



TIMELESS VS. TRENDY

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ABOVE: Clean lines, natural textures and neutral tones never go out of style.



BY ARMINA KASPROVICZ, ASID

I LOVE TO KEEP UP WITH TASTES and trends in home design. However, as much as I like seeing these new styles evolve and change, like most people, I am unable to redo my home every five years. When I think about my home, I prefer a style that is timeless, rather than trendy.

I take the same approach when I work with my clients. Knowing that people and tastes change forces me to think for the long term, focusing not only on how the home will look when it is new, but also how the home will evolve with its owners. A home's appearance changes naturally with use, modification and accessories, and I want to embrace this living aspect of the home in my work.

In a certain sense, the timeless look for a home has again become trendy as people realize that importing huge sets of modern gadgetry means a home that is quickly outdated and in need of replacement. Nowadays, we no longer see the giant TV entertainment sets and consoles popular a few years ago. By slimming up and streamlining the presence of technology in our homes, we leave more room for growth and change. This shift toward a streamlined look reflects a deeper truth about interior decor: Clean, minimalist lines are a timeless principle of good design.

Individual tastes in interiors are almost guaranteed to change over time, if simply for the sake of freshness and variety. Nobody wants to be boxed into the same colors and styles and patterns for a lifetime, and it can be healthy and invigorating to refresh a living space. continued on XX



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TOP: Let your personality shine through with your choice of artwork.
ABOVE: Choose timeless classics for big-ticket items like this neutral chair.

A home's changes can reflect its daily use, changes in routines and activities; they can be accents that reflect new styles or objects of particular meaning and memories. A well-designed home should have an underlying principle that encompasses all these changes while maintaining cohesion, harmony and balance in the space.

So, instead of redoing absolutely everything in the home, a fresh coat of paint or new art and accessories can make a drastic difference. Keeping a home modern and up to date can mean including a few interesting textures, lighting changes, floor coverings or subtle technological upgrades that enhance living subtly and bring a lively pulse to the space.

For big ticket items, on the other hand, it is best to stay with timeless, clean or versatile pieces.

The expensive furniture pieces in your home should ideally be neutral to ensure staying power. Think twice before choosing that expensive, splashy, pink-tufted sofa as the centerpiece of your living room (unless you have the money to replace it in a year or two.) Instead, opt for a

classic neutral linen tufted sofa and spice it up with pink velvet pillows and trendy throws. The pillows and throws will be much less painful to replace than the sofa will.

Things that are clean-lined tend to stay relevant in design. They help us manage complex and shifting lifestyles by offering visual clarity, focus and harmony in the living space. And, importantly, they are malleable. They can fit into multiple styles and can have multiple effects in different settings. Heavy, ornate furniture with detailing has only one look it can emulate. Whereas sleeker pieces can be accented and modified with accessories to achieve an ornate look while retaining versatility.

Good principles of design do not belong to a specific time; they transcend it. Using natural stone in your home, paying attention to high-quality flooring, using natural materials with subdued colors like linen, glass and leather — methods like these create a consistent underlying balance and harmony beyond the newest look.

You should add tailored draperies, antique pieces, art and unique objects that you love, and be com-

fortable changing them over time.

These items will make your rooms feel like they have been designed and assembled with thought, rather than being purchased from a page of the catalog or a packaged set at the furniture store.

Some designers love a blank slate and complete designing freedom, but I prefer to work with clients who have their own opinions, a unique style and a story. Because, in the end, a home should be a reflection of the kind of life that client lives and the kind of person she is. Spaces should look like you and reflect meaningful events in your life, as well as bring about solutions to meet your everyday needs. A home is dually functional and aesthetic, and the two need to play into each other. Good, timeless principles of design help this happen.

The goal in designing and decorating your home should always be to create a space where you feel good. That means that your home's design should encompass the objects of your daily life, your changing preferences, the objects you love and, more importantly, the people you love, too. NS