

MBA BUILDING & HOME IMPROVEMENT SHOW

AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY EXPO



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Top Trends for Interior Design

For some people choosing your fittings and fixtures for your home can mean months of looking through home magazines and shopping for products. At the MBA Building & Home Improvement Show you can find everything you need all under one roof.

Like building design, interior design styles have changed dramatically over the past few years. Gone are the days of bright and bold colours, now new homes are following a more neutral trend, preferring to splash out on colour when decorating with linen, cushions, artwork and other accessories.

Millions in Makeovers managing director Sasha DeBretton-Gordon provides clients with renovation consultations, DIY kits and the complete renovation of your home.

"It's important to be up to speed with the latest trends from Europe, apply them in Australia and be a step ahead here," Ms DeBretton-Gordon said.

So what's evolving when it comes to interior and exterior finishing trends? Ms DeBretton-Gordon said homes are becoming less cluttered and simpler as people want the feeling of space and open plan living.



Courtesy of Redink Homes

Colours & Textures

The popular colours that are coming through are white, silver and grey tones with highlight colours like red for the front door and other exterior features.

"They are good base colours that are neutral and easy to dress up and add colour to with accessories or wall art," Ms DeBretton-Gordon said. "I think black and silver are very chic with mirrors, stainless steel and gloss surfaces, it's very glamorous and stylish."

To highlight exterior features, Ms DeBretton-Gordon said homes are using stone or marble. "Client's are also using stone look tiles, both contrasting and muted tones and steel," she explained.

Window frames have also changed in colour with black, grey and white frames coming into the market. "In the past, magnolias and browns were common," Ms DeBretton-Gordon said.

With houses following a more simple and plain approach, accessories have become the main way to add colour into your home. Cushions are a great accessory and bring an instant makeover with a range of shapes, colours and styles.

You can choose from cushions with wallpaper patterns, texture, knitted, stripes, faux fur, sequins, beading and luxurious colours.

"They brighten up a room and couch, with different shapes and sizes creating impact," she said. "There are so many beautiful colours and fabrics with cushions and lots with sequins and bling to create a wow factor and stylish effect."

Wallpaper is also enjoying a resurgence particularly in bedrooms injecting life and texture onto walls, creating style and personality. Patterned shades of black, silver and gold wallpaper are covering feature walls in bedrooms and bathrooms.

Wallpaper is also making its way onto canvas prints, which is then used as artwork in the house. The wallpaper of today is much easier to remove without the ripping and tearing of past wallpaper.

"You can create lots of different looks and styles with the type of paper and colours you select," Ms DeBretton-Gordon said. "From fun to fabulous, chic to stylish, it's a great cost effective way to get a great look."



Courtesy of Redink Homes

Flooring

Timber and tiles are still two of the main flooring products. People are moving from matte tiles to shinier finishes and are matching tiles and timber with carpet. "Carpet is cheap and can create effective looks in a room. It goes down in a day so it's quick as opposed to tiling being slower," Ms DeBretton-Gordon said. "It creates mood and warmth in bedrooms and lounge areas as well as comfort."

"You're also finding a lot of people are having carpeted and timber stairs, glass framed brick and stainless steel instead of tiles."

Large, polished porcelain tiles are popular, complementing the larger and more open living areas of new homes. "Porcelain gives an elegant, classy look as opposed to ceramic tiles. It lifts the home as gloss creates a feeling of expense."

Window Coverings

For those on a tight budget sheers, pelmets and Holland blinds are a popular and modern choice.

"Sheers along with pelmets are always an elegant look," she said. "For those on a low budget I love pull down Holland's on the reverse roll in pearlescent fabrics as they are really contemporary and cheap."

"Keep the coverings a similar colour to the walls but a lighter or darker shade to the paint to create slight contrasts."

In the top end of the market, curtains have made a comeback. Providing insulation and privacy, curtains dress windows in a range of styles, colours and textures. Plain curtains are common in new homes, creating a very simple and stunning look.



Kitchens & Bathrooms

Kitchens are also reflecting the new trends, glossy and stainless steel finishes are popular as are glass splashbacks. The splashback brings a contemporary feel to your kitchen with glass and tiles the most commonly used product.

"Glass splashbacks are popular, stylish and can be fitted in an hour or two," she said. "Tiles are always good too as there are a lot of options to choose from."

"I like to always be a bit different while still appealing to the mass market for resale so I use wallpapered splashbacks for a different, stylish or funky effect."

Bathrooms are following a range of new trends with tiles to the ceiling still a big trend. "Tiles to the ceiling are always a big trend; it looks more expensive and finished," she said. "Use big tiles as opposed to small where possible to create space."

"Large mirrors create space and light as they're reflective. Clear shower screens also create space to help the bathroom look bigger."

Bathroom tiles are following the wallpaper trend with patterned and coloured tiles making feature walls in bathrooms instead of borders that have been used in the past.

"I love tiles with a silver sheen or pearlescent tiles in bathrooms to create class," she said. "Wallpapers are also awesome but you need to be careful in wet areas or use wallpaper tiles to create a great effect instead."

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Bedrooms

Bedrooms are becoming simpler with tidy bed linen, clean accessories and extra storage space. Storage is a vital necessity of new homes with most people wanting things out of the way.

"I always say sometimes less is more," Ms DeBretton-Gordon said. "A bedroom should be moody and atmospheric, sexy or warm and cosy. It should entice you into it as a place of rest, comfort or desire."

"Everyone needs some level of storage. Homes are having cupboards put at the back of kitchen benches, big linen cupboards and bigger walk-in-robos."



The Experts

So what is the best way to prepare yourself for choosing interior and exterior finishing's for your new home? According to Ms DeBretton-Gordon, clients should book a consultation with an expert. Clients should also get a file of things they like for both the interior and exterior so at least they have an idea of how they want the bigger picture to look.

"Experts add value to your home or investment so you have nothing to lose but everything to gain."