

# ELLE **now**

DECORATION

## Mood of the month

Earlier this year, Milanese gallery Nilufar debuted its cutting-edge pieces in a pop-up in Mexico City. Reciprocally, perhaps, Mexican designers were never far from the spotlight during Milan design week back in April – see Ramses Viazcan's chairs at SaloneSatellite or Unno Gallery's celebration of Latin American talent. For this month's palette, we are taking our cue from this new Mexican mood and offering a modern take on the country's tropical colours and rich textures

WORDS: CLARE SARTIN; STYLING: AMY HEFFERNAN; PICTURE: VICTORIA IJING

**From left** 'Samsa' chaise longue upholstered in 'Roadrunner Stripe' fabric in 'Melon' by Perennials, £6,925, Sutherland ([sutherlandfurniture.com](http://sutherlandfurniture.com)). 'Erin' pool towel in 'Ink & Sky', £85, Baina ([shopbaina.com](http://shopbaina.com)). 'Terra 01' outdoor rug in 'Tobacco', from £345, Nordic Knots ([nordicknots.com](http://nordicknots.com)). Pools From Above book, £38 Smith Street Books ([smithstreetbooks.com](http://smithstreetbooks.com)). 'Landmark' coffee table by Dan Schofield, £670, Nine Furniture ([nine-furniture.com](http://nine-furniture.com)). 'Naviglio' glass, £23; 'Tap' jug, £22, both by Ichendorf Milano, Twentytwentyone ([twentytwentyone.com](http://twentytwentyone.com)) ▶

## The inspiration

Featured in Brad Walls' photography book (pictured on the previous page) depicting the most wanderlust-inducing pools in the world, the watering hole at Hotel Panamera in Tulum, by architecture firm Nopal Studio (@nopalstudio) is a perfect example of modern Mexican style. The hotel's thatched roof and the mint-coloured walls in the reception hint at tradition, but it's the cream-and-terracotta chequerboard of the pool – an update on the paste tiles characteristic of colonial architecture in the Yucatan Peninsula – that attracts visitors (and Instagram likes). Formerly known as Casa Pueblo, it was acquired by a group of Mexican entrepreneurs who have refreshed and rebranded this beachside resort with an eye for grown-up tropical hues.



## The palette

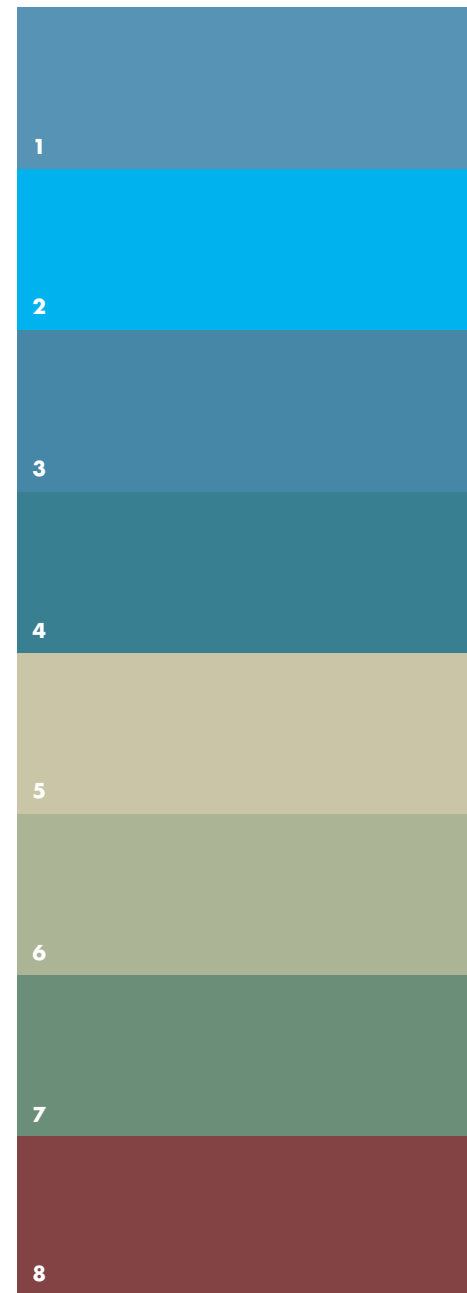
**1** 'Ghicha Silk' **wallcovering** in 'Jeans', £184 per m, Arte (arte-international.com)  
**2** 'Osis' **wood** in 'Aqua', price on application, Llot Llov (llovllov.com)  
**3** Heavy-weight **linen** in 'Peacock', £147 per m, Rose Uniacke (roseuniacke.com)  
**4** 'Boudins Baby' **handle** in 'Olive Polished', £104, Sabourin Costes (sabourincostes.com)  
**5** 'Varese' **velvet** in 'Sea', £94 per m, Designers Guild (designersguild.com)  
**6** 'Polynesie' **wallcovering** in 'Emeraude' by Jean Paul Gaultier, £443.30 per roll, Lelièvre (lelievreparis.com)  
**7** Heavy-weight **linen ticking** in 'Matcha Sorbet', £173 per m, Rose Uniacke (roseuniacke.com)  
**8** 'Birds of Paradise' **wallcovering** in 'BOP313', £35 per m, Omexco (omexco.com)

