



january inspiration...old yeller

Once upon a time, we frequently used a yellow paint color that no longer exists. It harkens back to the days when Benjamin Moore had numbers, not names. It was the absolute perfect yellow for a wall color. I always considered it a neutral. Its value was light- similar to unsalted butter at room temp- mellow and soft. Its chroma was definitely yellow- not cream, but a soft, warm yellow without a drop of a bilious hue. It never shouted YELLOW across a room. It was the supporting actor that made every other color in a room look good. It was tried and true, and never disappointed. It was perfect...*Sigh*

Sometime in the 1990's, Benjamin Moore changed their number system and gave their colors new numbers with added names (ie; Candlelit Dinner 295). For some reason, our favorite yellow never made the cut or the calibration changed. I don't remember the reason, but it just plain disappeared. Without a number or a name, I always referred to it as '*Old Yeller*' (named after a favorite childhood movie with a yellow dog). Our painters knew the drill. We would give them a tattered paint label with drips of paint and ask them to match it as best they could. They would take another yellow and give it a tweak...a little burnt umber and then add white.

I would like to take a moment to add that, next to peach, yellow is the MOST difficult color to get 'just right'. Too much green, not enough of a warm undertone and there can be nothing worse. (Think circus yellow with scary clowns.) In the 1990's our go to yellow was slightly stronger and then in the 2000's we started softening it more as other colors we were using in fabrics and floor coverings became softer too. Too sharp or strong a yellow tone against celadons just *doesn't cut the mustard* (no pun intended).



So here we are starting 2016. A new year and we are still using '*Old Yeller*'. Our painters just completed the Living Room and Gallery walls of a working project in *Farrow and Ball Matchstick*. Yes, this time it has a name. Once again, '*Old Yeller*' has changed- a bit warmer this time- more neutral undertones but yellow just the same. As the saying goes, 'what becomes old is new again' and that is a good thing.

In the spirit of what's old and new, here's a salute to 2016 and all of its possibilities for growth and evolution as well as a fond reference to the past.

Here it comes, ready or not!

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