



**GREEN LIGHT** (from top) Highlights of neo mint, the top colour trend forecast for 2020, add contrast to the fresh whites of this home office in Melbourne; Neale Whitaker believes the new shade of green brings “freshness and zing” to a space; blue combines with neo mint in this interior design by 2LG Studio.



# Mint condition

The first day of spring provides a perfect prompt to forecast which design trends will be blooming in 2020

I’ve seen the future and it’s green. Well, not so much the future as 2020 which is – unbelievably – just a few months away. And not so much green in the conventional, verdant sense of the word, as a chalky, pastel shade they’re calling “neo mint”. If I was being unkind I would describe it as the green I’ve always associated with hospitals (possibly because scrubs come in a near identical shade), but it’s also – more romantically – the colour of sugared almonds and macarons. You could almost call it Ladorée green.

Trend authority WGSN ([wgsn.com](http://wgsn.com)) describes neo mint as “a shade that succinctly aligns futuristic development with nature”. Blimey – and there’s me thinking it was just pale green. But it has an undeniable freshness and zing, and while I’m not convinced it’s the New Pink that the pundits predict, it will be interesting to watch its impact

as we enter the new millennium’s third decade. And remember, you first heard about neo mint in this column.

The first day of spring feels like the right time to gaze deeper into the crystal ball. While green definitely takes the gold – metaphorically – it will be joined on the 2020 colour podium by “mellow yellow”, “cantaloupe”, “cassis” and “purist blue”. They’re the colour swatches you need for the coming year.

**“This shade has freshness and zing. It will be interesting to watch its impact”**

Other topline trends gaining momentum include sustainability and that multifunctionality I wrote about just last week. Our romance with the handcrafted and handmade, and with texture and tactility, will deepen in 2020, just as – conversely – technology and 3D printing techniques take design in new directions. There’s a yin and a yang there somewhere.

And would-be renovators, note the rising status of the home office. With more and more of us working from home, it stands to reason that a desk under the stairs or a corner of the kitchen bench no longer cuts it. Home offices might not yet “sell houses” in the way kitchens and bathrooms do, but I’d put them well above butler’s pantries on the 2020 wish list. A spacious home office with plenty of natural light (and, in my case, a view) was a deal-breaker for me, and I don’t think I’m alone. And given that green’s the colour of money – not to mention energy and vitality – a lick of neo mint paint wouldn’t go amiss. ★ Neale Whitaker is co-host of Foxtel’s *Love It Or List It Australia on Lifestyle*, and a judge on Nine Network’s *The Block*.

## ★ NEALE’S OBJECTS OF DESIRE



**HUTWOODS** candle, from \$27.95, [hutwoods.com.au](http://hutwoods.com.au)



**DULUX** Wash&Wear paint in Mint Twist, \$79.90/4L, [bunnings.com/au](http://bunnings.com/au)



**RELAXHOUSE** chair, \$145, [relaxhouse.com.au](http://relaxhouse.com.au)



**KATE SPADE** letter tray, \$75.95, [leoandbella.com.au](http://leoandbella.com.au)