

# timeless trends

BY TRINH NGUYEN



As a designer my main objective when working on a residential project, is to translate a developed design perspective into a reality by harmoniously mixing traditional design elements with the latest trends.

Furniture trends in the interior design world, like the latest styles in fashion, are constantly evolving from one season to the next. Sometimes it can be difficult to navigate through the constantly changing new crop of season's hottest must-have pieces in order to pull off a look effortlessly without crossing that faux-pas line of trend overkill. However, like fashion, the latest trends can be successfully incorporated into residential interior design by keeping the basics classic and timeless and accenting with bold and unique accessories in order to personalize a space.

Timelessness never goes out of style, so larger key pieces should be simple with classic lines in a neutral and soothing colour. These classic signature pieces can now be used as a neutral backdrop for anchoring accent accessories with bold patterns and colours. Gone are the days of feature colours on walls; instead furniture and accessories with bold patterns or colours can make a strong statement when paired with a neutral background. A strong trend this year is using taupes and greys on the walls as an elegant backdrop. Greys are especially hot this year as it complements virtually every colour palette.

Trends will come and go, but antiques will always be in style. A classic vintage piece will add personality and history to a room and will only continue to gain value if treated with the proper care. Vintage pieces add interest to a room full of neutrals. For example, a decorative turned leg on a side chair or a crackled finish mirror on a side table can add some unexpected design element to an otherwise simple and neutral space. It's these small touches of character that will add warmth to a room and keep it from feeling static and impersonal.

Metallics have been taking centre stage for the last few years as North America starts to adopt the more modernistic design aesthetic of Europe. This trend is still going strong, however, it is now being used in a more subtle way. Ultra modern spaces with wall to wall stainless steel are now feeling cold and uninviting and the trend has started to move back to creating warmer and more livable spaces that can incorporate someone's personal design style. Where chrome and stainless steel were once used to create a minimalistic and masculine space, designers are now using the warmer tones of distressed bronze and pewter as a great way to add luxury and elegance to a space. When used sparingly, metallics can help add richness and interest to a room. But be selective and choose metallic pieces that will complement each other, as there is a fine line between luxury and gaudiness.

In the past, eco-friendly furniture has been both hard to find and expensive for homeowners to justify going that extra mile. But as the environmental movement continues to enter the mainstream and smart-cars, organic groceries and solar energy are fast becoming the norm, furniture manufacturers are recognizing a growing market and quickly following suit. It is becoming increasingly accessible for designers to now purchase eco-friendly furniture that is both trendy and affordable for their clients. Hand-made products, natural and recycled materials can now be used to help add that one of a kind conversation piece to any room.

Finally, using more texture as a key design element is often overlooked. If used properly, it's a subtle feature that can add a powerful dimension to a room. You would think that texture is effective only if you touch and feel the material. In reality, your mind helps your senses by pulling from your memory how a recognized surface feels. So even without touching it, texture can bring up feelings and emotions which adds warmth and richness to any space. It really can add the extra depth of interest and let you be fully immersed in a space. □

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