

Color Trends in Home Furnishings

FASHIONS in home furnishings change as do fashions in clothes, in architecture, and in most other aspects of everyday living. An understanding of contemporary trends is important to the family which is furnishing a new home, but equally so to those who are choosing only one or more new furnishings to use with the old they already have.

A study of today's trends reveals many new ideas, from which each homemaker must pick those that fit her particular situation.

Modern trends are largely due to the increasingly smaller size of new homes and apartments. Home furnishing techniques feature ways to make homes look spacious and uncluttered.

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Homes are colorful today

Emphasis today is on decorating with color and texture, rather than with pattern. This helps to make homes look spacious.

Many colors are strong and clear, but muted; others are subtle blends of grays, beiges, and browns.

Emphasis is placed on the use of few colors, usually not more than three in any one scheme, and on variations of colors. The fewer the colors, the more variations of each. One color dominates; a second is used in lesser amount and with fewer variations; and a third color, if used, is a small accent of bright color.

Colors are varied by gradual blending from light to dark, from bright to dull, and from one to another. If contrasting colors are used, one is for accent only.

Wherever attention should be drawn, obvious color variations are effective; wherever interest should not be focused, little or no variation is better.

Both warm and cool colors are used, though in any well-planned scheme there will be more of one than the other. Always the three basic colors—red, yellow, and blue—will be present in some form.

New fashion colors include pinks, greens, blue-greens, yellows, blues, and the orange family.

Some of the current popular color combinations are green and pink; green with citron, gold, and cantaloupe; green and bamboo; pinks with orange; mustard, persimmon, and white; blue with green; green and lilac; grays and white with cantaloupe as an accent; yellow with accent of midly blue; and pink and yellow.

Textures are important

Interest in modern schemes is in the use of a variety of textures and solid colors, rather than as much pattern as in former years. The way fabrics are woven, the grain of woods, the texture of brick and the many wall finishes now on the market, combined with solid colors, make a new kind of pattern for the home.

The trend is away from the very rough textures that have been popular for some time toward

those more elegant and refined. This may be seen in the gleam of brass, smoother fabrics, and metallic influences.

In a well-planned room, colors, patterns, and textures are distributed in three directions—around, up and down, and across the room.

Backgrounds are chosen to make a room look spacious

Often the floors, walls, woodwork, and ceiling are of about the same color. Or, ceilings may be lighter to raise the apparent height of the rooms, or darker to make them seem lower.

One or two walls often are treated differently to change the apparent size or shape of the room, or to feature one part of the room or furnishings.

Ways to adapt modern trends

First, take stock of your room and its furnishings. List the things that bother you most, such as the size or shape of the room, the large number of openings, the woodwork, the furnishings, or the lack of color in the room.

Then list the changes you think you can make, in the order of their importance.

Study ways you might make these changes. Review contemporary trends discussed at club meetings, and list those that apply to your situation. Check current magazines for ideas. Clip pictures, or ideas, and organize them so they may be as helpful as possible for your use. Look at magazine pictures with the viewpoint, "What is usable in this picture for my situation?" You will not be likely to find the exact solution to your problem, but you can adapt ideas from many different situations. Pictures help you to visualize various possibilities. Now choose from your "List of things you can do." If you are considering major changes, you may wish to make a long-time plan. From this plan, select the changes you can make this year.

Clip magazine samples of colors like those you will be keeping in your room, keeping them in the proportion in which they are used. If you have actual swatches of paint, wallpaper, or fabrics which you have used in your room, plan to use

these rather than the magazine samples of colors suggested above. Now analyze what you have, and mount the pieces on paper. This will show you the color scheme you already have.

Use color samples to try out various ways to develop your scheme. Decide on the plan you and your family like best.

Take these color samples to the store when you go shopping. It will help both you and the salesman.

You will want to take special care to select the new to blend with the old, so that the new is neither conspicuous nor so different in color and texture as to make the old look shabby.