**9** 'Corniche' **outdoor fabric** in 'Teal', £95 per m, Zinc (zinctextile.com)  
**10** 'Zee' **tape** in 'Olive', £48 per m, Schumacher (fschumacher.co.uk)  
**11** 'Sycamore' **wallcovering** in 'SYC4140', £190 per m, Omexco (omexco.com)  
**12** 'Corrugation Pinnacle' **tile** in 'Blue Gloss', £1.08 each, Claybrook (claybrookstudio.co.uk)  
**13** 'Cifrado' **fabric** in '0741', £185 per m, Sahco (sahco.com)  
**14** 'Karin's Portiere' **fabric** in 'Sundborn', £146 per m, Cathy Nordström (cathynordstrom.com)  
**15** **Vinyl flooring** in 'Petrol Blue', £32 per sq m, The Colour Flooring Company (colourflooring.co.uk)



## The colour card

**1** 'MU SE 05' by Muller Van Severen, £60 for 2 litres, Blëo (bleocollective.com)  
**2** 'Ocean Blue', £64.50 for 2.5 litres, Mylands (mylands.com)  
**3** 'Below Deck', £52 for 2.5 litres, Coat (coatpaints.com)  
**4** 'Loving Teal', £48 for 2 litres, Yes Colours (yescolours.com)  
**5** 'String No 8', £75 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball (farrow-ball.com)  
**6** 'Willow V', £60 for 2.5 litres, Paint & Paper Library (paintandpaperlibrary.com)  
**7** 'Herbarium', £59 for 2.5 litres, Designers Guild (designersguild.com)  
**8** 'Ned Red', £55 for 2.5 litres, The Pickleson Paint Co (picklesonpaint.com) ▶



STYLING: AMY HEFFERNAN PICTURES: VICTORIA LING



**The interior**

Unlike the stereotypical Mexican palette of old, which sang with Barragán-inspired shocking pinks and mustard yellows, this new interpretation draws its inspiration from a less sun-soaked (more sundowner) take on the natural surroundings – think terracotta reds, deep ocean blues and tropical green foliage. The colours are still zingy and bright, lending themselves to bold decorating schemes and graphic designs, but with an appeal that will remain beyond summer. Glossy tiles (on floors or walls) are a great entry route to this look, but textiles and furnishings offer an instant taste of the sunny style.



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1 The owners of this home in Melbourne, designed by YSG Studio, wanted to blend Danish minimalism with a more exotic palette. In the bathroom, that meant choosing mosaic-sized light-blue tiles (reminiscent of swimming pools) to wrap the floor and walls, pairing them with darker red and navy elements that add vibrancy and weight (ysg.studio).  
 2 It doesn't get more Mexican – or more luxurious – than this bedroom in Hotel Esencia by Studio Giancarlo Valle, featuring furniture carved in Cancún and tiles made in Guadalajara that have a natural ripple. The addition of the chequerboard bedspread brings some graphic punch to the otherwise artisanal decoration (giancarlovalle.com).  
 3 Valencian designer Jaime Hayon's favoured colours, splashed across his art, are full of Latin energy and have a synergy with this month's moodboard. In Casa Clarita, a hotel he designed in his hometown, they are used playfully, as on the tiled arch leading to the dining area (hayonstudio.com).

