

SUMMER 26

Some say summer is the best time of the year. Others swear nothing beats a wild run into the Arctic chill. But no matter where you land, there's a party vibe in the air right now—an unmistakable hum, like every working day has turned into a Friday at 4:45 p.m. It's that anticipatory rush of the weekend... but on steroids.

It's not just the end of the week. It's the end of a whole year—a year in which we laughed, we cried, we stumbled, we soared. Above all, we lived.

And as we look back on the defining moments of 2025 while sketching out plans, dreams, and wish lists for 2026, one thing is clear: the season of FUN is officially in session. So lean in, let go, and let this issue inspire the boldness, brightness, and thrill that the year ahead is waiting to deliver.



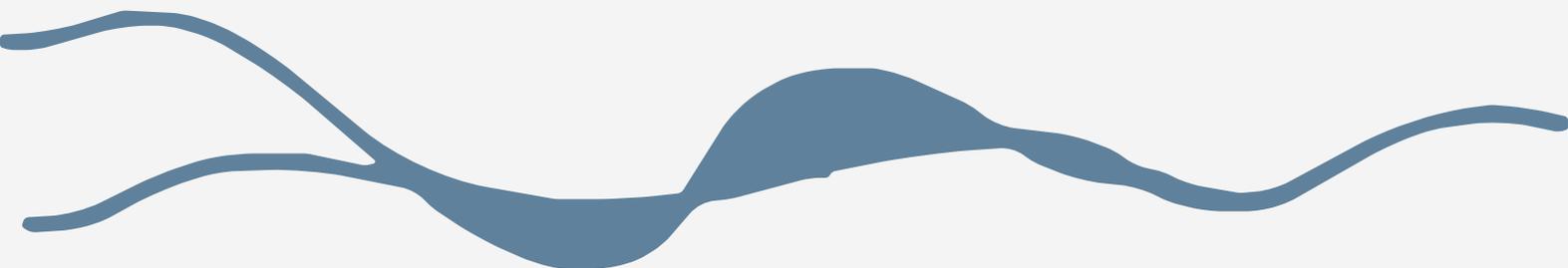


Welcome to the Summer Edition of our magazine —your seasonal dose of inspiration, fresh ideas, and stories to enjoy under the sun. I hope you like it!

With love,
Lorena Couto

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Downsizing from a farmhouse to a city apartment challenge

This project is an oldie but a goodie. Our clients had just sold their farmhouse and brought us a unique challenge: fitting their large, country-style furniture into a compact city apartment. But the real struggle went beyond sizing. After years surrounded by nature, they suddenly found themselves confined between grey walls—with a massive grey sofa that felt like an elephant stranded on a dry savanna. To make things even more challenging, the entire floor was covered in reflective porcelain tiles, giving the space an even colder feel.

The only colourful piece they owned was a sentimental artwork, and it quickly became clear that this should be the starting point for the colour palette—bringing life, warmth, and personality back into the home.



Another clever solution was blending their heritage pieces with contemporary design, striking a harmonious balance in shapes and proportions while maintaining comfortable circulation

Half of the balcony had also been converted into an extra bedroom, reducing their connection to the outdoors. Still, we introduced vibrant pops of colour across both rooms to reconnect the spaces and infuse a sense of energy.

We also used one of our favourite tricks: layering their plants to create visual impact without crowding the limited floor area. As I always tell my clients and students, "the more floor you see, the bigger the room feels."



I hope you enjoyed this little glimpse into the thought process behind our design decisions. It's wonderful to share the story beyond the final photos!



On December 4th, Pantone unveiled their Colour of the Year 2026—and the industry erupted. Some love it; others argue it's not even a colour. Turn the page to see why it matters and what's fuelling both sides of the debate.

