



By Gail Claridge

The Power of Red

You might think that red would be too strong a color to decorate your home with, but in reality it's not. Red is romantic. Red is vibrant. Red is luscious. Living with red can really be fun!

There are many shades of red –

Tomato red-(reddish-orange), true red-(crayon red), cranberry red-(deep, rich red – my personal favorite), burgundy red (purplish, dark red).

When it comes to changing a room's look, nothing is more effective than color. But you must empower color to get the most of it. Instead of using red for a small accent, make it the dominant color by doing the walls in a rich, red wall covering, or upholster a sofa in a beautiful red floral.

Soft green and/or yellow are wonderful compliment colors to use with many shades of red. Using blue with red is a classic "American" scheme that never ages. Beige with red can be very soothing, while black with red will have a timeless sophistication.

Color not only affects the look of a room, it also affects how you feel within it. Studies prove color affects mood and emotion. Red is the power color, stimulating greater liveliness, appetite and warmth. Yellow is a sunny pick-me-up hue and blue and green are calming colors.

Red is not only terrific for invigorating a room but is wonderful in evening light, and remember..... used wisely, a bold color can actually make the space appear larger. It's surprising how easy it is to love red.... I'm proof....I live in a red barn, drive a bright red van and, of course, I have red hair. **WM**