

Timely trends hard to pick



HAPPY New Year to you!

This is the time when I am supposed to make predictions on trends in the interior design world and I always rise to the challenge. Some of the time I get it right. For instance, a few years ago I was lamenting that there was no navy blue in any fabric house and I was positive navy was THE colour for the following year.

It took a couple of years before I was right, but they finally caught on and now it is a great colour used in many applications, including wallpaper and bedding. The thing I love about navy (I should stop carrying on about it) is that it goes with so many other colours, including all the other blues, plus its opposites, like oranges and pinks.

So, what happened last year and what is going to happen this year? Last year we saw a few trends coming through, although most trends tend to be circular, or cyclical – there are no real new ideas, just interpretations that get manipulated.

One of the big Welcome Back motifs in fashion fabrics and homewares is the fabulous floral. A few years ago, people would cringe if they saw floral anything. Fashion and homewares are so synergistic now, you can almost predict the trends for homewares by checking out what Dolce and Gabbana are up



Customer designed by Di Henshall, pieces of neutral furniture such as this coffee table will see your interior through most trends.

to. Fabric houses for furnishing fabrics now have “seasons”, which makes going back and getting another couple of metres a few years later almost impossible.

All trends come and go but sticking to the quality staples, like fabulous furniture in simple, neutral or block colours will always stand the test of time and should go with the flow, accepting these seasonal changes that we have almost come to expect.

So, we are going to see a lot more green being used – all sorts of greens, from soft sage green to rich emerald. Green, as a colour, has been intermittently popular, but I think green is going to come into its own this year. It is wonderfully versatile and both soothing and energising, depending on the tone and application.

Yellow is another colour that is sometimes hard to use, but when used well, looks absolutely

fabulous. Yellow on yellow is a tricky thing to pull off, but a yellow sofa on a yellow rug with pale yellow walls is a total indulgence in colour bravery.

Coloured sheer curtaining – another one that floats in and out of favour, will be used more daringly. The harsh glare of sunlight of the Australian climate can be overwhelming on white sheer curtaining, so using a coloured sheer absorbs some of that light and adds a different glow to the whole room. At night, coloured sheers look far more interesting.

After years of stainless steel and chrome dominating the metal market, the trend is now swinging towards the warmer softer shades of brass, burnished gold and copper. Adding a copper pendant light into a stainless steel kitchen is sensational.

Brass studs around the base of a dining chair can add a real wow. Burnished gold lanterns and perforated lamp shades give



Greens and florals are predicted to make a splash this coming season.

an air of the exotic and work equally well with contemporary or classic interiors.

At last, a trend we can happily relate to - people are now choosing custom made, high quality furniture over the low quality, mass produced, gimmicky imports sold through mass-market retailers. Having the freedom to choose materials, colours and design for a custom piece will ensure it is the perfect fit for your lifestyle -- for life!

I delight in seeing clients from many years ago still enjoying their custom designed and made furniture, that hopefully they will pass on to their kids – something that was always done, but slipped in popularity for quite a few years.

Good interior design is the spirit of life and it envelops us in our everyday lives – embrace it, have fun with design and as always, if in doubt – ask an expert!