



by Catherine Fantauzzi
First Impressions Decor

New trends in design and decorating

In the aftermath of current world events, design trends introduced at the latest industry shows reflect a desire for comfort, calming influences, a simpler way of life, and focusing on making our homes safe and secure.

We are seeing cleaner, modern architectural lines and simplicity in design in all interior spaces and decorating products. Modern spaces are more about the form of the furniture and the architectural elements of the space. Architectural features add dimension to a space and can transform a box-like space into a visual delight, for instance, beamed, coffered and vaulted ceilings. Selecting different ceiling designs in today's dramatic open concept living spaces helps to define the different areas.

Blending of design styles is used extensively in every space. Mixing high tech with vintage, sleek European modern with antique pieces speak volumes.

More than 80% of Canadians are looking for bigger, open cooking spaces and functional layouts in kitchens. State-of-the-art kitchens have features that



look fabulous. Finishes are smooth, shiny and refined for practical reasons. Brushed metals, stainless steel, non-porous materials are used extensively. Most contemporary kitchens open to adjoining spaces like family rooms.

Bathrooms have become spa-like. Tub and shower areas are larger than ever with all the bells and whistles to pamper tired bones. Just like kitchens, function must also measure up. Efficiency and convenience should be high on the list as you choose cabinetry, layout, fixtures, lighting and accessories.

Upholstered pieces are sleek, in style and upholstered in the very best monotone colour fabrics. These styles are trendsetting and are works of art. Show-wood seating do not have ornamentation carved in the wood, instead are defined by elegant flowing lines.

Fabrics are luxurious natural fiber blends, silks, cottons, and linens that are used for uphol-

stery and drapery.

Natural materials are used wherever possible within interior spaces. Natural stone tiles, wood floors, sisal carpeting, exotic live plants and classic wood furniture are the focus along with good design and craftsmanship.

Light fixtures are extremely sleek reminiscent of the Art Deco era, that one tends to admire the simple lines, dark woods, polished metals, clear Lucite bases, coloured glass and innovative surfaces used in lighting design.

Colours are used to produce a soothing effect by using strong colours sparingly, placed strategically on a large area of conservative colour. These paler colours include: ivory, cream, soft coral, ice blue, pale yellow. These livable colours help to harmonize all the design elements of a space. For an up to date palette, the most specified bolder colours still include: grey blue, fresh green, persimmon,

fiery red and golden camel.

Great design involves how you fill space and how you don't. A cluttered room can be distracting to the intent of your style. People have a desire to de-stress their lives in the home environment that can be achieved by editing out items that create clutter. Interior product designers have responded to this need by providing the public with spaces and products that are less complicated, practical and still beautiful.

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