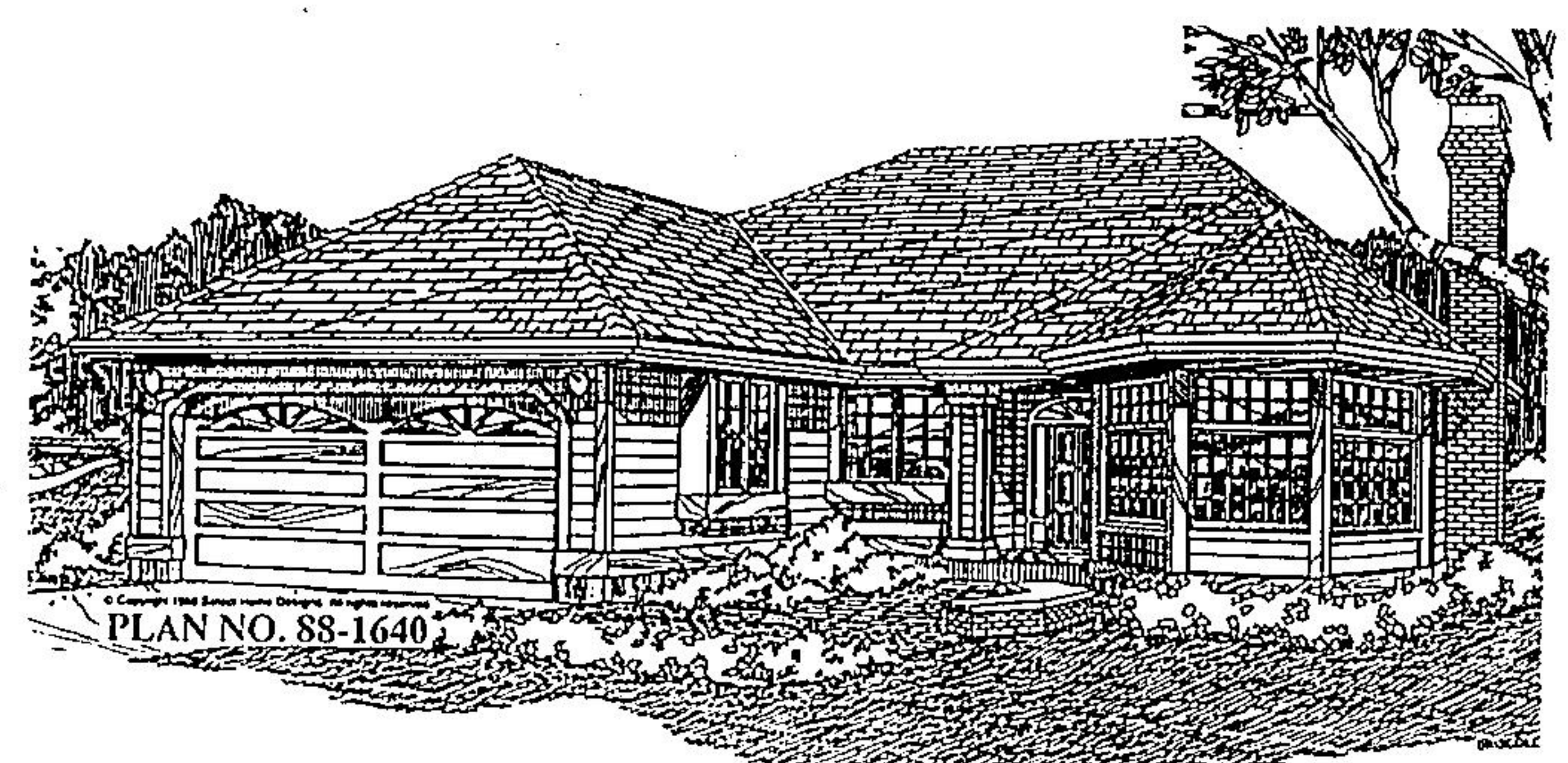
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