Finish Design Recipes + Color Charts

This guide provides recipes for different plaster finishes, integrating natural pigments and additives, and offers reference color charts for sustainable surface design.

1. Smooth Finish (Polished)

• Composition: 80% recycled plaster + 15% lime + 5% marble dust
 • Thickness: 1–2 mm
 • Application: Apply with steel trowel, burnish while damp for a polished surface
 • Optional: Seal with olive soap solution or beeswax for waterproofing

2. Textured Finish

• Composition: 60% recycled plaster + 20% clay + 20% coarse sand/fibers
 • Thickness: 2–4 mm
 • Application: Apply with sponge float or brush to create rough texture
 • Pigments: Add 2–5% earth oxides or clay powders for earthy tones

3. Rammed Earth Effect

• Composition: 70% recycled plaster + 20% lime + 10% colored sand
 • Technique: Layer pigmented plaster in thin strips, compress with trowel
 • Visual: Striated layers resembling natural rammed earth walls

4. Matte Mineral Finish

• Composition: 75% recycled plaster + 15% lime + 10% fine marble dust
 • Application: Apply thinly with wooden float for a matte, mineral surface
 • Pigments: Integrate natural clays (ochre, sienna) for warm tones

5. Pigment Color Charts

Below are standard natural pigment families and their usage rates:

Pigment	Natural Source	Recommended % of Dry Mix
Red Oxide	Iron oxide mineral	2–5%
Yellow Ochre	Natural clay	3–6%
Green Earth	Mineral clay	2–4%
Black Iron Oxide	Iron ore	1–3%
Burnt Sienna	Calcined clay	2–5%
Ultramarine Blue	Mineral-based pigment	1–3%

6. Tips for Pigment Use

✓ Always mix pigments into dry plaster before adding water for consistent color

✓ Test small batches to adjust pigment intensity

✓ Use natural oxides and clays for durability and UV stability

✓ Avoid synthetic pigments with high VOCs