

Katrin Trautwein

WORKING WITH COLOR

Library of 400 Combinations

Birkhäuser
Basel

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INTRODUCTION

Selecting the most beautiful and functional color combinations to complement flooring, architectural design, and client preferences is a complex challenge. How can one anticipate whether a combination will appear outdated or faded within just a few years? The prevalence of all-white architecture often reflects an attempt to bypass this dilemma. However, such designs frequently result in excessive light reflection on a purely functional level, while also reinforcing an unfortunate bias that equates whiteness with neutrality and superiority.

This color library serves as a practical tool, offering 400 balanced color combinations designed to harmonize with any architectural style. After selecting the main color in a concept—most often a shade of white or the color of the flooring—designers and clients can choose from a family of ten suitable combinations to form their preferred palette.

The colors featured in this book are the result of 25 years of research dedicated to analyzing samples from historic sites and iconic buildings designed by visionaries such as Le Corbusier, Eileen Gray, the Bauhaus artists of Dessau, Bruno Taut, Lux Guyer, Verner Panton, and Hans Scharoun. kt.COLOR, the artisan paint company I founded, has developed a palette of 225 architecturally useful colors rooted in a deep respect for natural pigments. The palette reflects a broad spectrum of architectural philosophies on beauty.

The prints in this book are high-quality CMYK reproductions of 159 of these paint colors. Several whites are included, as white is the most important color in most concepts. However, only whites darker than the color of the paper could be printed. By using chlorine-free, natural paper, we were able to include French White (which is identical in tone to the paper) as a default main color for the concepts.