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THE FUTURE OF LUXURY LIVING

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The Top 6 Interior Design Trends for 2019

Luxurious textures, influences for different eras and “echo-chic” living will be big next year, experts say



A well-appointed space, regardless of style, stands the test of time. But that doesn't mean you can't take your cue from what's timely.

While décor isn't as fickle as fashion, new trends do surface every year or so. To find out what's hot for 2019, we tapped top design pros for their best predictions. These ideas just might inspire you to make some improvements.



Photo: Eric Laignel

Textural Touches

Bare, sparse industrial looks are giving way to luxurious textures and materials.

“We’re seeing more robust furnishings; dimensions are larger, cushions are plusher, and detailing is more elaborate, even historical at times,” said Jeffrey Beers of Jeffrey Beers International in New York. He predicted materials like sanded oak will be replaced by polished walnut; subway tiles will make room for more elaborate mosaic tiling or marble, and instead of linen, rich velvet will take its place. Mr. Beers is exploring with different dimensions in Immersion, a new line of glass tiles he designed for AKDO, a brand with showrooms in Turkey and the U.S.

Layering design and materials will also be trending, Mr. Beers predicted.

“Through layering, you’re creating a more dynamic and multifaceted environment. For example, when you blend Italian modernism with American-coastal style, the interiors become a visual representation of cross-cultural dialogue,” he said.

For a recent project, Mr. Beers mixed materiality by using a glossy black-painted glass dining table from Usona, quilted leather armchairs from Bright, and a customized glass chandelier by Gabriel Scott.

Anthony Barzilay Freund, editorial director and director of fine art at 1stdibs, an e-commerce antiques and design marketplace, agrees that textured, layered interiors are enjoying a newfound popularity.

“Designers are eliciting tactile responses, not just visual ones, with schemes that incorporate stone, velvet, woven rope, wool and even inorganic materials like neoprene,” he said.

Mr. Barzilay Freund noted that materials with a rough-hewn or organic quality engage not just the eye but the sense of touch. “That’s why you’re not just seeing color rolled onto walls, but walls that are covered in grasscloth or leather or textiles, rather than just flat wallpaper—you can now feel the materiality of those walls.”

Organic shapes and rough finishes “can be seen as a counterpoint to the slickness and hard edges of contemporary life,” Mr. Barzilay Freund said. “Juxtaposing the warmth of a velvet-upholstered sofa, say, with the coolness of a chunky stone coffee table, or topping a high-sheen wood console with a rough and ropey basket, creates a moment of surprise that engages all your senses,” he said.

“Texture adds depth and warmth to any space and really helps to make a home feel finished,” said Cheryl Eisen, founder and president of Interior Marketing Group in New York. For a recent project, Ms. Eisen mixed pillows in the master bedroom with varying shades of grey and multiple textures. “One of our staples is to layer a soft, faux-fur pelt on a bed or bench; it adds another dimension for the eye and really elevates the space,” Ms. Eisen said.

As a response to this tactile trend, Benjamin Moore’s Century line of paint is formulated with a soft-touch finish that has a velvet-like appearance, which creates depth. “These add a richness particularly to the more formal areas of your home—living rooms, dining rooms, libraries, offices, formal entryways and master bedrooms,” said Ellen O’Neill, Benjamin Moore director of strategic design intelligence.



Photo: Fine House Studio © 2018 Houzz

Back in Black

Spaces that were typically painted white are starting to bear black hues, especially in kitchens and baths, Ms. O'Neill said. "These have become popular as evidenced by the rising trend of black appliances, fixtures, surfaces, and materials that dominated the international trade show at Salone Mobile in [Milan, Italy]. "The effect can be dramatic, sexy and unexpected."

Traditionally, black paint was used as an accent hue for exteriors – on a front door or shutters, for examples – but now Ms. O'Neill is seeing a rise in all-black facades and fencing. "Black tends to highlight the silhouette of a house in a sophisticated, architectural sense," Ms. O'Neill said.

Among the Houzz community of 2.1 million active home remodeling and design professionals, black is big for kitchens and being expressed on appliances like range hoods, as island accent colors and in all-black cabinetry. Houzz predicts that in 2019, we'll see black cabinets paired with white walls, backsplashes and countertops for a dynamic and sophisticated contrast.

