



design musings

Design blogger Mandi Smith T (interiordesignmusings.com) shares her 3 favorite trends:

1. Metallic linen is very hot. It comes in an array of different colors with both gold and silver metallic accents. I love using this fabric for upholstery on accent chairs. This trend is already spinning off into wall coverings (Look for metallic grasscloth.)
2. 1980's floral is back—but with a twist. The Laura Ashley dress days are gone, but florals paired with fretwork patterns, small scale prints, and moorish designs, make the prints fresh again.
3. My pick for the hottest design trend of 2013 is Agates (which is a spin off of the gemstone trend from last year). Agates are influencing artwork, fabrics, and accessories. I love turning unusual items into artwork, and the agates are my latest find! I love them so much I'm having a set framed as we speak for my master bedroom. (Look for the reveal on Mandi's blog soon!)

—Mandi Smith T • Mandi Smith T Interiors

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When it comes to hardware, simple clean lines are still in. Clients want a look that is edgy—but not too contemporary. We still love manipulating new materials to look old. We've also seen the emergence of custom bronze tones.

—Eric Brandino, Brandino Brass • brandinobrass.com • 205.978.8900

I always recommend investing in quality pieces that will last while watching the price point on trendy ones. This way, when the trend has past, you won't feel badly moving it out of your home. Lavender (African Violet) has become one of my favorite go-to colors this year. It is beautiful and soothing paired with slate gray and creamy white. The key to using any trendy color is to use it as an accent or in ways you won't tire. While I like a little edge in every room I design, I do want each space to stand the test of time. To achieve that, I use neutral colors on my big ticket items and pull in color through my pillows, art, and accessories.

—Dana Wolter • danawolterinteriors.com • 205.907.7758

Take a neutral room and add silk velvet pillows in Monaco Blue, trimmed in tiny Tender Shoots cord, the perfect pop of color. If you like to change your accent color frequently, pillows are the perfect way to add it. And, it's easy to change if the color grows tired.

—Iris Thorpe • Iris & Co.
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Just to list a few things I'm drawn to right now: A good white (I love Benjamin Moore Cloud White), as well as deep chocolate browns and charcoal. I am really into metallics in soft muted shades and cotton velvet is my fabric of choice at the moment. What I am most excited about are all the fabulous grasscloth wallpapers. I recently had a client's master bedroom ceiling covered in a grey blue grasscloth. It is beautiful!

—Decorative artist and designer Kitty White • kittywhite.com

I SEE PEOPLE USING MORE AND MORE COLOR—BUT I STILL LIKE TO PLAY THE COLORS OFF OF NEUTRALS! —Jane Hoke / Hawkins Israel • 205.879.3406