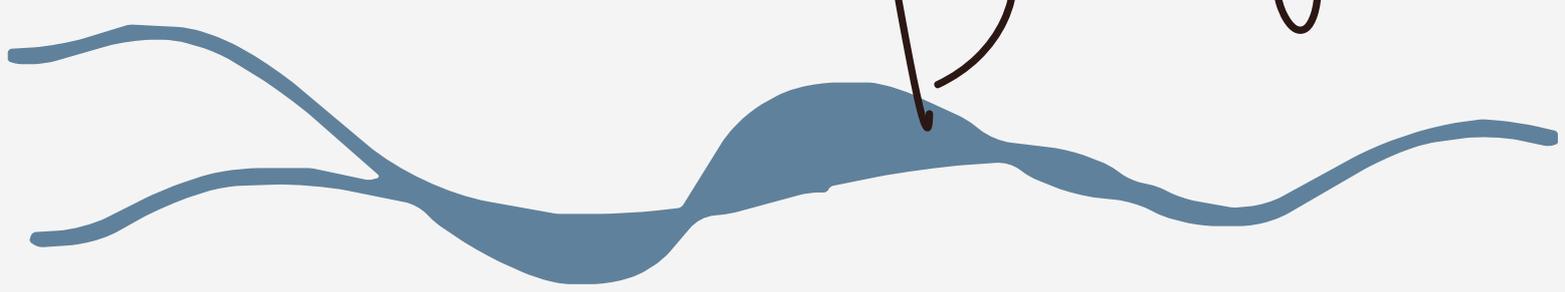


Color of the Year 2026

Cloud Dancer
11-4201



Boring



Before Pantone stepped onto the scene, describing a precise shade was nearly impossible—and for designers, a total headache. Their global system of colour names, numbers, and formulas revolutionized everything, allowing the exact same hue to be replicated across fashion, art, interiors, graphic design, paint, and beyond. It was a defining shift for the creative world. Pantone says they introduced the Colour of the Year in 1999 to spark a conversation about colour. Let's be honest—it was also a brilliant marketing masterstroke, catapulting them to the forefront of trend-setting.

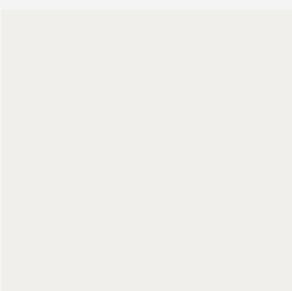
In theory, the “colour of the year” represents an expert-driven analysis of the shade poised to influence industries and shape consumer desire. In practice? Well... that's where things get interesting.

But this year, we walked straight into a full-blown controversy. For the first time ever, a white claimed the title. Critics shot back with the familiar cry of “that's not even a colour!”—and the unofficial nickname “landlord special” quickly overshadowed Pantone's elegant Cloud Dancer.

And while last year's Mocha Mousse delighted many, even as a devoted fan of browns and earthy tones, I felt a pang of disappointment. Not because it wasn't beautiful, but because it was predictable. The whole point of selecting a Colour of the Year is to spotlight something truly original—something rising in the collective unconscious, ready to be embraced. By the time Mocha Mousse was announced, brown had already saturated the creative landscape, undermining the very essence of the concept.

