FRESH COLOR SCHEMES
FOR HOME EXTERIORS WITH BRICK OR STONE

By Kate Smith, CMG, ICS
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INTRODUCTION

OVERVIEW OF FRESH WITH EMPHASIS ON BRICK AND STONE

Every homeowner wants a color scheme that enhances the appearance of their home and increases the value of their property. Brick or stone exteriors add a distinctive element to your home, but it’s important to match those features with color schemes that work from the top down on your home.

A {FRESH} APPROACH TO CHOOSING COLORS

The FRESH approach is a five-step method for selecting an eye-pleasing color palette for your home’s exterior. When you use FRESH thinking to select the right color for each element -- roofing, siding, doors, windows, shutters, trim and accents -- you create a unified look that exudes curb appeal.

By considering these five points you will be able to pick the perfect colors for the outside of your home:

1. Fixed Features
2. Regional Colors
3. Environment and Surroundings
4. Style of the Home
5. Historic Colors

FRESH

FIXED FEATURES

There are many things to consider as you select your home’s exterior colors, with the most influential being the fixed features. These are the elements of your home that do not change often. These include:

- All or partial brick, stone, stucco, or concrete
- Roofing style, and color
- Chimney structures
- Porch, steps, retaining and walkways
- Decks, patios and hardscapes

Fixed Feature = Permanent Design Element

Look at the fixed features of any attractive home and you’ll begin to see some repetition of tones. This duplication allows different materials and textures to all work well together. This is especially important for a home with brick, stone or both.

When choosing colors for your home exterior, find those that blend with or complement the predominate color or color cast of the brick or stone. All of the colors need to harmonize with the stone or brick to create the best look.

If you are building a new home, select the stone or brick first and then build a color scheme that will enhance this feature.

Color cast is a term used when talking about stone, brick, roofing, or other materials. Generally, these important elements of the home exterior are not a solid color, but a mix of colors. To describe these materials as a solid color would not do them justice since the beauty is in the variations of colors. Instead, the term “color cast” is a better way to describe the dominant color in a material, which is made up of different colors.

Identifying and repeating the colors or color cast from one fixed feature to the next begins to visually tie the exterior color scheme together. When all of the permanent elements from the roof down harmonize, it sets the stage for a unified exterior color scheme by opening up options for the main and accent colors.

When the fixed features do not have the same color cast, it becomes a challenge to find hues for siding, trim and accent colors that work with the different color casts. This is because these colors will have to visually tie the two mis-matched fixed features together.

It is always possible to find a color solution, but bringing two strong elements together that do not naturally harmonize can be a challenge even for the most skilled professional.

For homes that include brick or stone, focusing on the first step in FRESH is more important than for any other type of home. Once you have identified the color cast of your fixed features, the remaining steps can help you to select your palette.

If you imagine an entire image looking slightly yellowish you will get the idea.

Now think of this same idea applied to stonework, bricks or your roofing material. The color cast is the tint of a particular color that looks like it has been washed over the blend. All of the colors throughout are not the same but they have a common tinge of a color that is common to the overall blend.

“In photography, color cast is something that needs to be corrected. In exterior materials it is something that needs to be respected.”

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REGIONAL COLORS
Regional color preferences come from a blend of the region’s natural characteristics, such as climate, topography, landscape and quality of the natural light. Other influencers include housing styles, available materials and the cultural history of the area.

ENVIRONMENT AND SURROUNDINGS
As you determine colors for the outside of your home, take into consideration the overall look of buildings in the area. While you don’t want your home to be a twin of another home close by, you will want your home to blend in with surrounding homes.

Consider the context of your home and choose colors that will stand out while still fitting in. Find colors that both express your individual style and complement the other homes in the area.

STYLE OF THE HOME
The architectural style of your home is the next part of the color equation to consider. Your color scheme should “fit” the design of your home. Color and materials support the home’s look and architecture, not vice versa.

If you are wondering about the best way to choose colors for the style of your home exterior, there is an ebook that shows the most popular home styles and gives specific suggestions for selecting color for each style. You can get a free copy of Fresh Color Schemes for Your Home Exterior here.