“Black is a classic color that never goes out of style, but enthusiasm for colors ebb and flow just like in fashion,” said Mitchell Parker, Houzz editor and writer based in Palo Alto, California.

“Black’s re-emergence is a reaction against the whites and bright colors that have been popular for so long,” Mr. Parker said.



Photo: Eric Laignel

True Colors

While black is seeing a resurgence, so is the use of color. “It’s cyclical: Whenever the economy is doing well, or consumer confidence is up, color sells more,” said Los Angeles-based designer Robert Novogratz of The Novogratz. “When people are happier and feeling good, they’re more likely to live with color,” he said.

Mr. Beers added, “We’ll be seeing a more expressive use of bold colors as well as imaginative and fun ways of pairing prints.”

One innovative use of color is through lighting. Liana Frey, vice president of marketing for Ketra lighting, noted that color-tunability, or ability for lights to display different hues, whether pastel or bold, is becoming popular for the home. Ketra has a system that lets you easily adjust the lighting – via an app on your tablet or smartphone – including its color-tunability and vibrancy, which impacts how the colors and finishes in the room are “read” by the human eye.

“The effect is similar to applying a filter to a photo; the saturation of the finish can be muted or increased in intensity,” Ms. Frey said.

Designers are continually exploring new ways to make an interesting statement, and many do this through color, Mr. Barzilay Freund said. For instance, warmer tones and brighter shades are permeating spaces in myriad ways from wallcoverings to furniture and statement art to decorative accessories, even lighting. “We’re seeing purple and pink accents and saturated red, blue and green walls in rooms where tasteful grey and beige once rules,” he said.



Photo: Max Touhey

Mixed Styles

Layered spaces also mean incorporating pieces and influences from different eras. “We are worldlier than ever, and that’s demonstrated by the bold mixing of different cultural and historical references, as well as the pairing of international design with international art,” Mr. Beers said. He recently designed a restaurant in Philadelphia that blends styles taken from American Irish pubs and Taiwanese night food markets.

“The best rooms in Europe have long-featured items passed down through many generations in dynamic conversation with one another. Designers are now interested in creating such historically layered spaces,” Mr. Barzilay Freund said. He also notes that designers are adding custom pieces to this mix from craftsmen and small-scale manufacturers to secure unique pieces not readily available to everyone.

“When you put a piece of 18th century furniture next to an avant-garde contemporary piece, you not only bring into the present what might otherwise be considered a fusty antique, but you give weight, or gravitas, to that new creation,” Mr. Barzilay Freund said.

“Nobody wants to live in a museum display or space that feels like every object came from the same showroom,” Mr. Barzilay Freund said. “By mixing furniture from a variety of periods and pairing high and low objects and art, you create a space that is timeless, not a time capsule.



Photo: James Chororos

Metallic Tones

As we move away from an industrial design aesthetic, “we’re see a growing popularity in the polishes and tailored look of metallic finishes,” Mr. Beers said. He favors silver for its clean nautical look and gold and brass for richness and warmth.

Different iterations of gold, from rose gold to matte gold, are finding their way into design from furniture and accent pieces to walls, Mr. Novogratz said. In his own furniture design, Mr. Novogratz offers accent pieces such as desk lamps and even large-scale items like canopy beds in an all-gold options.

Ms. Eisen’s notices a trend toward cooler brushed metallic like chrome, nickel and iron, which “add flare without stealing the show.” For a recent project at 807 Park in Manhattan, Ms. Eisen created a dramatic double-height mirror grid, which reflects light, doubles the visual square footage and adds a bit of glamour.



Photo: Getty Images

Innovative Eco-Chic Living

As more consumers are embracing “eco-chic” living, “the more empowered furniture designers will feel to explore the possibilities of new materials and forms,” Mr. Barzilay Freund said. “It’s an investment on both sides of the equation.”

Among those contemporary designers taking the leap now and offering their wares on 1stdibs are Kim Markel, whose Glow Chairs are made of recycled plastic. Designers are also getting creative with cardboard, using the paper-based material to craft case goods and upholstery items. Designer Domingos Tótoro offers a variety of cardboard wares on 1stdibs, including benches, lounge chairs and accessories.

The Novogratz are currently exploring new materials for outdoor living, including deck chairs and lounges made from high-density polyethylene, which are crafted from post-consumer plastic product waste including milk jugs. “The polyethylene is able to produce an amazing variety of colors,” Mr. Novogratz said.

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