

# Homes

## 2024 DESIGN TRENDS YOU'LL SEE EVERYWHERE

Desire for personalized spaces continues to emerge

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When asked to share some of the design trends that will define 2024, property stylist and interior decorator Red Barrinuevo can hardly contain his excitement.

Words like 'bold,' 'dramatic' and 'dynamic' roll off his tongue as the self-professed lover of colour describes the deep jewel tones that are making their mark in everything from paint and fabric to wallpaper and accessories.

He points to Blue Nova, Benjamin Moore's Colour of the Year, as an example. "It's a deep blue with a purple undertone. We're also seeing a resurgence of dark green," says the principal designer at Redesign-4More in Toronto.

Classic patterns like French countryside wallpaper in black and white or black and pink are also on trend, along with chinoiserie (the European interpretation of Chinese and other East Asian artistic traditions) in wallpaper, fabrics and accessories.

"With so much to choose from, we're able to personalize our homes. It's not like three to four years ago when everything was grey. This is the opposite. It's more dramatic, more dynamic," Barrinuevo says.

"Although we have a lot of bold colours and patterns, we still have fantastic neutrals. It's all about balance. Not everybody can be the lead actor when it comes to décor. You need to pick one lead actor and everyone else plays a supporting role."



Diana Bastone, principal designer and founder of Diana Bastone Designs. **STEPHANI BUCHMAN**

The shift towards more eclectic designs took root during the pandemic and continues. "We still have vintage pieces that people purchased during COVID when supplies were limited. Mixing patterns and pieces looks more eclectic and personal," Barrinuevo says.

Shades of green, meanwhile, aren't going anywhere, reports Diana Bastone, principal designer and founder of Diana Bastone Designs, also in Toronto. "Cool greys are being replaced with warm greys but we're also continuing to see tans, beiges and warm neutrals. Textured walls with panelling are also on trend for 2024."

She lists some other trends set to define the year:

**FURNITURE WITH CURVES:** "Rounded furniture is still going to be popular in 2024," Bastone says. "I love the soft edges of curved furniture but if you want to use it in small doses opt for one curved piece like a side chair."



Rounded furniture, like the pieces in this room by Diana Bastone, remain on trend. **STEPHANI BUCHMAN**

**WOOD STAIN CABINETS:** "The combination of wood and painted cabinets works well together, especially when you have wood floors in your kitchen," she says. "It just balances everything out."

**ZELLIGE TILES:** These hand-crafted clay tiles have made their mark as a popular alternative to subway tiles. Because they're handmade, no two are exactly alike and their imperfection adds character to a space.

**MULTIFUNCTIONAL ROOMS:** In one of her projects, Bastone designed a spare room as a secondary desk area as well as a quiet reading spot. A futon sofa transforms into a bed for overnight guests. "This is a trend we are seeing more and more, and it will continue into 2024," she says.

**LED LIGHTING:** Thanks to its versatility, the popularity of LED lighting continues to grow. In one project, Bastone used LED as part of the focal point for a wall unit and the ironwork she wanted to highlight. "The back light panels create a beautiful glow of light with the use of the LED lighting and when the overall lights are dimmed a soft glow of light is visible," she says.

Jane Lockhart of Jane Lockhart Design in Mississauga shares her predictions:

**COOLER METALS:** As warm colours like terra cotta, blush and grey-green olive seep into grey, black and white palettes, slightly cooler metals like satin nickel and brushed steel are returning.

**GREENERY, NATURAL ELEMENTS:** This could be live plants or images of greenery on textiles. On the renovation side, larger windows and glass will be added wherever possible to embrace nature and more natural light, Lockhart reports.

**PERSONALIZED SPACES:** "The desire for personalized spaces that embrace our own personal tastes continues to emerge as we seek to showcase our identity through the items we love. 'Character design' is the new style, where a space doesn't follow a trend to the letter but instead shows its own personality," she says.

**SOFT MODERN:** This style focuses on clean style, soft shapes and natural textures. It's a trend unto itself but is also influencing other home décor elements. "It is uncluttered and natural, and a style that helps to create space for contemplation," says Lockhart.

**MORE PATTERNS IN TILES AND TEXTILES:** Homeowners are adding unique wall and floor elements to their home and with the advancement of easier to remove flooring and wall décor, non-permanent choices will "proliferate," she predicts.



Character design shows its own personality and is an incoming trend, says designer Jane Lockhart. **GILLIAN JACKSON**

## FOR THE LOVE OF COLOUR

Designer Red Barrinuevo follows the 60-30-10 design principle:

The dominant colour makes up 60 per cent of a space and typically covers walls and larger pieces.

The secondary colour should comprise 30 per cent of the room and often includes accent furniture and textiles like curtains and rugs. It could be a neutral colour that complements a wallpaper that's the dominant design element.

Pops of colour comprise the remaining 10 per cent and can be brought in through accessories or even a painted ceiling.



Textured walls with panelling are on trend, says designer Diana Bastone. **STEPHANI BUCHMAN**