HISTORIC COLORS
Traditional color schemes --- including reds, browns and grays --- have a sense of stability and permanence because they have been seen throughout history. Most times they feel like they will continue to be in style for years to come.

The good news is that many, if not all, of the popular exterior paint colors used today have their roots in the past. Even if your home is new, you might be inspired by the schemes, styles and elements of historic colors that have stood the test of time.

The FRESH approach guides you to consider the top five areas that most influence the colors that will look best on your home’s exterior. By thinking about each of these key areas you will be able to make good choices and find a color scheme that works beautifully for your home from the top down.

HOW TO CHOOSE A ROOF COLOR FOR HOMES WITH BRICK
To select a roof befitting your brick or partially brick home begin by taking a close look at your bricks to see their true color. Your first thought might be that the color of your brick is merely red, but look closer. Your brick can have a cast of another color or might be closer to pink or brown than red. Bricks come in a wide variety of colors.

Most often bricks found on residential exteriors are red, tan/buff, white/cream, pink, gray or brown/black. Within each color group, you will see bricks that are predominantly that color or have a cast of that color. The color, as well as the color cast, need to be determined to select the best color scheme for your brick or partially brick home.
There are many colors and types of brick but the most popular by far is red. This classic, all-American look has a timeless appeal. From clean, straight lines to rustic uneven edges, your red bricks play the lead role in the color palette.

A medium to dark neutral trim is well suited to a full brick home. Highlight architectural details by using it to frame windows and doorways. A deep or dark color on the door draws attention to the entranceway.

Bricks are naturally toned down but that doesn’t mean neutrals are your only option as the main color. For example, gold with a dollop of gray mixed in is beautiful with warm red bricks. Other muted colors can work equally well.

Red brick can be warm with tones that lean towards rust or terracotta. They may also be cool and be closer to burgundy. Determine the color temperature and find a harmonizing palette; in this case cool colors.

A deep or dark color has traditionally been used on the door of a brick home, but it doesn’t mean you can’t use a lighter or brighter paint. Use a similar or complementary color that is a bit muted to blend with the scheme.
Red brick and a multicolored slate roof are the perfect pairing. A few well-chosen colors complete the look. When using the slate to inspire your accent colors, find tones that are slightly more vivid.

Let the colors of multicolor slate inspire your palette. With the Vineyard blend, slate gray and white build a beautiful canvas for colonial gold, olive green, or brown accents.

Crisp reds retain their fresh look when partnered with colors that are clearer rather than toned down. Light cool gray and a bold pop of color at the front door are a contemporary combination.

As the complement of red, green can be intensified when paired with your brick. To keep the green from looking too vivid use a grayed or muted green. Complete the palette with equally muted hues or neutrals.

The look of antique bricks goes hand-in-hand with a palette of historic colors. The two intriguing shades of gray and brick are brought to life with a striking deep brick red front door.
PINK BRICK

Don’t let preconceived thoughts of pink fool you. These bricks range from slightly lighter than red to neutral uplifted with a rosy glow. Add soft colors and an accent or two that have the same subtle radiance as your brick.

To find the right white or off-white for the trim on your all brick home, look at the grout. Selected to blend with the brick, a white paint that has the same undertone as the grout will make a suitable companion color.

Don’t try to match a paint color to the brick. Instead, select a neutral in the same lightness or darkness as the brick. Choose a contrasting dark accent color to keep the scheme more striking than sweet.

Brown is a perfect partner for pink brick. A Brownstone roof and brownish taupe neutrals open the door to a wide range of accent colors including soft yellow, warm blue, or gray-green.

With a brick like White Rose, play up its tones with a warm pinky-beige main color trimmed in white. Pull out the deepest tones with a Tahoe roof and chocolate front door.

Let the soft tones in Frosty Pink lead the scheme. Build your palette with one or two soft colors and a white that has the same look as the white frosting on the bricks.

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WHITE/CREAM BRICK

Though not usually pure white or cream, the clean look of light bricks is attractive on home styles from historical to modern. One advantage of white and cream bricks is their ability to harmonize with any color palette.

A home with interesting architecture can look best with a light color palette that shows off every detail plus a European slate roof. Repeat the dominant color from the roof on the front door for a classic look.

