



EXPRESS YOUR TRUE STYLE

Interior designer **Jojo Bradley** looks at the highlights for the year ahead and how we can invest in our homes to show sophistication and personality

Our homes have had to evolve again this year, not just as our sanctuaries but also as our workplace. Last year was a little more 2020 than we wanted, but it's taught us how to make it a special place for ourselves as well as our guests, and to really love the space we live in. So, as we settle into a new year, it is worth investing in your home with style, sophistication, and personality.

Whilst every home is unique, tailored to your needs and style, there are some trends which we can all embrace in our own inimitable way.

NEUTRALS & NATURALS

Think warm greys, beiges, and natural earth tones as we celebrate our homes being our place of calm in an otherwise chaotic world. Whilst I'm sure we are all yearning for some travel this year, our own back gardens can be a haven of inspiration. Bring the botanical indoors with hues of soft green, a colour of



harmony and calm or for warmth, there's earthy browns. Many are claiming blue is the new black – again linked to the sky and sea but also tranquillity and warmth, with darker shades providing the perfect back drop to your room.

The variety of paint options in these schemes is phenomenal, the only problem being that there may be too many to choose from. However, there is a resurgence in print, in flora and fauna patterns so don't be afraid to embrace some fabulous florals on your walls or to dress your windows, creating a soothing country house feel. Floral, leafy, and even insect prints have moved on from what your grandmother may have adorned her home with, although, a lot remains timeless.

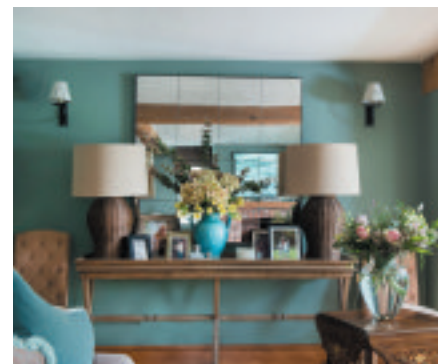
There are quirky takes on the traditional available if you are wanting to add that elegant but homely feel, so don't dismiss it without doing a little research. In creating your soothing space, this trend extends to accessories and prints, too, with organic, natural objects and materials taking centre

stage. It also extends to welcoming the outdoors in, for instance, if you wanted to go that little further than an interior refresh and introduce some stunning floor-to-ceiling windows or an orangery, bringing organic elegance into your home.

SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS

Last year, I mentioned that sustainable design was going to make its mark, becoming not just practical but super-stylish as well. This year, the message will only get stronger. As we all look to do our bit to protect our planet, it is easier than ever to spot them and add them to your home.

The movement is about buying smart, as well as about recycling, upcycling, reclaiming, and refurbishing. It is about investing in future heirlooms, repurposing vintage items, and sourcing antiques for a characterful and well-balanced interior scheme. It is an extension of the natural trend above really, not only looking at how things are made but also what they are made of. Sustainable natural



materials will be ever-present, think natural wood, polished stone and marble, glassware, porcelain, and wool. Not forgetting plants and organic materials, like wicker and rattan that will always be in style and add warmth and texture to your space. Mirroring the movement in fashion, home interiors in the future are aiming for timelessness and longevity. That does not mean old-fashioned, however, it means being true to the →

character of your home and balancing the practicalities of your living space with style, using natural sustainable materials where possible to create your perfect look.

In altering how we buy furniture and doing it more consciously we are also adding to the stories of our home. When someone admires the re-upholstered occasional chair, you can begin a conversation about where it came from and what it means to you. It may well be a greener way, but it is also more personal.

ACCENT LAYERING

In harmony with your chosen tones, adding accents and textiles creates a sense of elegance. Layering different textures, using different materials, adding pops of rich colour or showcasing a vintage print are all simple ways that this can be achieved.

Maybe it's because we have been spending more time at home but adding texture, not only adds luxury but more importantly, adds details we can enjoy.

Think beyond the fine linens and super-luscious velvets too, think brush fringing and bouclé on cushions or a contrast leading edge trim on curtains, to take your design to the next level.

The key to creating a design that flows is layering. Visualise your textures and colours; complementary and contrasting. You may choose to start with your wall colour and let everything else flow from there, but you can start with any piece, whether that be a beloved pair of curtains or an antique vase that inspires the rest of your scheme.

Instead of wallpaper, perhaps create a gallery wall to make an impact. Something that is often overlooked but should be



considered first, is lighting. There's a whole range of lighting sources to explore, from chandeliers and floor lamps to spotlights and picture lights, options are endless from the quirky to the traditional.

In creating a welcoming space, you should consider all of the ways that you use the room; what mood you wish to create, whether that be a small table lamp for cosy fireside reading, warm picture lights for intimate drinks with friends or a stunning pendant for soirées at the dining table.

Your final layer is your accessories. This is possibly the most important, it represents you – the sculpture from the market in Paris, or the vase that was your great-grandmother's. They are the perfect finishing touches in creating your ultimate space.

And so, as the new year begins, be good to yourself and what feels good. Keep an eye on the trends for inspiration, but don't forget to express yourself.

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