



Get set for a BRIGHT start to the New Year

THE pared-back, less-is-more look has been the dominant decor trend of our era. But in 2020, the style role model will no longer be a billionaire's pad, decorated in 40 shades of grey, but a Soho House members club, where you step into a welcoming environment that celebrates blue, green, red and yellow and, yes, bold prints.

Here are the three things you need to know about what will make a smart interior in the year when you say so long to Scandi and hello to colour.

NO TO MINIMALISM

THE ending of the love affair with minimalism will also mean the cooling of the passion with industrial chic, in which exposed air conditioning pipes were a stylish statement.

But the lighting and cabinetry that evokes mid-20th century workplaces will be staying on, serving as a perfect backdrop to the new cooler vibe.

The big benefits of this look are its cheapness (you can buy the essentials in the High Street) and you can add it to what you already own. Helena

Fresh start: The bold Aupana print chair, £999, is part of the John Lewis spring/summer 20 collection. Inset: Vilutus pillow, price on request. brabbu.com



Lowry, of Taylor Howes (taylorhowes.co.uk), the design consultancy, sees the shift as a reaction: 'In a challenging world, home can be the one thing that we feel we can control. We want to warm it up, to make it vibrant. I also believe that people are beginning to feel more confident; they're not going to be constrained by one aesthetic.'

The clue to the new style is to mix it up a bit, to blend the antique and the new, to use different fabric textures, but in a curated fashion. It's still best to avoid clutter, however; hoarder chic is not a thing.

Andrew Dunning of London Contemporary (londoncontemporary.com), the interior design business, contends that you should display only those keepsakes 'that have a special story for you'.

YES TO COLOUR

JOHN LEWIS (johnlewis.co.uk) reports customers are already keen to incorporate more colour into their interiors, a taste reflected in its spring 2020 collection.

Yet some people may find the return of deeper colours a revolution if they are accustomed to beige. Especially since the colour of 2020, according to one forecast, is set to be Classic Blue 'reminiscent of the shade of the sky at dusk'; in other words, navy blue.

Navy and black pants have been used in bars and restaurants for several years to enlivening effect, but experts suggest that you should exercise caution if re-decorating a whole room in these tones since the results could be more sepulchral than elegant.

Anyone who remains attached to their beige and grey colour scheme can indicate an awareness of the rise of pattern and colour

by hanging wallpaper in an exaggerated 18th-century design in the loo.

Lowry recommends that if a room looks dingy after the Christmas decorations have come down, you should first change the lighting rather than embark on refurbishment.

The addition of a table lamp may be enough to make a difference. But, she adds, 'If you want to experiment with a darker paint on the walls, make the woodwork lighter.'

'In a smaller room, it is best to stay light with the paint and use the darker colour as an accent, in the cushions, for example.'

Dunning concurs, saying that cushions in a pomegranate or similar eye-catching hue will be a less complicated way to bring opulence back.

Velvet cushions are available from H&M Home, Matalan and Marks & Spencer (hm.com, matalan.co.uk, marksandspencer.co.uk).

LOVE THE PLANET

THE mantra of 2020 is set to be: reuse, recycle, repurposer.

Sustainability will be the key word in interiors, amid a rejection of throwaway culture. Wealthy customers are commissioning bespoke pieces of furniture that they intend to hand down to their children as heirlooms. 'People don't want disposable stuff, they want investment pieces', says

Lowry. Another sign of the new eco-consciousness is the emergence of furnishing materials created from parts of plants that used to be discarded.

The smart leather finish in a Belgravia dining room may be Pinatex, a leather made from the cellulose fibre of pineapple leaves. Lowry

praises a furniture veneer made from corn husks which is lustrous and planet-friendly.

These imaginative ways of giving new life to vegetation may take a while to go mainstream, but every major trend started in the high-end

townhouses of the rich and trickles down to the suburban semi. Already households with more modest renovation budgets are finding means to redecorate while being green. Dunning says that he turned a window frame, left over from a project, into a mirror.

Expect to see in 2020 more twentysomethings posting images on Instagram of the donated furniture that they have sourced from The Freecycle Network and repainted.

After all, it's going to be a year when we feel free to indulge our imaginations.

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