An eye-catching roof color like Weathered Green is the star of the show when topping off a home with a neutral scheme. Accents in tones pulled from the slate play a supporting role.

Create a cohesive scheme by selecting a white for your siding and trim that is very similar to the cast of the brick. Play up the colors peeking out around each brick as accent colors.

Accent a quiet palette of ivory brick with cool gray siding and trim featuring two shades of warm blue. Pull the entire color palette together by topping the home with a Mossy Cedar roof.

Create a sophisticated look for your home by combining brick that has a white cast with several tones of gray. Add a touch of your personality with a door color that welcomes guests into your home.
GRAY BRICK

Bricks that are gray or have a gray cast can be either a cool true gray color or a warm brownish gray. Match the temperature of your bricks to the temperature of your primary color and neutrals for the best results.

A timeless palette of black and white works well with a great range of brick colors. Bright white calls attention to architectural details while a toned down white lets other elements stand out.

The aged look of Black Oak marries well with the style of Rockwell brick. A grayed tan ties the two together, warmer tan accents the colors in the brick, and a dark color on the door finish the scheme.

Bricks with a subtle blend of tones can inspire your scheme. Don’t try to match too closely. The result will be more pleasing if you choose colors that appear to blend with the brick when standing back from your home.

Pair a two-tone brick with a single-tone roof to allow the pair to harmonize rather than compete for attention. Cool paint colors such as gray or blue highlight the gray in both.

Bring out the beauty of a brick like Augusta with a tonal palette for the roof, main body, and trim. Highlight the deepest tones in the Tahoe roof and brick with an eye-catching copper colored front door.

Pair a two-tone brick with a single-tone roof to allow the pair to harmonize rather than compete for attention. Cool paint colors such as gray or blue highlight the gray in both.
BROWN/BLACK BRICK

Not purely brown or black, these bricks feature rich dark neutrals that are brought to life by contrast and color. Give contrast with a light to medium main color and then add medium to dark accent colors.

Show off the beauty of your brick with a simple color scheme of Slate Black, charcoal gray and off-white. To further enhance the look, choose a complementary color for your front door that brings out the tones of the brick.

Taupe, beige, and tan with an Aged Cedar roof create a tonal background for dark brick. Add energy with a bright front door. Just remember to find a color that is slightly grayed or toned down to fit with the scheme.

A modern mix of neutrals is a marvelous way to update the look of your home. Combine brown with gray, then add subtle contrast by choosing a taupe with undertones of lavender, blue or green.

Mountain or another dark roof color is superb when your brick is a combination of light and dark tones. Accentuate the contrast further with your trim and accent colors.

Castle Gray slate and Savannah brick give your home a look that has withstood the test of time. Keep the palette classic with light gray on the trim and a distinctive green door.
TAN/BUFF BRICK

Bricks that are predominantly tan, or tan overlaying another color, have a warmth that feels welcoming. Tan bricks are a natural partner for a palette of warm colors but can work with cooler tones too, when used as accent colors.

A Weathered Gray roof is perfect for a home covered with creamy tan bricks muted with gray. A neutral color trim blends with both the roof color and grout and a pretty door color completes the scheme.

DaVinci Shake in Autumn looks like it was made to match the Ambrosia brick. Carry one of the tones onto the siding to create a monochromatic color scheme that is enhanced by a Sunset Bronze front door.

Light neutrals accentuate classic tan brick. The darker accent tones inspire a Smokey Gray on the roof. Together these colors allow for a wide range of accent colors.

Some bricks can have a tan or buff cast that sway the scheme towards using these tones. The Brownstone roof, a grayed beige main color, and buff trim will complement bricks with a tan color cast like Illini Commons.

Set off the beauty of Carmel Mountain brick with a neutral scheme of stone, light brown and beige. This color palette is perfectly topped off with a Mossy Cedar roof.
HOW TO CHOOSE A ROOF COLOR FOR HOMES WITH STONE EXTERIORS

Whether it highlights your entrance or anchors your house to the landscape, when your home exterior features natural stone you will want to show it off by choosing a color scheme that complements your stone. There are many different types of stone, each with its unique beauty. Selecting an exterior whole-house color scheme that enhances the natural color variations in the stone can add to the curb appeal of your home.

