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Colour forecast for 2010 reflects 'new beginnings'

"Green has such meaning and symbolism," said Sharon Grech, Benjamin Moore colour expert.

"It represents renewal, and is eternally the colour of spring and new growth. In recent years, it has become the emblem of the environment, shorthand for the global movement that's dedicated to preserving and conserving our planet. Green also is the easiest colour for the eye to see, and the most restful and comforting of all. Benjamin Moore's Cedar Green 2034-40, in particular, is a compelling hue that we predict to be a top favourite this year. You'll find it on the yellow end of the spectrum. It's a colour that, on its own, can contribute a vibrant pop to a room, or create a softer look when paired with neutrals. It also is a perfect foil for bright contrasts, such as deep blues and orangey reds."

Benjamin Moore's official declaration of the 2010 trend colours is featured in a free booklet, *Envision Colour 2010*, offered by the company's network of paint and decorating retailers throughout North America. While Cedar Green leads the parade of what's hot in the coming



year, a total of 18 colours organized into three palettes are proposed as palliatives for the nation's collective mood and all of the cultural and social influences impacting it. The publication is illustrated with photography of room settings with inspiring suggestions on colour combinations and imaginative wall treatments.

"Of course, one pervasive trend in 2010 is going to be smart spending," said Grech. "And, when it comes to decorating, paint is among the wisest investments you can make. Give a single wall a new coat of colour and it's one of the simplest, most economic and effective makeovers."

—www.newscanada.com

Expand your outdoor living space

The Home Depot has compiled three easy steps to help homeowners create an inviting outdoor area they can savour all season long:

Select a Colour Scheme: Create a cohesive look by matching outdoor colours and themes to those you already have indoors. For example, coordinate the colour of your throw pillows or patio umbrella outside to match an indoor accent wall that's visible from the backyard. Make the periphery of your outdoor space pop by incorporating complementary colours schemes in your flower beds and along garden pathways.

Seat with Style: As you would with the interior of your home, when planning an outdoor seating area you should keep in mind the type of entertaining that will be done. If you will use the space most of-

ten for family meals, a great dining set with lots of seating is the perfect fit. For those entertaining friends in the evening, a comfy conversation set can help create the right mood. And don't forget a lounge or two for enjoying lazy summer days under the sun or curling-up with a great book under the stars.

Spruce up your Space: With the wide range of outdoor accessories now available that are specially designed to withstand outdoor elements year round, don't be afraid to experiment. Dress up your outdoor space by adding a planter or even a small fountain.

More information can be found at your local The Home Depot store or online at www.homedepot.ca.

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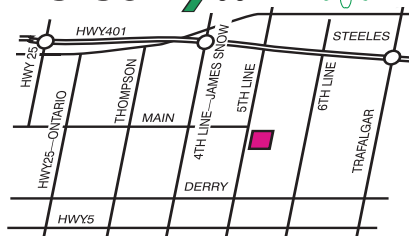
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