

MARTHA STEWART

# Living

*spring starts here!*

158

WAYS TO  
CELEBRATE,  
DECORATE  
& REFRESH



GET CRACKING!

*This issue is now  
available on the iPad!  
Download it at*

*[marthastewart.com/msl-for-ipad](http://marthastewart.com/msl-for-ipad)*

APRIL 2011

\$4.99 USA (CAN \$5.99)

[marthastewart.com](http://marthastewart.com)

FRESH-PICKED  
BEAUTY

a special section

FLIP OVER

# C O B B L E S

AS PRECIOUS AS SAPPHIRES, AS FUNKY AS DENIM, AS EXPANSIVE AS THE SKY, BLUE IS AS ADAPTABLE AS IT IS ADORED. USE THIS VERSATILE COLOR GENEROUSLY IN YOUR HOME AND FEEL YOUR MOOD SOAR.

IT CALMS A RACING HEART and promotes a sense of peace, order, and tranquillity. Blue evokes imagination. Is it any wonder that we look to the heavens when our brains need a break? And to retrieve a lost thought or conjure a new one? What better way to acknowledge spring, in all its optimism and sense of possibility, than to scatter an abundance of blue throughout the house, opening your rooms to a buoyant feeling of fresh air and clear water?

Surprisingly, the color has a checkered past. To the ancient Greeks, it was crude. Early Christians considered it distracting. But by the Middle Ages, it had become a powerful symbol of purity and fidelity, highly favored by church and royalty. Indigo plants that Venetian and Genoese traders brought from Asia produced a rich, durable hue—at a price. After synthetic dyes were developed in the mid-19th century and Jacob Davis and Levi Strauss introduced their prototypes for blue jeans, the color that once cloaked kings and queens defied class distinction and became a universal favorite. Today, there's no reason to limit our passion to jeans. In all its shades and textures, blue is the hue to infuse our homes with sky-high style.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY Simon Watson  
TEXT BY Kathleen Hackett



**FEELING BLUE?**

*You'll find 35 irresistibly blue-themed rooms and many inspired ideas at [marthastewart.com/decorating-by-color](http://marthastewart.com/decorating-by-color).*





*relax in the  
richness of a  
TRUE BLUE  
living room*

By picking blues that are more neutral than primary, you can get away with a lot—in this case, seven patterns and an eclectic grouping of furnishings and accessories in one living room, *opposite*. The space oozes comfort because the blues have undertones of gray or beige that allow the patterns to happily mingle. And they make it easy to add playful pieces such as an exuberant Victorian mirror

framed in steel blue. Using patterns of different scale also helps hues coexist. A custom carpet, made of square rug tiles cut on the diagonal and arranged randomly, reads like an abstracted quilt. Its bold shapes add interest without overpowering the room's other prints.

**Benjamin Moore Regal paint** (on walls), flat, in *Airway* (#828), \$50 per gallon, [benjaminmoore.com](http://benjaminmoore.com). **Restoration Hardware paint** (on mirror), in *Dusk*, \$36 per gallon, [restorationhardware.com](http://restorationhardware.com). **Large Seraphine curtains**, \$250 per panel, [lesindlennesshop.com](http://lesindlennesshop.com). **Peekaboo clear coffee table**, \$249, [cb2.com](http://cb2.com). **French open-arm chair**, \$2,500 for 2, [liza.shermanantiques.com](http://liza.shermanantiques.com). **Feelin' Groovy Flor tiles**, in *Bone and Fog*, \$12 per tile, and *Short Shag*, in *Cinnabar and Raincloud*, \$18; [flor.com](http://flor.com). **Sofa**, \$1,295, [abchome.com](http://abchome.com).

DENIM-  
INSPIRED  
PALETTE

Faded-blue walls make a gentle backdrop for this artful range of saturated tones—indigo, Prussian navy, and French. Bright camellias and the shots of poppy red in the carpet add energy to the room. **Blue Series Collage #10** by Ken Horne, \$125, [horne.studio.com](http://horne.studio.com). **Denim bead necklace**, \$55, [handlespout.com](http://handlespout.com).

SEE WORKBOOK  
FOR MORE SOURCES

CREATED BY Rebecca  
Robertson, Scott Horne,  
and Erin Jang