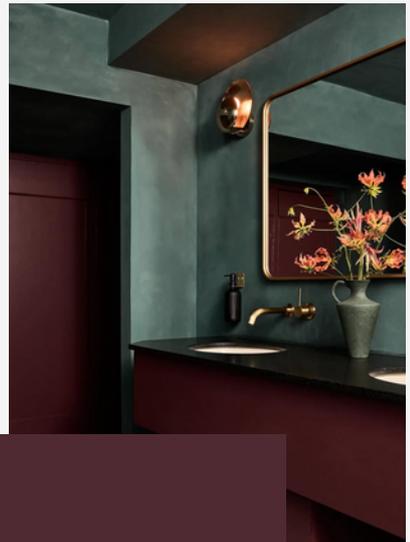
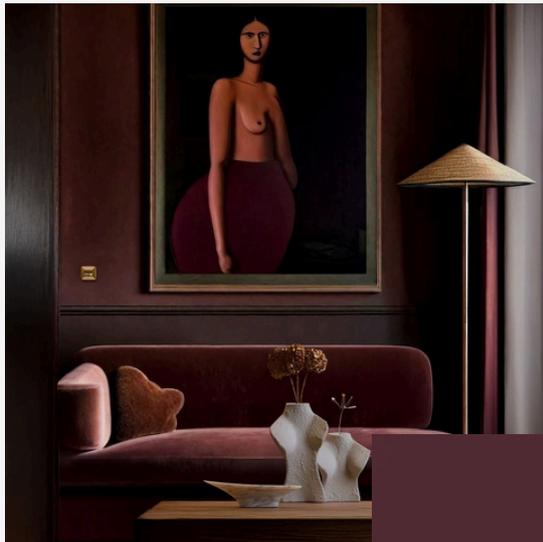
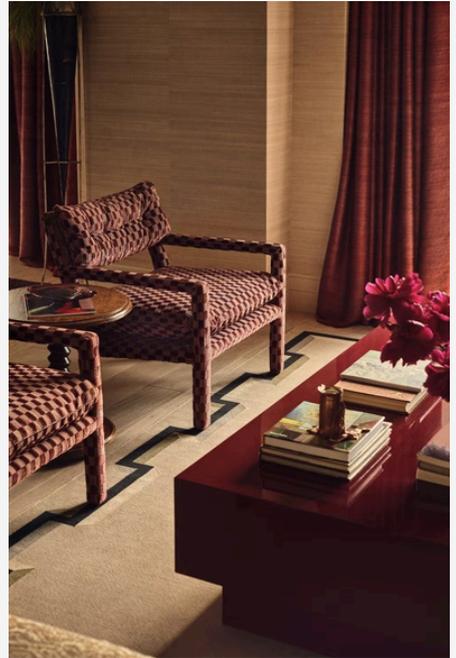


PANTONE®
17-1230 TCX
Mocha Mousse



PANTONE®
11-4201 TCX
Cloud Dancer

In this exercise, I am going to give you my 2 cents on what colour I think it should be elected



Sexy

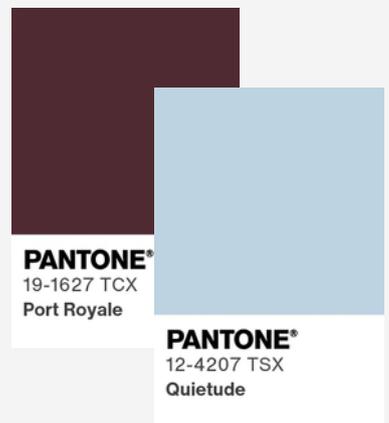


PANTONE®
19-1627 TCX
Port Royale

It's important to note that as everything we consume became cheaper to produce—including our buildings and interiors—an equally strong movement emerged: a return to the custom, the crafted, the deeply personal. That's why so many designers are disappointed with Cloud Dancer. They argue that spaces should carry personality and make you feel, while this shade of white risks evoking a crowd with no individual voice.

And just for the fun of it, I'll share a few other colours that have been making waves in the industry recently—and show you exactly how beautifully they harmonize with the

