

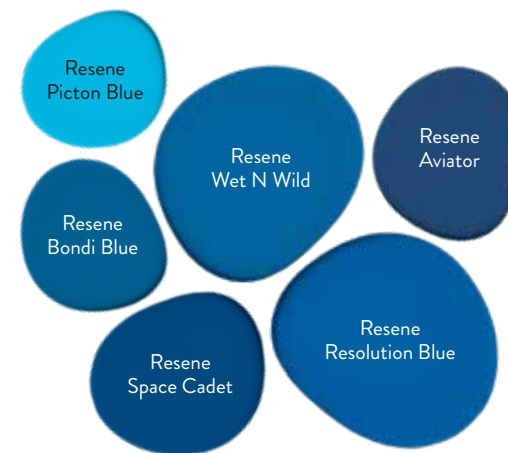
Moody blues

Bold mercurial blues are the must-have accent colour of the moment.

Particular tones of blue are named after things they look like, such as Periwinkle blue (named after a flower of the same hue), Uranian blue (for its similarity to the planet) and Sapphire blue (which bears a strong resemblance to the gemstone). There are also many blues named after places, often because they match the flag (like Argentinian blue) or are evocative of an element of the local culture (such as Delft blue, for its similarity to the colour used in the Dutch pottery known as Delftware). But there is perhaps only one specific blue that is named after an individual person: Klein blue.

Born in 1928 in Nice, France, artist Yves Klein had a lifelong obsession with colour. The pieces he is best known for were monochromatic paintings. At first, these works were created in an array of hues. However, he eventually took to a singular spectacular blue hue for creating his most iconic works.

Klein's obsession with blue stemmed from a deep love for the cerulean skies of the French Mediterranean – which he famously declared to be his first artwork. As early as 1956, Klein experimented with a polymer binder to preserve the luminescence and powdery texture of raw yet unstable ultramarine pigment. He suspended it in a synthetic resin called 'rhodopas' that he came across with the help of Edouard Adam, a Parisian paint dealer. This optical effect retained the vivid brilliance of the pigment which had the tendency to become dull when suspended in other popular painting mediums, like linseed oil. In 1960, he patented his formula as International Klein Blue (IKB).



above left: Since orange sits opposite blue on the colour wheel, using the two hues together is known as a complementary colour scheme. A high-octane orange like Resene Daredevil has similar power and vibrancy to an ultramarine like Resene Resolution Blue, which can make for an interesting high-contrast combination on the right type of project. To balance out this punchy duo, try rounding out your palette with Resene Black, Resene Alabaster and Resene Colorwood Whitewash. Wall, table and sculpture in Resene Resolution Blue and orange circle in Resene Daredevil. Project by Amber Armitage. Image by Wendy Fenwick.

	Resene Half Alabaster		Resene Daredevil
	Resene Alabaster		Resene Deep Koamaru
	Resene Colorwood Whitewash		Resene Black



centre: A little goes a long way with bold blues. A single wall covered in a large-scale wallpaper mural from the Resene Wallpaper Collection lends an edgy, industrial flair to this otherwise neutral space. Right wall in Resene Wallpaper Collection PRH-0245.

left: In this museum exhibit, bold blue paint colours sit with sea greens and strong purples to connect the space with history and echo hues seen in culturally significant symbols like pāua. Back walls in Resene Deep Koamaru (left) and Resene Kumutoto (right), triangular columns in Resene Black and table in Resene Quarter Pearl Lusta. Design, build and painting by MTG Hawke's Bay, www.mtghawkesbay.com. Image by David Frost. To learn more about this project, turn to page 43.



