

Surface Materials Inspiration Guide

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Steelcase



Color is powerful.

It evokes strong emotions,
feelings and memories.
It can calm, excite and inspire
— influencing our mood
and affecting our emotional
and physical wellbeing.



We've created several touchpoints to connect our beautiful material palettes to applications so that you see the inspiration coming to life.

Color Works: Palette to Product is a color application guide that highlights how color isn't just visual — it's emotional. This guide explores the importance of color and relevant material introductions to meet real needs, featuring spaces for focus, collaboration and transition.

We have five color themes, each designed to evoke emotion, inspire creativity and guide application across diverse environments. Together, they form a harmonious story of color grounded in nature, emotion and design versatility.

Grounding Neutrals
offers warm, soft tones that evoke comfort and stability — ideal as foundational layers or tone-on-tone combinations.

Sunbaked Layers
brings earthy warmth and tactile richness, perfect for intimate or professional spaces with a refined feel.

Twilight Tones
introduces cool, serene hues with minimal sophistication, suited for modern and nature-inspired designs.

Rooted in Nature
draws from lush greens and organic textures to create calming, biophilic environments.

Peaceful Energy
blends soft colors with grounding elements to spark creativity and imagination — great for collaborative or expressive spaces.



Warm and soft tones often resemble places of comfort. These neutrals can act as a foundation or be layered together in tone-on-tone combinations.

Grounding Neutrals



Connected Comfort

This palette blends natural woodgrains, rich textiles and refined accents to create a built-in, welcoming environment — balancing comfort, clarity and a sense of belonging.



Laminates

- 1 Formica 8843 Natural Ash
- 2 2HWV Chalk

Textiles

- 3 Designtex Cozy Texture 3063-101 Sand
- 4 Designtex Woolish 3473-604 Concord
- 5 Designtex Heather 3473-405 Midnight
- 6 Designtex Heather 3973-701 Pink Salt



Welcoming Comfort

A warm, tactile blend of earthy neutrals, soft textures and natural materials supports focused work and spontaneous interaction in a welcoming environment.



Laminates

- 1 Formica 5786 Ashwood Oak
- 2 2TH2 Fawn Cypress

Coatings

- 3 4240 Chalk
- 4 4B22 Matte Brass

Textiles

- 5 Intermix Opaque KR16 Bronze
- 6 Designtex Arne 4141-804 Mid Grey
- 7 Designtex Heather 3473-604 Concord
- 8 Designtex Heather 3473-307 Walrus
- 9 Designtex Lambert 3623-801 Fog
- 10 Designtex Wannabe Rib 5622-106 Cream
- 11 Designtex Woolish 3973-101 Sandstone
- 12 Viccarbe Leather Anticcuir 126
- 13 Antic Cuir Leather 142

Rugs

- 14 Moooi Crisp Dawn Awakens In Light



Earthy, tactile and inviting tones add a refined warmth that is visually cohesive and emotionally resonant — creating a sense of comfort and understated sophistication.

Sunbaked Layers



Quiet Shelter

Layers of earthy browns, soft greys and muted blues evoke a sense of cozy retreat and grounded functionality — perfect for a space that transitions between group gatherings and personal moments.



Laminates

- 1 2HWW Chalk
- 2 2HAF Cloudy

PET

- 3 PC17 Flat Iron

Textiles

- 4 Designtex Dovetail 8571-301 Nutmeg
- 5 Designtex Emblem 3068-101 Cobra
- 6 Designtex Helsinki Crypton 3105-105 Chocolate
- 7 Viccarbe Leather 148

Sunbaked Layers



Soft Sync

A modern yet inviting palette, with a subtle interplay of digital sophistication and tactile comfort supports team huddles and solo work, while encouraging spontaneous interaction.



Laminates

- 1 Formica 8843 Natural Ash
- 2 2TH2 Fawn Cypress
- 3 2730 Arctic White

Plastic

- 4 6697 Fog

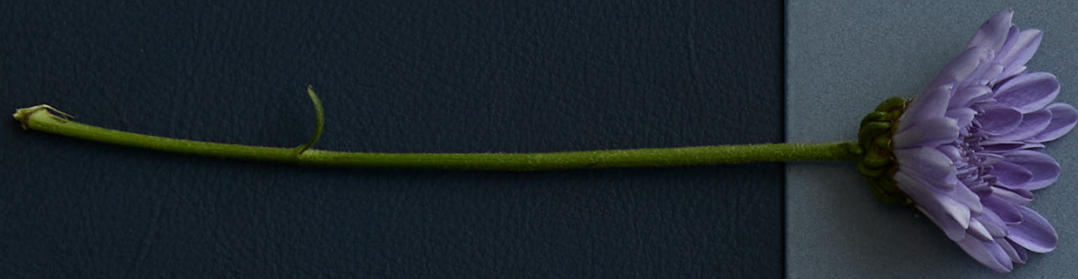
Textiles

- 5 Billiard Multi Use 5H18 Teak
- 6 Designtex Heather 3473-251 Champagne
- 7 Designtex Mateo 3895-402 Dark Blue
- 8 Designtex Micro Tweed 8250-754 Denim

Designtex Design Studio

- 9 Custom Graphic Ribbon #E7CDB9 / #CB865F





A serene, minimal
and quietly expressive
palette, with a cool-
toned sophistication that
could suit both modern
and nature-inspired
design contexts.