NEW COLOUR OF THE YEAR BY LORENA COUTO

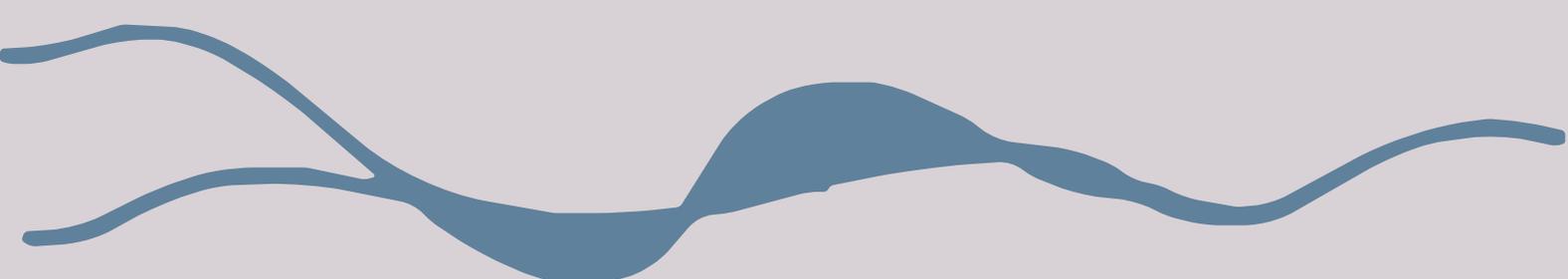


Awards



We're proud to share a series of outstanding recognitions that celebrate both creative excellence and meaningful impact. At Casa Cor Rio, our work stood out twice: first with the Best Use of Glass, awarded by a panel of industry professionals, and then with the Best Space, chosen directly by the public—an affirmation from both experts and the community we design for.

Beyond Brazil, our innovation was acknowledged on the global stage in Sydney, where we won a Design Thinking Hackathon focused on helping Kids Helpline overcome charity fatigue. This award was judged by CEOs and senior leaders from Meta, Nickelodeon, Optus, and other influential corporations, underscoring the strength, relevance, and social impact of our approach.



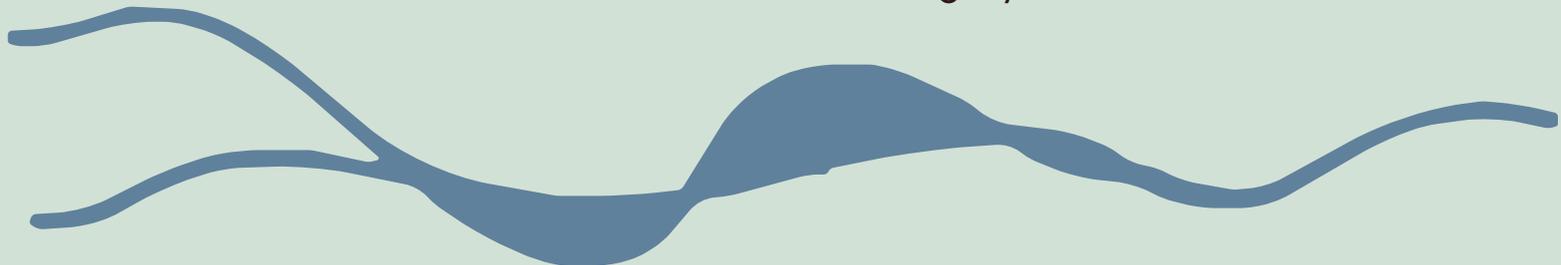
A love affair

great buys

This year, I've got a Christmas tip that's truly worth unwrapping. If you're out of ideas, the best gift might be the one that actually helps someone. Instead of buying more throwaway bits that no one needs—padding the profits of a giant corporation that may not even support its own employees—why not back a small family business or a charity that makes a real impact?

I've been personally involved with the non-profit CASA ORG for several years, and I trust their work wholeheartedly. Their mission is powerful: in moments of crisis, they support vulnerable communities across Brazil. Every Christmas, they source products from local family businesses in selected regions to create food hampers for families in need—boosting local economies, reducing environmental footprint, and weaving the community into a collective act of generosity.

And this year, there's something new. Beyond making a direct (and tax-deductible!) donation, you can also support their cause by purchasing their beautifully crafted products. One standout design, created by the designer Fabio Borges (@fabio.borgs), features two native birds—one from Brazil, one from Australia—united in a striking, symbolic embrace.



A love affair

See more of their products below, and this Christmas make conscious choices of where your money goes; Step away from the consuming frenzy and take action that makes you proud.