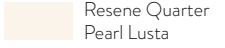

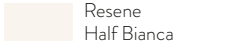

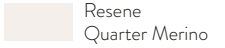



During the same mid-century period, the colour became popular in decorating and is recognised as one of the defining hues of the era. Klein blue came back into vogue in the 1990s, and recently, it has become a must-have accent colour once again. What is it about this hue and similarly bold blues that we find so captivating? Yves Klein had some insights on that, too. “Blue is the invisible becoming visible. Blue has no dimensions, it is beyond the dimensions of which other colours partake,” he concluded. Klein adopted his signature hue as a means of evoking the immateriality and boundlessness of his own particular utopian vision of the world. For him, this blue held significant meaning, representing his spirituality and religious upbringing, the essence of natural elements like the water and sky, as well as the near infinite expanse of the universe.

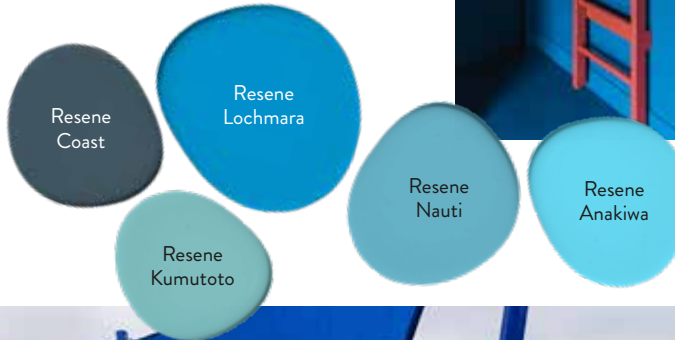
While blues that bear a strong resemblance to Klein blue, such as Resene Resolution Blue, Resene Space Cadet, Resene Wet N Wild and Resene Aviator, have seen a sharp rise in popularity over recent months, other equally moody and mercurial bold blues have been trending such as Resene St Kilda, Resene Bondi Blue, Resene Picton Blue, Resene Allports and Resene Blumine. These hues feel both modern yet timeless in a way that keeps designers coming back to them again and again, using them in new and interesting ways that never cease to inspire. **BW**

Have you used a bold Resene blue in a recent project? Share it with us at editor@blackwhitemag.com.



right: Brick reds like Resene Pioneer Red are a classic pairing to contrast with dusted moody blues like Resene Coast if you're after a mid-century vibe. Lower wall and floor in Resene Coast, ladder and dado rail in Resene Pioneer Red and upper timber walls sealed in Resene Aquaclear semi-gloss. Design by Pac Studio, www.pacstudio.nz. Build by Lindsey Construction, www.lindseyconstruction.co.nz. Image by David St George, www.dstgeorge.com.

	Resene Quarter Pearl Lusta		Resene Allports
	Resene Half Bianca		Resene Blumine
	Resene Quarter Merino		Resene St Kilda
	Resene Half Merino		Resene Pioneer Red



above right: Boldly coloured kitchens are a hot trend, and it's easy to see what an eye-catching impact a blue like Resene Allports makes amidst blonde timber tones and warm white walls. Kitchen in Resene Allports, walls in Resene Half Merino, ceiling in Resene Quarter Merino and plywood shelving in Resene Colorwood Whitewash. Design by Bonnifait + Giesen Architects, www.atelierworkshop.com. Build by Duncan Construction Ltd. Image by Russell Kleyn, www.russellkleyn.com.

far left: It's easy to create a contemporary monochromatic colour scheme in bold blues, but colours like Resene Nauti can also work well as a backdrop to more traditional style spaces and furnishings when balanced with plenty of warm white details in hues like Resene Half Bianca. Walls and ceiling in Resene Nauti and mouldings and windows in Resene Half Bianca. Design by Coote & Co, www.cooteandco.com.au. Painting by The Lady Painters and Gray's Painting and Maintenance. Image by Lisa Cohen, www.lisacohenphotography.com.

left: In this Auckland splash park, different values of bold Resene blues create an undulating effect on the perimeter fence. Not only do these hues used in this way evoke the rise and fall of waves, the sharp contrast with the green surroundings is both fun and appealing. Fence slats in Resene Wet N Wild, Resene Lochmara, Resene Picton Blue, Resene Anakiwa and Resene Half Alabaster. Design and image by Auckland Council. Build by Heb Construction, www.heb.co.nz.

