

Lift your spirits and your home with some of the latest trends to be offered from the leading design houses. Wendy Darke, Interior Designer at Design Inspiration predicts...

A BRIGHT OUTLOOK

If you're anything like me, you'll be fed up with the economic gloom that's spread throughout the nation during the damp, dark, grey days of last Winter.

Well, with the evenings drawing out, Spring has sprung and it's time to keep your chin up by lifting your spirits and the look of your home with some of the latest trends to be offered from the leading design houses.

In these times of major change and uncertainty we may not be considering moving house, but we do need to ensure that our homes stay up to date. Maintained to a high standard, looking clean and fresh and with the fabulous bold and bright designs available in treasure, jewel colours, it will be hard to stay glum for long.

Lavish, flamboyant wall coverings in bright bold designs teamed with high gloss furniture and oversized lighting such as chandeliers will be one look that will prove popular through the coming year. Opulent colours, matt metallic gold, teal and deep, decadent reds will give us a cosy, rich feel to encapsulate us and make us feel safe.

Femininity with a masculine edge will also be a key design look to come forward this season. Pretty, yet powerful shades, will work well in living and bedroom areas. Textures such as lace, velvets and silks teamed with modern ceramics, metallics, whites and bold colours with a faded feel, sometimes almost opaque will be the order of the day.

Modern, smart technology and clean lines to furniture, will give us the hard edge to this look. Again, the use of clever lighting from various sources will play an important role in completing this scheme.

With emphasis on re-use and recycle, a homespun, rustic feel, with a back-to-nature edge will also emerge, using embroidered fabrics, understated neutrals and earthy tones. With elements of stone, these will have a natural balance when teamed with soft blues and greys, or silvers with red - all abstracted from nature. Good strong wood grains in furniture design and the use of wood Venetian blinds or wooden shutters to finish this look. Remember, nature inspired designs need not be boring. The introduction of dark mocha with mustard yellow and plenty of texture and the inclusion of natural shapes, such as leaves, is a winning design. Certainly not back to the days of everything in a shade of cream!

Continuing with the understated look, we will yearn to keep classic items, choosing to reupholster and blend antiques with modern contemporary items; these will include the popularity of modern classics such as Lloyd loom - with the manufacturer introducing new shaped pieces made in the traditional method, along with other design icons such as, Eames, Rohe and Rennie Mackintosh becoming increasingly popular. Good quality and simple design will lead the way in furniture and we will think of items more as a long term investment rather than a disposable fashion item.

Oriental will also be a prominent look with simple illustrations and flat tonal colours, mixed with hot spots of colour. Mixing textures such as taffeta, mohair, pearlised and flock are key ingredients in an oriental theme. Whatever your 'look' or your next home furnishing project, it is more important now than ever to get it right - this is where the services of an interior designer can be essential. Designers can help guide you through the many products available without making an expensive mistake.



Over-sized lighting and modern classics are gaining popularity, such as the wooden framed barcelona chair used in this image. Nature inspired designs need not be boring with Mocha & Mustard.

"At Design Inspiration we are convinced that a surefire way to lift your spirits is to surround your self in colour and design - a winning combination to a bright future!"

Design Inspiration can help tailor your scheme to give your home that individual style that you desire, creating a sympathetic décor to suit your taste, whilst reflecting the current trends and times in which we live. We can bring a modern feel utilising fashionable, striking colour and design into a period property, whilst retaining the original character of any features.

Similarly, a modern apartment can benefit from some more classic pieces. For example, a traditional chair covered in a modern fabric can be made to look simply stunning!



Femininity with a masculine edge' see how this is defined by the hard clean lines of the white furniture against the floral fabrics and paper, for a clean fresh look.

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