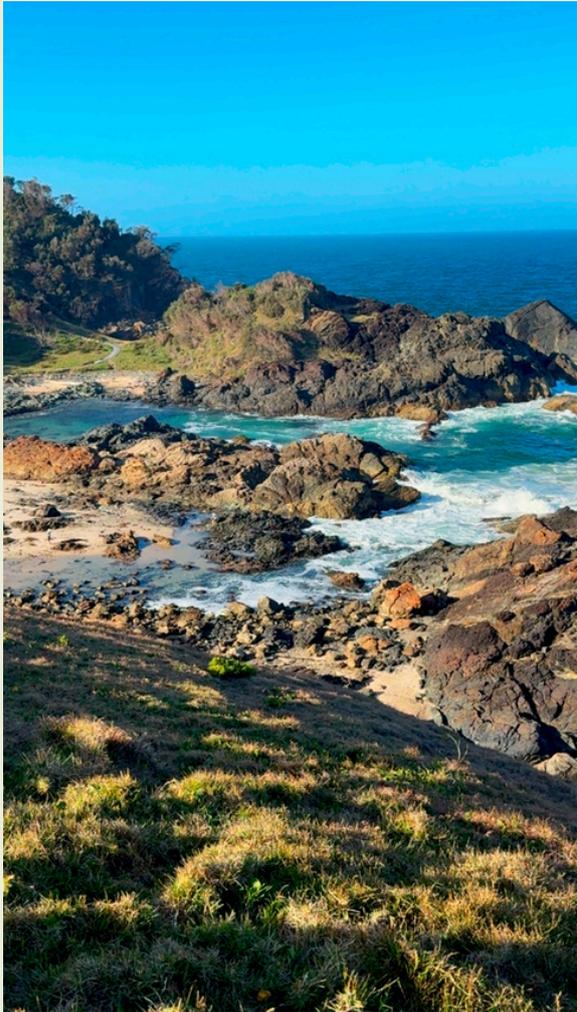
Their website for donation or purchase of products

<https://www.wearecasa.org.au/>



Travel Tips

I'm going to tell you a little secret. It might be hard to believe—especially considering I've lived in four different continents—but I had never travelled by myself. Until now. I needed a bigger reason than "I've always wanted to but was never brave enough," so I drove four and a half hours north of Sydney to Port Macquarie to see a project.



With my suitcase full of courage and excitement to explore the Mid North Coast of NSW, off I went with Rubi (yes, my red car has a name) on an emotional journey. I now recommend solo road trips to everyone. The long drive with no one but myself was incredible—time to process thoughts in silence, listen to my favourite tunes uninterrupted, and laugh and cry freely on a mental journey I finally had space to embrace.

You're probably wondering how long I was gone. Just two nights! And it was enough to create so much room for clarity and joy. So next time you think, "Can I do it?" my answer is: absolutely. The world won't implode if you take a break for yourself—though you might just expand.

On my way back, I stopped at some of my favourite places, and I'm excited to share them with you now.

Travel Tips



FORSTER

Has a little more town to explore, and that's why it was the place I chose to spend the night. As a woman travelling and sleeping alone for the first time, I didn't feel safe to go very remote. I ended up having a great time at a pub karaoke. It doesn't get more Aussie than this.

WHERE TO EAT

Nothing beats Mediterranean food for wholesome, hearty, healthy meals. I recently enjoyed a beautiful dinner at Mezza, where I could have spent hours admiring the décor while savouring their delicious lamb.

The prices are reasonable, and the location is perfect—right on the waterfront. I recommend going just after watching the sunset across the street, which is often complemented by the sight of a few pelicans gliding by.



going away



Travel Tips

Another two places I love to go in that same area are Sandbar (photo above) and Seal Rocks (photo below)



Thank you to everyone who read the second edition of our newsletter/magazine. If you enjoyed the first two editions, tell your friends about it!

A detailed illustration of two birds perched on a mossy tree branch in a lush jungle. On the left is a toucan with a large, colorful beak (green, red, and blue) and a yellow breast. On the right is a white cockatoo with a yellow crest. The background is filled with various tropical plants, including a Bird of Paradise flower and a branch with small yellow flowers.

“A life
without love
is like a year
without
summer”

- Swedesh proverb

Coming next...

Highlights of the
Salone Del Mobile 2026,
the world's most important
design fair