



GET THE LOOK
PAGE 2



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WHERE THE GOOD LIFE MAKES NEWS

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Are you looking for some ideas to update your home? Well, these design tips from industry experts will set you off on the right path, while ensuring you stay on-trend.

LIVING THE DREAM

When it comes to your home, lay extra emphasis on your living area—the focal point of dining and entertainment—ensuring that you give it a quick update to create a space that's both, stylish and

inviting. Take your cue from Pantone's refreshing colour of the year—Greenery—to energise your space with one-of-a-kind accents. For a bolder look, explore jewel-toned furniture, another popular trend that's set to flourish this year.

“While pastel shades are having their moment in the spotlight, they will soon be overshadowed by jewel-toned furniture inspired by precious stones, metals, the night sky and outer space. With green tones and



COVER STORY

LIVING ON-TREND

New trends in design and colour set the tone for what to expect in home décor this year. Here's a look at the latest styles that will dominate interior design mood boards in 2017

environmental sustainability making their way into décor trends in a big way, it only makes sense to apply colours such as emerald green, sapphire blue, and amethyst purple,” elucidate Disha Bhavsar and Shivani Ajmera, interior designers at Quirk Studio. Juxtapose

plush velvets in these striking hues with greys, blacks and whites to lend an air of sophistication. Also, keep your eyes peeled for darker hues that promise a bold impact. “Incorporate darker shades like navy blue and military green and balance them out with lighter-coloured cushions to deliver a modern-chic touch,” elucidates Shobhna and Kunal Mehta, founders, Kanchi Designs.

GO TO BED

Most home-dwellers are keen to create a bedroom that serves as a



add a sense of much-needed indulgence,” adds the Mehta duo. Precisely planned mood lighting draws focus and brings a bedroom to life, as Amrita Guha and Joya Nandurdikar, Principal Architects, Untitled Design, add, “Bedrooms will have one or more focal points, ranging from ceiling lights to bedside lamps, that suit every mood. Juxtapose the lights against a neutral palette with barely a hint of colour by way of furnishings.”

THE BATHROOM GUIDE

The bathroom, too, will have its moment of glory. Evolving from a mere function-oriented space into a larger, luxurious one, bathrooms today have become the ultimate statement in individualistic style. “Bathrooms are becoming a central point with a focus on high quality and functional amenities that are visually striking, easy to maintain, hygienic, and demonstrative of individual design preferences,” opines Carlotta Pedrazzini, Brand Strategy Manager, Sternhagen.

KITCHEN CAPERS

While a kitchen traditionally offers the least scope for experimentation in terms of design, modern kitchens have steadily evolved into spaces that are equipped to service fast-paced lives. “Stainless-steel countertops, surfaces and appliances offset by warm wood finished cabinets and tiled backsplashes will find room in kitchens, this year,” explains Amit Khanna from Amit Khanna Design Associates (AKDA).

Modular and open kitchens that sport engaging features like bookshelves and blackboards will continue to be popular, as will be the focus on storage and maximising of space. “Statement floors offer a more dramatic solution than a bold eye-level backsplash. You can choose from a blend of patterns that come in both, bright and neutral colour palettes,” adds Bhavsar.

So don't hold back and give your home a stylish makeover this year.



PHOTOS COURTESY: THINKSTOCK AND INDIA CIRCUS

landscapes, 3D themes, and more—there is an endless range of wallpapers available these days to give living spaces a chic makeover,” stresses Rohit Gupta, founder/managing director, Elementto Lifestyles.

Small steps

Choose a furniture piece as the room's main décor item to flaunt your favourite print or pattern. “In terms of design, colourful motifs and contemporary Indian designs are in vogue these days,” says Krsnaa Mehta, founder and design director, India Circus. Adding to this, Gujral suggests, “This can be carried forward and translated on to furniture to create statement pieces that don't allow the eye to wander far. Be it customising your cabinets with scenes from your favourite movie or quirky quotes in different colours, any surface can exhibit tastefully done prints,” avers Gujral. The trend is being adopted by people, who are choosing to work with cushion and pillow covers, wallpaper and upholstery.

Colour codes

To put it simply, the use of prints and patterns is all about playing with the right combinations of colours and designs. “Unique images and motifs, coupled with complementing colours, create a wonderful story of their own. Items like coffee tables, cupboards and lamp-

TRENDING

PRINT PLAY

Unique prints and motifs, coupled with complementing colours, can create a wonderful story. Follow these expert tips to introduce the right mix of prints and patterns to lend a multi-dimensional appeal to your space

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While people often customise their interiors with a collage of family photos or collectibles picked up during their travels, there is another way to lend a theme to your place—prints and patterns.

Coming of age

Prints and patterns are no longer restricted to the traditional assortment of floral motifs or abstract patterns alone. “With quirky and contrasting-yet-attractive designs, you can actually develop a theme for your space. The inclusion of assorted patterns and prints is a great way to express what you love,” says Akshay Chaturvedi, CEO, Housefull.com. For someone who thrives on personalised elements, digital prints are a great way to break the monotony.

Trend focus

From what to where, the trend can be displayed on a wide range of materials such as wood, canvas, clay, fabric and paper. “The trend has taken the design world by storm mainly because they offer countless prospects of incorporating imagery onto a range of materials. Also, within fashion, it gets confined to gar-



ments or accessories, while in décor, the possibilities are endless,” says Raseel Gujral, director, Casa Paradox. Even with wall treatments, the focus is on traditional design elements and/or monotone colours—whether bold or muted. With the revolution in printing technologies, we've seen a shift towards more realistic design-oriented wallpapers with an emphasis on contrasts through colours and styles. From pictographic Hollywood/Bollywood themes to maps,

shades stand out with digital patterns or quirky prints on them,” states Chaturvedi. Colours like neon tones and richer hues are sought after, lending themselves to a more eclectic, yet sophisticated setting. To top it all, this trend allows people to play with their décor every few years. Since it is not as expensive as investing in artifacts, it allows people to keep their interiors in line with the latest trends without burning a hole in their pocket!