

[HOME] WHAT'S TRENDING

ic shades: browns and neutrals but with a splash of color. Pantone has chosen Tangerine Tango as its color of the year for 2012. We're all for throwing a couple of hot tangerine silk pillows on that Henredon linen sofa, or designing a whole room around tangerine as we did for a client on New York's Upper East Side.

Multifunctional & Green Are In



PHILLIP LEVY FINE FURNITURE & INTERIOR DESIGN
PHILLIP LEVY, IIDA

Interior design can be an outward form of self-expression. Today's interiors can range from artful funkiness to relaxed elegance and everything in between.

I queried my staff, and they indicated that today, things are not overly regimented or designed. The homeowners' personality can shine through, especially with some updates. As a team, we discussed some of the current and forecasted trends for 2012-2013.

Color trends indicate that gray is coming on strong as a dominate neutral. It is replacing black, brown, sage, and taupe. Camel, bittersweet-rust, and aubergine remain strong accents. Prints are incorporating grays with other neutrals for an updated look, and are often overscaled for dramatic effect.

Furnishings are becoming more multifunctional. Manufacturers are offering more storage options in areas under beds and inside ottomans. The scale of upholstery is also getting smaller as people downsize into smaller homes, apartments, and condos.

More manufacturers are choosing materials that are green, both visible and under the surface. These product choices consider the environmental effects of using renewable and sustainable materials. Even cushions in upholstery are free of toxic chemicals and petroleum byproducts. There is also a trend to use repurposed and reclaimed wood in case pieces. Many of these pieces have a distressed look that nicely coincides with today's lifestyle.

Universal Design



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LARRY TAFF, PRESIDENT

There is one remodeling trend that has been getting a lot of attention lately. And it isn't paint colors, flooring, or even energy efficiency. With many of our nation's baby boomers heading toward the "golden age," one of the biggest remodeling trends today is Universal Design. Surprised? Don't be—and here's why. We all know that remodeling is expensive. In many cases, return on investment (ROI) has decreased along with the housing market. That is not the case with Universal Design.

According to the professional remodeling and builder publication's cost vs. value rankings, homes that have Universal Design enhancements such as zero-step entries, wider doors and halls, well-lit bathrooms and work spaces, and functional kitchens show they have the ability serve multi-generational homeowners, and thus have a strong ROI versus homes without.

These improvements aren't just about a good ROI; they can also make your life in your home a little easier. Universal Design improvements can easily be incorporated when remodeling is already planned. It just takes a new way of looking at your home.



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