

READY, SET DECORATE!

When it comes to decorating your home, it's hard to resist the buzziest trends. But which of today's trends have actual staying power? We reached out to interior designers for answers. Then, we asked about color in the home: Is gray heading for the exit? Also in this chapter, thoughts on the rise of artificial intelligence in the design industry, and art experts weigh in on incorporating artwork into your life. Read on for ideas and inspiration.



PHOTOGRAPH BY JANE BEILES FROM CTC&G JULY/AUGUST 2023 "LOVE AT FIRST SHIMMER"

WHAT'S A CURRENT HOME-DESIGN TREND WITH STAYING POWER?

"With any farmhouse style or country home—wovens, wovens, wovens. It's all about layering texture to bring richness, warmth and pattern. Think chunky baskets and placemats to go anywhere—they're perfect for corralling clutter. You can also use baskets to hold firewood. I love to have a basket of blankets, some spilling out, so guests feel at home. We're seeing fantastic furniture options—counter stools, side tables, light fixtures—of woven textures. Palecek and Ballard Designs are my go-to brands for all things woven." —**Joshua Smith, Joshua Smith Inc., joshuasmithinc.com**



"Wallpaper and patterns. Prints are back with bold colors that are being utilized on walls and ceilings, which adds an element of fun to any room design. Another trend is caning, which is being used a lot in furniture and as accents creating patterns with rattan that is timeless and relevant." —**Whitney McNell, McNell Interiors, mcnellinteriors.com**

"I think designers and clients have really gotten on board with using more pattern in interiors, and I think pattern and color always make a comeback." —**Erick Espinoza, Anthony Baratta, LLC, anthonybaratta.com**



"Everyone wants custom built-ins now. Part of it came out of necessity when supply issues delayed furniture. But built-ins are also just a very classic and elegant way to add depth and character to a room. I love a lacquer finish on a custom bar or bookshelf to really bring that 'wow-factor.'" —**Jeanne Collins, JerMar Designs, jermardesigns.com**

THOUGHTS ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN THE DESIGN INDUSTRY?

"IT'S SAD TO THINK THAT JOBS COULD BE ELIMINATED. SO MUCH OF THE BEAUTIFUL THINGS WE PUT IN OUR HOMES ARE STORED, PACKED AND SHIPPED BY PEOPLE. BUT FACTORIES IN THE U.S. CAN'T FIND ENOUGH HELP, ESPECIALLY WITH UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE. THE SERVICE FROM ROBOTS WOULD BE NICE TO KEEP THOSE LEAD TIMES DOWN. IT'S A MIXED BAG." —**Joshua Smith**

"I've seen how rendered interiors can look so realistic that even a trained eye might be deceived." —**Erick Espinoza**

"I encourage embracing AI to make the design process more streamlined for the client, but it's just as important to be conscious of where AI is limited. Details and one-of-a-kind pieces are what make rooms feel luxurious. AI doesn't have that personalized touch. Luxury clients want to see and feel materials—that's another area where a (human) interior designer is needed." —**Jeanne Collins**

"I think we'll see it being utilized a lot more in the near future. It takes weeks sometimes to create a vision for a client. To think that, in using AI, we could go from a discovery phase right to images, layouts and even virtual-reality walk-throughs is exciting." —**Whitney McNell**

COLOR TRENDS: AWAY FROM GRAY?

"I've seen a lot of blue and white, and some pinks and greens. I think everyone is feeling a little more comfortable with experimenting, and I am loving it." —**Erick Espinoza**



"People are ready to embrace color now! We want our homes to help us to feel good, and color has the power to change the energy in a space. My clients are loving greens lately. It's a versatile color. Green works well with a neutral color palette for a nature-inspired vibe, and can also be exceptionally dramatic and luxe when paired with silver and gold metals." —**Jeanne Collins**

"Neutrals are becoming warmer overall. Our clients are more willing to embrace color. We are seeing and designing with a lot of blues and greens with pops of brighter colors, while bringing in warmth with saturated colors. Moving away from the 'storm cloud' colors and into the 'sunset' for me!" —**Whitney McNell**

"Oh yes! That shift has been happening a bit as we moved to more greiges. Revere Pewter by Benjamin Moore is a go-to for me. These greiges and taupes bring more warmth, richness and complexity to color schemes but remain fresh. I called it a year ago, but *beige is back!* There's a warmth to it that can help ground our nervous system. I often work with neutral palettes when creating sanctuary vibes for a space. We're going to be seeing more brown colors, too. I've started using it again, and I love it!" —**Joshua Smith**

WHAT TYPE OF ART ARE PEOPLE ASKING FOR?



