

Your House...



By Holly Hukill, Certified Interior Decorator C.I.D.

Your Home



Decorating Trends for 2012

A full month into 2012 – you may have already broken a New Year’s resolution, but don’t despair, just make a new one! Make a resolution to update your home and inspire your creativity by utilizing some of the Decorating Trends of 2012.

Formal living rooms and dining rooms on their way out?

More and more builders and even those remodeling their homes will not put in a formal living room. Instead, the open concept room with the integrated dining room and kitchen will continue to be very popular. The ongoing trend will be to decorate these rooms as one space rather than 3 distinct spaces. Keep colors consistent within the space - as well as furnishings. Kitchens will seem more of an extension of the living room, with cabinets that feel like furniture and upholstered seating that matches or complements the living room furniture. Kitchens cost money for a good reason, you use them every day. Don’t skimp on flooring, cabinets and finishes in this room. Keep decorating accents similar from room to room and you will give these rooms a pulled together look.

Neon colors – Bold neon colors are predicted to be hot this year and you will see neon greens, yellows and oranges as you look through your favorite clothing or home décor magazine. So, how do you use these neon colors in your own decorating? The least expensive change to your home will be through painting and will give you tons of impact. Try painting one wall in your living room bright neon green. Add in a few neon green throw pillows and an area rug with touches of neon green and you have a completely different look for hardly any money! These bright neon colors work best with a neutral background which allows them to be the center of attention, so keep the rest of the room white or cream or tan and you will get the full benefit of these bright colors.

Nature – Rooms inspired by nature and what we see around us will be especially on trend. Start out the room with a nature inspired wood floor, such as bamboo or cork, which creates a classic and natural feel to the room. Light blue walls and ceilings remind us of the outdoors. Since almost any color is a complement of blue – pick your favorite color for your curtains, pillows and rugs and add in simple furniture made of high quality wood to make a beautiful room. Since blue is such a calming color, it is especially great in bedrooms and dining rooms and by using nature-inspired fabrics such as tweeds, flannels and natural cottons, you will add to the natural feel of the room.

Outdoor spaces expand your home – There will still be a huge trend to move the living area outside because of the much added living space. Treat your patio like an extension of your home by adding in comfortable cushions on the outdoor chairs. Bring in old wooden tables for makeshift kitchen cabinets and add in a great outdoor grill and a free standing fireplace for an instant outdoor family room.

Organization and utilization - Since home sizes are decreasing, there will be an increased need for furnishings to do double duty. Look for coffee tables and end tables with enclosed storage or room for baskets. Many bed manufacturers are getting rid of the need for a box spring by putting built in drawers in the bed frame itself and adding in slats to hold your top mattress, giving you much needed storage under the bed.. Closet design will continue to focus on multiple storage areas





such as added drawers or dressers in the closet and room for fabric boxes on the tops of shelves for out of season clothing. If you are remodeling your kitchen, look for clever storage ideas such as hidden spice racks next to the stove, corner cabinets with revolving shelves that pull out and pull out pantries or pull out shelves so you can reach those items in the back. Even garages are getting more organized with cabinets systems that double as storage and a place to hang your bike!

You don't have to recreate the wheel when it comes to decorating. Read magazines or use the Internet to find the looks your love. Tear out the pages of the magazine or print out the pictures and place them in a notebook. Take your ideas with you when speaking to a salesperson and they will be much better able to help you find exactly what you are looking for to complete your look. I hope you will resolve to try a new trend!

These and many more decorating trends can be seen at the Southwest Missouri Home Builders Home Show to be held at the Joplin Holiday Inn Convention Center - I-44 & US 71, Joplin, MO. Friday February 24 from 10 am-8 pm, Saturday February 25 from 10 am-8 pm and Sunday February 26 from 1-5 pm. Admission \$5 - Seniors \$3.

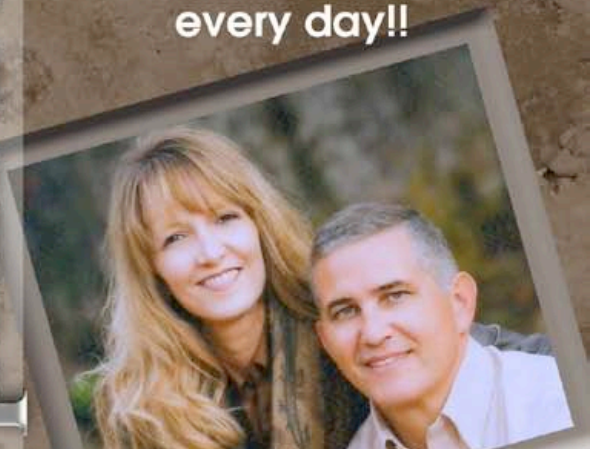


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