For your full stone or partial stone exterior, consider the overall color cast of your stone and any colors that stand out in the mix. The overall tone could be gray, tan, brown, greige, cream, white or another color. The main color of your home needs to blend with the tone of your stone, but it doesn’t mean it must be in the same color family. For example, with gray stones, you could select blue for your primary color, but a grayed blue will blend with the stones better than a bright, clear blue.

If the mix of stones includes a color that truly stands out, that color might make an excellent choice for your shutters or front door.

Determining the primary colors and the underlying color cast of your stones is essential when choosing the best color scheme for your home exterior.
The warmth of stones with a tan cast makes them a popular choice for home exteriors. Tan can be neutral or lean towards another color such as gold, green, peach, or coral. Noticing the subtle nuances of your stone will help you to find the right colors for your home.

A muted green roof, like Evergreen, and tan stone can integrate your home into its surroundings. The colors on your house don’t need to compete for attention when your home is surrounded by nature.

Highlight the color and pattern of your stone by going deep with the main color of your home. An accent in a complementary color creates a focal point at your entrance.

When your roof and stone colors work hand-in-hand, the way DaVinci Autumn and Millsap Tan do, neutral colors are all you need to give your home a polished look.

For a fresh, contemporary style use high contrast neutrals for the body and trim. Adding an adventurous accent color keeps the look modern.

Use natural textures and well-chosen colors to give your home personality. Soft neutrals coupled with your stone and favorite color on the door become the focus of the exterior.
BROWN STONE

Just like in the world around us, earthy brown can stand alongside all color families. Look for hues based on those you see in nature where colors are a bit toned down.

A monochromatic palette for your primary color and trim creates a backdrop that gives your stone room to shine. Pull a color from the stone and then go more intense with it as an accent color.

Stone and slate give texture and depth to your exterior scheme. Neutral colors are all you need with elements as distinctive as DaVinci Canyon Slate and Glen-Gery Lafayette Stone.

Both the shake and stone have tones that fall between gray and brown, making this a pairing that works well with many color combinations. Deep blue and yellow liven up the gray-brown scheme.

When your slate and stone look so united, all you need to add is the right trim color and a fantastic front door. Don’t be shy. A color like Passion Plum will punch up your palette.

This rustic Aged Cedar roof and stone scheme are well suited to a palette of warmth inspired by the colors in the stone. For your door stay neutral or choose a statement color to welcome your guests.
GRAY STONE

A versatile neutral, gray stones look great in an all-neutral scheme or can take on any shades of color: dark, medium or light.

An overall gray roof gives you the option of going with a colorful scheme. Paint the body of your home in your favorite color and tie back to the stone with a gray front door or shutters.

A Black Oak roof is an excellent choice with stones that include black and brown. With gray color cast stone, you can use almost any color as long as it is toned down. Just go a bit bolder with the color on your front door.

Tone-on-tone schemes are beautiful with gray stone. Three shades of blue have an understated elegance that is complemented by gray.

When your composite shake roof and stone both have color variations and texture, it is best to go with a monochromatic scheme that quietly bridges those elements. Add pop with an unexpected color on the door like this blue with a dollop of purple.

Acme English Cobblestone and DaVinci Castle Gray Slate are a classic combination. Go traditional with a monochromatic palette for the body and trim. Then spice it up with a warm color on your front door.
GREIGE/CREAM STONE

It may seem odd to describe stone as “soft,” but that is exactly how the color of greige or cream feels in stone when contrasted to other options. Match this quality in your primary colors and keep the strong contrasts for your accents.

A stately cream stone exterior topped off with multi-color DaVinci Aberdeen Slate is exquisite. Tonal trim and a vibrant purple on the front door give this home a regal look.

For those who love an aged look, a Mossy Cedar roof with Indiana stone are a great combo. Gray with a touch of green and off-white work with both ... and a golden door enlivens the scheme.

With Coronado Naples stone, beige with a touch of rose is perfect for the main body and trim. Accents of brown give the rod to the Tahoe shake on the roof.