“RECENTLY, WE’RE SEEING A LOT OF INTEREST IN ABSTRACT PAINTINGS AND IMPASTO TECHNIQUES. BUT OVERALL, WE TEND TO FIND CLIENTS LIKE A CALM AESTHETIC AND WANT TO LIVE WITH ARTWORK THAT MAKES THEM FEEL HAPPY OR AT EASE.” —Sandy Pelletier, Sorelle Gallery, Westport, sorellegallery.com

“Many of my clients are looking for artwork that is unexpected, does not necessarily fit within one specific genre, and is well suited to the space.”

—Amie Appleton Greenspan, Appleton Art Design, Westport, appletonartdesign.com

“Our collectors are gravitating to our 20th-century and secondary market artists, especially our Dali sculptures and Picasso etchings, as well as contemporary land and seascapes, textural abstracts, and our pop and street artists like Mr. Brainwash are very popular!”

—Eve Gianni, Clarendon Fine Art, Westport, clarendonfineart.com

“Broadly speaking, most people want to live with work that is not overly political, or dark in emotional tone. People use adjectives such as serene, meditative, sensitive, uplifting, complex and well-crafted in attempting to define what they envision in their home. Of course, because art is emotional, collectors often swerve from what they thought they were searching for to something on the other end of the spectrum. Sometimes you just know ‘it’ when you see ‘it!’”

—Kenise Barnes, Kenise Barnes Fine Art, Kent, kenisebarns.com

HOW DO YOU HELP CLIENTS FIND THE RIGHT PIECE?



“We guide our clients to purchase pieces that they’ll want to live with long term—pieces that bring them joy. We not only sell contemporary artwork, but we also have the ability to update the look and feel of a client’s earlier acquisitions via framing to complement any update to their interior design.”

—Betsy Jesup, Handwright Gallery, New Canaan, handwrightgallery.com

“IF IT IS FOR A SPECIFIC SPACE AND THEY HAVE DESIGN NEEDS (SIZE, COLOR, ETC.), WE SHOW THEM OPTIONS THAT MAY WORK. IF THEY ARE PURCHASING SIMPLY FOR THE LOVE OF THE WORK, WE LET THEM EXPLORE OUR INVENTORY AND SEE IF ANYTHING RESONATES. IN EITHER CASE, THE CLIENT SHOULD BUY WHAT SPEAKS TO THEM.” —Amy Simon, Amy Simon Fine Art, Westport, amysimonfineart.com

“We work with our collectors to discover their passion. Through discussion, photo reviews of their home and in-home visits to see the art in situ, we strive to offer art to suit our clients needs while guiding them to build a diverse collection.” —Eve Gianni

“We begin with a dialogue about the basic elements—color, abstract vs representational, scale, price. Because art is so idiosyncratic, it is often unrealistic for two or more people to land with equal enthusiasm on the same work of art. That is okay—it is a lot to expect people to feel equally passionately about one work. If one person loves it, and one person really likes it, that is a homerun. Growing a collection is an organic, often collaborative process.” —Kenise Barnes

“We always start by identifying their needs and the artists or styles they gravitate toward. From there, we’ll design digital renders of artwork in their space, allow them to test it in their homes or provide insight as needed—so they can feel confident that they’re investing in artwork they love, and with which they’ll want to live for years to come.” —Sandy Pelletier

“I offer pieces that straddle multiple artistic genres, and I consult with clients at their homes to ensure that the piece works perfectly in its environment.”

—Amie Appleton Greenspan

CONTEMPORARY VS. MODERN VS. ABSTRACT



“Contemporary art is work that is being made now. The term is often confused with ‘modern art,’ which was made in roughly 1860–1960 or ‘abstract art,’ which is simply defined and not representational (it is not ‘of’ a specific thing or place).” —Kenise Barnes