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An Edina home (shown from the back exterior) is painted in French Beret by Benjamin Moore. “It was inspired by various Nordic and Scandinavian projects that differentiate from the ever-growing white-painted homes of the Country Club neighborhood,” says Colby Mattson of Charlie & Co. Design, the architecture firm that worked with Elevation Homes on the house.

NORDIC NOIR

From charcoal to onyx, dark-as-night exteriors make a statement or recede into the landscape.

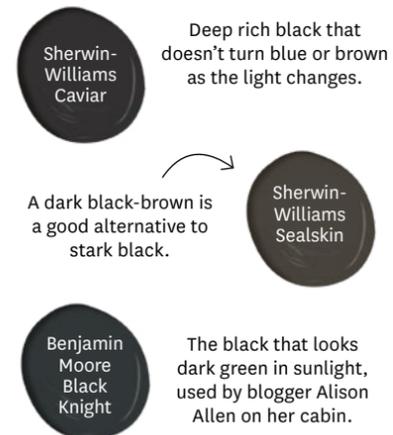
When architect Joy Martin presented paint options to the owners of Minnesota BBQ Co. in Northeast Minneapolis, charred wood wasn't far from everyone's minds. “They were totally into it right away,” Martin says of their color pick, Caviar by Sherwin-Williams, which evokes burnt wood and fire. “It has a wonderfully rich depth to it and changes subtly as the light of the day changes, but without turning blue or brown.”

David O'Brien Wagner of SALA Architects says black complements the landscape. “The notion of darkness, for me, is about what I'm responding to in my environment,” he says. “The landscape comes to the forefront.”

Colby Mattson of Charlie & Co. Design says black can be used to offset or highlight an architectural feature. For example, on a tight urban lot, Mattson painted the back half of the home black so it visually receded into a backdrop of trees. “The black siding also complemented the dark windows and trim throughout the entire house,” he says. —*Madison Bloomquist*

PHOTO BY SPACECRAFTING

GET THE LOOK



TIPS TO KNOW

Paint your top three choices of the color on each side of the house. Let it sit a day or two and evaluate.

—**Architect Joy Martin**

Black might show damage or texture more easily than other colors. It also ages faster, meaning you need to repaint it more often. — **Joy Martin**

In lieu of paint, consider charred wood (known as shou sugi ban). It's rich in tone but gives the home a natural aspect. —**Architect David O'Brien Wagner**

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