



(ABOVE TOP) Child's bedroom,  
 Carbondale, Colorado

(ABOVE) Basalt Medical Clinic,  
 Basalt, Colorado

(BELOW) The author pictured in a  
 Reiki work room, Austin, Texas



# Living Color in Nature and Design

CHARLES ANDRADE

*Color is the nature and nourishment of the human soul.*

Color in nature surrounds us in our everyday experience. No matter what the season or time of day all we have to do is open our eyes to the beauty and nuance of nature's colorful bouquet to experience the healing effect it has on us. From the ever-changing color of the sky to the varied hues of her earthen tones, nature's colors are rarely flat and monotonous, but living and vibrant. Compare this with many urban centers where you find yourself surrounded by drab, monochromatic gray buildings and flat-painted color schemes that do little to improve or contribute to our soulful sense of well-being.

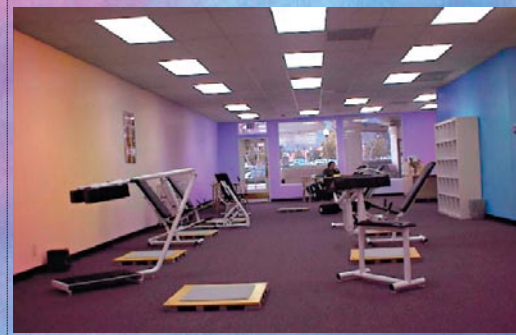
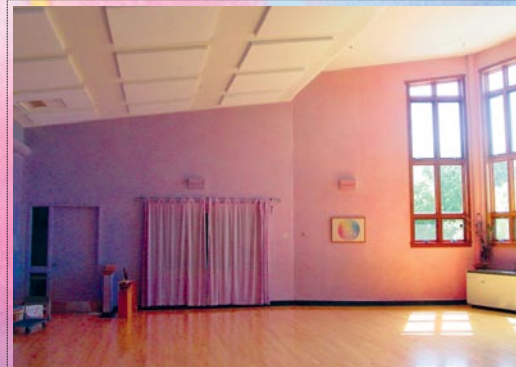
Color is by far the most important design principle when it comes to decorating an interior space. It sets the emotional tone and ambient mood for the activity that will take place within. And, economically, it can also be the least expensive. Painting your walls with any color other than white, beige or taupe is definitely a step in the right direction, but using flat opaque wall paint is just a beginning. Opaque paint absorbs light and captures color monochromatically in a dense medium. It's like listening to a public speaker whose delivery is dull and monotonous. Color is the nature and nourishment of the human soul, and as such we want to use it in our homes in ways that reflect the luminous, translucent quality found both in nature and our inner life.

These days you'll find a plethora of how-to books on a variety of decorative paint finishes: ragging, bagging, sponging, mopping, and just about any other technique of applying color onto the walls of your home or office. Each finish offers a different *visual texture* that, while certainly better than opaque latex paint, stills plays on the *surface* of the walls, decoratively emphasizing its physicality. Yet, there is another approach to ensouling our interior spaces. A spiritually-based, non-toxic wall-glaze finish known as "Lazure" painting fully explores the rich connections between the world of light, color, darkness and human psychology.

Color has four qualities: *hue, value, intensity and temperature*. Lazure painting was the first to use all of color's qualities in a finish that subtly changes hue as it moves across the space. Lazure enlivens the walls of a room with a luminosity that calls forth a unique quality of nuanced perception on the part of the viewer.

[ continued on page 44 ]

Medical Building,  
Camphill Soltane, Pennsylvania




(ABOVE TOP) Eurythmy room,  
Waldorf School of Baltimore, Maryland  
(ABOVE) Curves fitness center,  
San Diego, California

**Living Color** [continued from page 43]

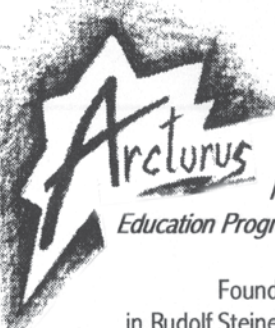
Lazure painting is increasingly being used here in the United States for the subtle, healing and regenerative qualities it brings to any interior space. Lazure glazes seem to make the walls of a room disappear, replaced by subtle shifts of atmospheric color that change in tone throughout the day. If other decorative finishes emphasize the physicality of a space using texture, Lazure painting emphasizes the etheric quality of a space using color.

The general treatment consists of several layers or "veils" of glazed translucent color. These may be used to produce a

variety of qualities from soothing and calming, to dynamic and invigorating. The color effects can be either gradually sequential or muralistic and dramatic.

The water-thin Lazure glazes are applied over a white surface allowing for optimal light reflection and refraction. The color theory behind Lazure supports a living, breathing, dynamic relationship between color and the body, soul and spirit of the human being. 

Learn more about the work of **CHARLES ANDRADE** at [www.lazure.com](http://www.lazure.com)



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