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Pillows are so versatile they have become a designer's ultimate accessory. Be sure not to "karate chop" the middle of the pillows. The center crease is no longer stylish.
Courtesy Elaine Williamson Designs

Top 10 home decor trends

September 2, 2010

Here are the top 10 home decor trends from Texas designer Elaine Williamson:

1. Vintage accents. What's old is new again. French-burlap is no longer just for sack-racing. This Earth-friendly fiber is being utilized for chic pillows imprinted with a vintage stamped design or even a family initial. Accent chairs can also be seen covered in grey linen imprinted with vintage "document" script writing.

Vintage couture lamps (and their replicas) are utter perfection this year, especially those with milk glass and natural material bases, drum shades, and antique brass finials. Aged, color-washed wood accessories such as candlesticks, urns and bowls are popular as oversized accessories to accent and update a time-worn look.

PHOTO GALLERY



Top 10 design trends

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2. Wallpaper! With a decreasing demand for faux finishes and walls painted in solid primary colors, wallpaper is making a comeback in a big and decidedly fashionable way. From bright and bold to subdued and elegant, today's wallpapers are easy to apply and even easier to remove, making updating and improving the look of a room easier than ever before. There are a seemingly endless number of choices from solids to patterns, and everything in between.

3. Timeless art. When considering items to occupy wall space, ditch the quick fix, "matchy-matchy" picture. Mix mediums and styles. To add depth and character to your pieces, forego the glass cover that can be distracting and casts a glare that actually detracts from your interior design.

4. Elemental color. While neutrals have made a strong showing in home staging design this year for primary design elements like walls and baseline furnishings, boldly colored accent pieces give a space visual interest and appeal. Brightly colored and/or patterned pillows, rugs and other accessories will bring an otherwise bland space to life. Of course, these accessories can be readily transitioned to exude the spirit of a given season and duly evoke onlooker emotion.

5. Space simplification. With a strong desire to ease and reprioritize homes and lifestyles, editing down furnishings and accessories is the best way exemplify a sense of control over one's surroundings. It is very important to streamline not only the lines of staged furniture, but the bulkiness as well.

Often, stagers place too many items in a room by way of accessories, pillows, throw rugs, and family photos. Pick and choose very carefully the most important items and then pare down from there. There is brilliance in restraint.

6. Rug rage. There has never been a more exciting time than now in the area rug industry. Whatever style, shape, and design you can imagine is within your reach.

Even if a space has wall-to-wall carpeting, place an area rug to establish a layered look and add depth and

personality to a room and also tie in other disparate color components. A rug's color palette and pattern can also easily establish a desired style and tone of the season.

7. Bed basics. Bedding has also changed this year. The pomp and circumstances of overstuffed pillows that seem to multiply in the night are out. Way out. Exquisite, neutral colored linens are in, especially when paired with a luxurious top blanket and a clean lined duvet. For those who desire more color that's representative of a season, place two medium sized pillows placed in front of each sham.

8. Pillow talk. Today's pillow designs offer an array of textures, colors, shapes, sizes and accents, and can completely transform a room's aesthetic. Accordingly, pillows have become the stager's ultimate interior design accessory, especially since they are so versatile. Be sure to resist the urge to "karate chop" pillows to give them a center crease as this look is not style savvy.

9. Window treatments. While many love luscious fabrics, an overuse of material on windows can quickly overpower an otherwise streamlined room. Linen panels are now very trendy since they beautifully outline and soften windows. This classic and timeless fabric is now available in a staggering array of colors to coordinate with any interior palette.

10. Brass. Yes, brass is back but a bit older and wiser. Antiqued brass and even antiqued gold have both made a large comeback on everything from drapery rods, to cocktail tables, to door and cabinet knobs to décor figurines. The light reflecting surface of brass adds warmth, glow and movement to a space and, thus, is perfect in a room where candles or a fireplace will be lit.

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