PICTURES: ANSON SMART, STEPHEN KENT/JOHNSON/OTTO, JAVIER DIEZ, ZASOBY STUDIO, PRUE ROSCOE, CESAR BELO



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4 For those who love the energy of this palette, but would rather turn the volume down a few notches, the secret is in the choice of materials. For Villa Renée, Australian design studio Handelsmann + Khaw selected stones with a base note of blue for its take on chequerboard flooring – a more muted alternative to high-gloss ceramic tiles (handelsmannkhaw.com).  
 5 Use powdery takes on this month's scheme in bold blocks of colour to transform more functional areas of the home, such as this kitchen within a property by Poland-based design studio Klu. Its chosen tones keep the space from feeling childish, while circular cabinet handles and gridded tiles make sure it's also far from po-faced (klustudio.pl).  
 6 Chequers not the game for you? This palette also works beautifully with a classic stripe, especially the maritime white-and-navy variety seen paired with raffia lighting and ocean-hued zellige tiles in the restaurant terrace at Ennea Hotel by Mexican interior-design studio Comité de Proyectos (comitedeproyectos.mx).



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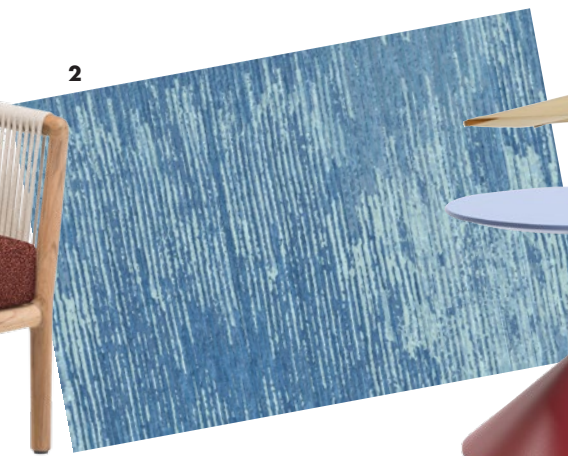
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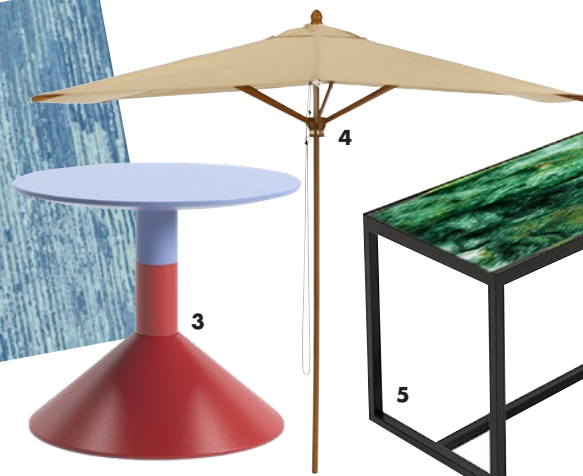
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**The easy update**

1 'Boboli' outdoor armchair by Vincent Van Duysen for Molteni & C, £2,639, Chaplins (chaplins.co.uk) 2 'Tide Pools Drop Stitch' outdoor rug in 'Outta The Blue', £403, Perennials (perennialsfabrics.com) 3 'Lud'o' side table by Patricia Urquiola, £1,230, Cappellini (cappellini.com) 4 'Hanway' garden parasol, £525, Oka (oka.com) 5 'Sciara' long table by Marella Ferrera, approx £6,824, Paola Lenti (paolalenti.it)

6 Bath towel in 'Olive Green Check', £57, House of Nunu (houseofnunu.com.au) 7 'Panama Bold' outdoor seating by Paola Navone, approx £3,879, Baxter (baxter.it) 8 'Oasis' cushion in 'Narcisse', £186, Elitis (elitis.fr) 9 'Teresa' portable lamp by Ferruccio Laviani in 'Bordeaux', approx £384, Kartell (kartell.com) 10 'Sol Brick' raffia placemats, £190 for two, La Double J (ladoublej.com) ED