Antique Cream with its hints of gray is charming under a Vineyard roof. Let the multi-color roof drive the color scheme. Cool gray and cream trim are accented with wine. Green, gold or eggplant would be equally lovely as the accent color.

DaVinci Chesapeake Shake and Glen-Gery Winslow Rustic Stone were made for each other. All that is needed is to join this perfect pair with a tonal scheme of grays and greens.
Whether on its own or combined with brick or other materials, white stone makes a statement. Accentuate it with contrasting colors or let the texture take the lead with a tonal scheme.

White limestone and brick are a perfect pairing. White trim carries the color around the entire exterior and a maroon keeps the door from being lost between the eye-catching brick and stone.

Adding color to your roof works very well with a palette of neutrals or muted colors. A roof blend like Weathered Green is a colorful counterpoint to white stone and taupe paint.

Create a scheme that is as inviting as your stone’s namesake. Cashmere offers cool gray and white. Keep the look tranquil with light and airy blue-gray accents.

Play up the soft tones in your white stone with white with the same undertones as your main color. Go with a shade of rose on the door and gray with a touch of violet on the shutters to complete the look.

An advantage of stone is that it draws attention and needs little more than a great roof and accent color to set it off. Grab some of the spotlight for yourself by adding a front door color that reflects your personality.
YOU’VE GOT COLOR!

CONGRATULATIONS, YOU’VE SELECTED YOUR COLORS!

By following the simple steps outlined in this e-book you can easily select a perfect color scheme for a home that features brick or stone. Plus, we’ve got even more ways to support your desire to create a beautiful home exterior.

Visit the free Top Down Color™ visualizer from DaVinci Roofscapes to quickly see how the exterior of your home can be changed.

Available at www.colormyroof.com the “roof to ground product and color selector” offers a fast way to visualize how different colors and products can enhance your home’s curb appeal. Quick and simple to use, either upload your own home exterior image or use one of 10 home styles we’ve made available.

While you’re at the DaVinci website, visit our “Projects & Inspiration” section to download any of the free ebook in our FRESH Home Exterior Colors series. You can even send us your color questions and see colorful project profiles.

Visit today and let’s get FRESH!

NEED HELP DECIDING?

I will answer your questions and offer advice to help guide you through the process of choosing a color blend for your DaVinci roof to beautifully complement your home. Since these tiles will last a lifetime, I want to help you be absolutely sure that your DaVinci roof is exactly what you envision.

There is no limit to the length of your question. Please include as much detail as possible, including up to five photos, to allow me to provide you with the best advice. Submit your request at DaVinci Roofscapes.

Download all (FRESH) ebooks in this series here

ABOUT PAINT COLORS SHOWN IN THE PALETTES
The paint colors used in the color palettes in this ebook are from:

BEHR® | Benjamin Moore® | PPG The Voice of Color® | Sherwin-Williams®
ABOUT KATE SMITH

KATE SMITH, ICS, CMG
International Color Expert
President & Chief Color Maven, Sensational Color

www.sensationalcolor.com

Kate Smith is a well-recognized color expert sought out for her unmatched ability to show homeowners how to put together a FRESH color scheme for their home’s exterior.

“...It was very important to us to have a roofing product that resembled the original slate on the home when we purchased it. We wanted to keep the look and character of the house the same. We’re very pleased with the appearance of the simulated slate shingles. The color blend we selected has nicely accented the color of the home’s brick siding and helped pull the entire exterior renovation together.

~ Doug Miller

Kate’s advice was very insightful. The Mountain color matched our dark window trim, but as Kate pointed out, the Tahoe blend would better integrate our home into the surrounding environment with Pikes Peak as a backdrop.

~ Pam Lariviere

We really liked the look of the Single-Width Slate tiles from DaVinci. We feel that the Smokey Gray color of the composite slate tiles truly complements our home’s design.

~ Chris Kolovos

We decided to invest in a DaVinci roof because we liked their slate look that has lots of depth and character on each shingle. The choice of colors was terrific, and we liked the low maintenance and fire resistance of the product. But most importantly, this roofing has been tested and warranted for impact. We don’t want to have to replace another roof again in our lifetime.

~ Larry Taylor