

TOP TRENDS FOR FALL & WINTER OF 2012



Question

I'd like to update my home to keep it fresh and current. I don't have the budget for extensive remodeling, but I'd like to add a few pieces to update my current look.

What décor items could give my home some cutting edge flair?

Answer

I recently attended the Canadian Gift and Tableware Show. Held twice yearly in Toronto, the show is the largest buying show in Canada and showcases what's new in giftware, tableware, home décor, personal accessories, lighting and furnishings.

One of the things I noted was that there was something for everyone.

All of the decorating styles seemed to be covered: everything from glamour to rustic to coastal charm to contemporary styles was available.

That said, I did note some strong emerging or continuing themes in home décor items.

Here are some of the top trends you might want to consider incorporating into your home decorating:

SHINE

Sparkle is being applied to everything, from lamps dripping in crystals to appliqués of rhinestones on fabrics and ceramic pieces.

If this isn't your style, try incorporating metallic or glass finishes into your home by choosing chrome lighting, glass tabletops or legs, or metal stud detailing on chairs and/ or sofas.

These are great choices for home fashions that are not too girly or contemporary, yet add just the right amount of sheen and texture.

BOLD COLOUR

One look at today's runway fashions reminds us that bold colour is a must for this year. Any color used in clothing fashions quickly makes the jump over to home décor.

Look for bright turquoise, fresh greens, citrus oranges and sunny yellows to accessorize your home with bold touches of colour in artwork, vases, and textiles. Bright colours have the effect of making us feel happy about ourselves and our living spaces.

INDUSTRIAL CHIC

The rustic authenticity of natural and reclaimed wood furnishings remains a strong home décor trend.

Tables made from weathered wood and/or wood planks are being paired up with bases in dark and silvery metals for an industrial look.

The feel and look here are equally at home in a rustic or contemporary home due to the classic straight lines.

FLORALS AND PATTERNS

Florals have been around for a while, but the current trend is towards a more fun and funky look.

Look for oversized bold patterns in bright colours on toss cushions, upholstery, wallpaper and designer fabrics.

If you are a little timid about this trend, try using just one floral accent and pair it up with a coordinating solid, stripe, graphic or small print for a pulled together look.

Graphic patterns remain strong and are especially great in artwork or in textiles.

NATURE

In a world where we are constantly reminded and concerned with the fragility of our environment, natural organic elements remain a strong theme.

At the show, I noted there were many beautiful accessories being manufactured from renewable bamboo. Such items include flooring and towels, bedding and throws.

When used in textiles, bamboo fibers create a luxurious feeling that is unbelievably soft and looks good.

NAUTICAL

Seaside accessories and colours continue to be a very strong element in home décor. From natural corals and shells to the true nautical colours of navy, red and white, nautical elements are being used everywhere.

Navy has made a strong comeback the past two seasons. It's one of the few colours that looks striking with almost any other strong colour.

Opt to pair it with creams or whites and strong primary shades of yellow, reds, orange or greens for a fresh look.

WORDS

In years past, wall decals and phrases applied to walls and used in artwork were a huge trend.

The updated version is much more paired down and simplified. Using just one word or a simple phrase on home décor items such as pillows, throws and artwork is what's making a personal statement these days.

Trends are meant to be a guideline on what's current. The most important advice I can give is to love the things you buy for your home.

Take your time and express your personal style by choosing colors and accessories that make you feel good and harmonize with your interior.

If you need further inspiration on what is current try picking up a few design magazines or surf the internet.

There are literally dozens of wonderful design sites and design blogs. For magazines Style and Home and Canadian House and Home are two of my favorites.

WHIMSICAL BIRDS

Everyone seems to have a fascination with our fine feathered friends. Ceramic birds, silver birds, and wooden birds are still very much in vogue in home décor. Birds have recently made it beyond figurines to motifs on designer fabrics and textiles.

You don't need to overdo the theme; just a slight touch here or there will add a little bit of whimsy to your home.

DECOARTING STYLE QUIZ

1. Which of the following would you label you dream car?
 - a) A sleek sports car equipped with all the latest, flashy features-and it's got to be trendy.
 - b) A pickup truck that is as stylish as it is functional.
 - c) A mid-sized SUV that's clearly styled to suit both car lovers and sports enthusiasts.
 - d) A classic car that represents history and offers a sense of formality.
 - e) A vehicle that helps you enjoy a weekend drive with the wind in your hair.

2. Which of these meals are you most likely to prepare?
 - a) A tofu stir-fry with a Cajun kick-you like to entertain with exciting dishes.
 - b) Homemade pot roast and potatoes that give you a warm feeling.
 - c) A sampler platter-you enjoy taste testing a variety of foods.
 - d) Turkey with all the dressing-the perfect chance to use the functional dining room.
 - e) Finger sandwiches with no fuss, no muss.

3. On a typical work day, which of these outfits would you most likely be seen wearing?
 - a) Black dress pants or slacks with a bold stripped button shirt.
 - b) A pair of jeans to match a favorite comfy sweater.
 - c) A stylist outfit with a mix of patterns and colors to represent your individualistic style.
 - d) A formal dress or pant suit because you always dress for success.
 - e) A comfortable pair of khakis, a denim jacket and your favourite leather sandals.

4. If you could choose your favourite lighting fixture, what would it look like?
 - a) A clean and crisp wall sconce.
 - b) You prefer the light from your fireplace for that cozy ambiance.
 - c) A Tiffany-style art glass table lamp that showcases brilliant colours and a unique style.
 - d) A grandiose chandelier that welcomes guests into the foyer.
 - e) A natural style ceiling fixture that features material such as bamboo.

5. Your dream house is?
 - a) A stunning home with large windows and clean lines that overlooks water.
 - b) A remodeled farm house with plenty of space for friends and family.
 - c) A stylish condo in a hip metropolitan neighbourhood.
 - d) Only a spacious modern-day castle will do.
 - e) A rustic log cabin surrounded by nature.

DECORATING STYLE RESULTS

If you chose:

Mostly A's: You are a **contemporary** decorator. You favor sleek, streamlined designs and form that follows function. Your living room tends to have leather furniture and your home décor often features metal and glass with minimalist details.



Mostly B's: You are a **country** decorator. Floral prints and comfy sofas with ruffled skirts may adorn your home. You enjoy heart-warming coziness that you get from your fireplace. Unpretentious is your motto.



Mostly C's: You are an **eclectic** decorator. You're not afraid to mix up your home décor by crossing different periods and styles. Furniture with textured fabrics linked only by colour may be sprinkled throughout your home. You like home décor that represents your individualistic side.



Mostly D's: You are known as the **traditional** decorator. The moment guests step into your home they are imbued with a sense of history. Queen Anne-style furniture probably graces your dining room. Formal, symmetrical and graceful sums up your home décor.



Mostly E's: You are a **casual** decorator. You live only by three words: relaxed, informal and comfortable. Neutral, earthy tones placate every room. You enjoy home décor that pays tribute to nature and textured fabrics.



Now that you know your decorating psyche, shopping for home décor can be easier. Remember that home decorating is meant to be fun; so get out there and start decorating!

Sources:

The Guardian Newspaper
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Quiz courtesy of internet
http://www.homedecorators.com/Decorating_Ideas/Room_Planning/135/