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"I can't say it's aqua and I can't say it's gray. It's in the space between those colors. It's a very pale blue, and blue is a color that evokes calm. When the clouds clear and the sky displays its depths, or water reflects and distorts the sky, it reveals shades and hues that defy description but are deeply felt. Blue transports you inward to a contemplative state."

MICHAEL SIMON
SHERWIN-WILLIAMS
TOPSAIL SW6217



"This is one of those hard-to-pin-down colors, conjuring up woodland streams and wet clay and summer shadows and greenback trout. Actually, it's the color of most of my fishing gear. It's wonderful on old wicker or cabin floors. It would make a beautiful dining room with dark wood furniture and blue-and-white Canton ware."

ROBIN BELL
FARROW & BALL
CAFÉ ROOM GREEN 79



"I love colors that change with the light. This is the palest apricot that can look white during the day and then as the sun goes down it gets this warm rose blush. It's beachy, it's warm, and it's a great transition color. I've used it on cathedral ceilings and hallways and stairwells. It goes with anything. I noticed that my paint store stocks it now. It's taken over from Linen White and Atrium White and Antique White."

LORI FELDMAN
BENJAMIN MOORE
DURANGO DUST 2165-60



When I was traveling in Germany and saw these huge fields of heather. This is very tranquil and serene—a grayed-down violet, not too sweet. It's an unusual color because at different times of day, it changes and can look almost beige or gray. Great with creams and vanillas. Throw in a chocolate brown for dimension. It can also hold its own with jewel tones."

SHERRILL CANET
PRATT & LAMBERT
SWEET LADY 1114



"This is a lovely pale blue, so faint that it brings the sky into the room. It's neither cold nor too blue. Instead, it simply adds a crisp background for a calming sleep or a restful read. Raw woven silks in blues or soft whites react well to this shade. Surprisingly, to get the most out of a blue-and-white scheme, every room needs a serious hit of black. I suggest glossy doors or ebonized furniture."

STEVEN GAMBREL
BENJAMIN MOORE
ICEBERG 2122-50



"In a luxurious home on an island in the West Indies, I painted the ceiling of a guest bedroom a dreamy azure blue. House-guests can drift off to sleep under the beautiful blue Caribbean sky. It's a soothing retreat from the busy world you've left behind."

GARY McBOURNIE
BENJAMIN MOORE
BLUE WAVE 2065-50