Soft Focus

A nature-infused, calming palette, that feels balanced, adaptable and thoughtfully composed — perfect for environments that blend privacy, personalization and team functionality.

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Laminates

1 2HAF Cloudy

Veneers

2 37A2 Thunder Walnut

Coatings

3 4240 Chalk

Textiles

4 SoftNext 5H35 Blue Mica

5 Stencil P458 Denim

6 Designtex Everywhere Texture 4147-102 Shell

7 Designtex Heather 3473-105 Walnut

8 Designtex In the Cloud 8093-601 Earth Green



Interactive Energy

Introducing vibrant, yet balanced hues, a versatile mix of blue, yellow and green feels active and adaptable, encouraging spontaneous interaction.



Laminates

- 1 Formica 8843 Natural Ash
- 2 24H3 Satin Stone
- 3 2535 Virginia Walnut

Plastic

- 4 6336 Jazz

Textiles

- 5 Intermix KR18 Baltic
- 6 Stencil P464 Orchid
- 7 Designtex Barcelona Crypton 3108-403 Midnight
- 8 Designtex Dovetail 8571-301 Nutmeg
- 9 Designtex Everywhere Texture 4147-504 Loden
- 10 Designtex Road Trip 8408-402 Canal
- 11 Designtex Tiny Boucle 3926-201 Sunbeam

Inspired by nature, these lush tones create serenity indoors. A natural meadow is filled with layers of green, these finishes are meant to replicate layered tones with grounding elements.

Rooted in Nature



Quiet Grove

A rich, earthy palette that introduces subtle metallics and biophilic accents — perfect for environments that blend digital tools with natural comfort, supporting group interaction and personal retreat.



Laminates

- 1 2HWW Chalk
- 2 2535 Virginia Walnut

Veneers

- 3 3LEX Desert Oak on Oak Composite

Coatings

- 4 4CL5 Light Matcha
- 5 4B22 Matte Brass
- 6 4B24 Night Bronze

PET

- 7 P636 Light Heather Grey

Textiles

- 8 Designtex Gamut 3468-504 Lambs Ear
- 9 Designtex Tweedy Twill 3064-502 Jungle
- 10 Designtex Barcelona Crypton 3108-702 Sienna
- 11 Viccarbe Leather 148





Curated Calm

A softened palette of chalky neutrals, muted greens and light pinks that feels organized, approachable and quietly expressive — encouraging conversation, creativity and clarity through thoughtful design.



Laminates

- 1 2TH2 Fawn Cypress
- 2 2HAE Dark Olivine
- 3 2HWV Chalk

Coatings

- 4 4CL7 Sandstone
- 5 4CL5 Light Matcha

Textiles

- 6 Designtex Dovetail 5H45 Honeydew
- 7 Designtex Brushed Flannel 3797-101 Creme
- 8 Designtex Distressed Texture 3935-301 Peony
- 9 Designtex Tweedy Twill 3064-502 Jungle

Designtex Glass Film

- 10 CDP Glass Stripes 06

These soft colors
balanced by grounding
elements create an
atmosphere ready for
creativity and imagination.



Grounded Clarity

Muted earth tones and tactile materials, reduce visual noise and cognitive fatigue, ideal for focused workspaces, long work sessions, and adaptable task zones.



Laminates

1 2535 Virginia Walnut

Coatings

2 4CL8 Smokey Plum
3 4CL3 Aura
4 4B22 Matte Brass
5 7243 Seagull

Textiles

6 Intermix Opaque KR14 Seagull
7 Billiard Multi-Use 5H21 Gunmetal
8 Designtex Dovetail 5H49 Aura
9 Designtex Speckle Boucle 3014-101 Pebble
10 Designtex Lounge 3162-601 Lilac



Color is more than a visual experience — it's a powerful, emotional tool that shapes how we feel, work and connect. Through our thoughtfully curated palettes, we've created a framework that brings color to life in meaningful ways across diverse environments.

Discover more about these palettes and their applications by visiting the New & Notable resource pages on [Steelcase.com](https://www.steelcase.com).





Helping the World Work Better

Steelcase is a global design and thought leader in the world of work. Along with our expansive community of brands, we design and manufacture innovative furnishings and solutions to help people do their best work in the many places where work happens.

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