

Furniture & Design Trends





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Biophilic Design

Biophilic design is a concept that brings the outside in.

Psychoanalyst Erich Fromm first used the term in 1973 in “The Anatomy of Human Destructiveness.” He called it the passionate love of life in all that is alive. Stephen Kellert created a framework for biophilia in the built environment, meant to celebrate nature and provide an enriched sensory experience.

DIRECT NATURE

In Kellert’s framework, this refers to tangible contact with nature, through light, air, water, plants, animals, weather and more.

Light allows for the orientation of

time of day and season. It can cause natural patterns in the way it shines through windows and off reflective surfaces. It moves and causes shadows and provides a sense of well-being when applied properly.

Air includes the ventilation of a space, temperature and humidity. The air in a space should promote occupant comfort and help them to be more productive. Plants provide a direct relationship between people and nature. In addition to using actual living plants, use walls in natural shades of green. Have a variety of plants, including some that flower. In addition to improving the air quality in a space, plants can reduce stress.

Water can be used in the built environment to provide movement, sounds, touch and sight. It can be incorporated through fountains, aquariums and

more. Water in the right space can decrease stress.

Animals can be brought into the space with aquariums and other types of pet ownership, but also through outdoor feeders to entice wildlife to be observed from inside the space.

Weather should also be seen from inside the space and it can be simulated through the manipulation of air, such as with fans.

INDIRECT NATURE

Biophilic design can be indirect through the use of things such as images of nature and natural materials. Natural colors, or earth tones, are popular and can be paired with sparing brighter tones. Shapes in the built environment should be natural and evoke the wild environment, such as shapes that mimic

plant features.

Organic materials are popular in biophilic design because they weather and change over time, allowing us to observe the material’s adaptation to the environment.

EXPERIENCE OF SPACE AND PLACE

The last part of Keller’s framework is the use of spatial relationships to promote well-being. This includes providing a comfortable and nurturing built environment that emphasizes horizons and movements and an organized complexity that mimics the variability of the natural environment. The spaces should be easily accessed and integrated into a whole structure that satisfies the occupants and is culturally and ecologically tied to the place in which it is built.

PANTONE: PEACH FUZZ

Take, for instance, Pantone's 2024 color of the year, Peach Fuzz, a warm orangey pink. "We chose a color radiant with warmth and modern elegance," says Leatrice Eiseman, executive director of the Pantone Color Institute. "A shade that resonates with compassion, offers a tactile embrace and effortlessly bridges the youthful with the timeless."

Peach Fuzz can go timeless with warm off-whites or hot and tropical when paired with bold blues and scorching pinks and yellows.

**BENJAMIN MOORE:
BLUE NOVA**

Blue with just a splash of violet, Blue Nova is a deep color inspired by the brilliance of a new star.

"The Color Trends 2024 palette tells a story of duality — juxtaposing light against dark, warm and cool, showcasing complementary and contrasting color pairings," says Andrea Magno, color marketing and development manager at Benjamin Moore. "Blue Nova is an alluring mid-tone that balances depth and intrigue with classic appeal and reassurance."

Benjamin Moore pairs it with neutrals such as White Dove and colorful, playful Honeybee. It can go more thoughtful with Regent Green or Antique Pewter.

**SHERWIN WILLIAMS:
UPWARD**

This breezy blue is a peaceful, positive shade that evokes tranquility and peace. It's one of 48 hues from the company's Colormix Forecast 2024, which is divided into four palettes organized by color family, all of

which bring a warm, comforting glow to the home.

**BEHR PAINT COMPANY:
CRACKED PEPPER**

Cracked Pepper from Behr

is a neutral, modern shade that's dark but still manages to evoke warmth. "As we look into 2024, creating a sense of comfort and belonging will continue to drive design deci-

sions — but now, as life returns to its more familiar rhythms, it's time to allow our senses to come alive, from heightening the aromas of a dining room to feeling the softness of a living

area, Cracked Pepper enhances the natural expression in any space," says Erika Woelfel, vice president of color and creative services at Behr Paint Company.

Trending Color Palettes

This year is going to be a warm one, and not just the weather. Trending paint palettes are going warmer with a calm, comfortable twist.



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Make Your Bedroom an Oasis

A well-designed bedroom is a key element in getting a good night's rest. Trends change from year to year, and for 2024, look for comfortable, warm spaces that are drenched in tranquility and relaxation.

MIXED DESIGN STYLES

If you can't pick just one style, don't worry. You don't have to. Instead, aim for a collected look, using each wall to highlight a fresh design element.

"This type of contrast on the walls is definitely trending," says designer Vanessa DeLeon to Better Homes & Gardens. "When selecting a color or pattern for your room, go bold, but just make sure whatever you choose reflects your personality and style."

Look to achieve harmony in your design. Build your color scheme from a print or linens and run it throughout the space.

NATURAL LIGHTING

This year will see a shift toward natural lighting that highlights artful arrangements of texture, Grace Denniston from Kalco Lighting told Better Homes & Gardens. Fixtures will sport more organic materials, such as al-



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baster, jute, leather and wood, and sport neutral tones.

"The creamy white undertones of alabaster and Capiz shells or the earthy tan and brown of abaca and rattan add softness and balance in a room with green or tinted pastels but also work well in neutral settings," Denniston says.

TEXTURED ACCENT WALLS

Take a baby step into bold with an accent wall. Taniya Nayak from HGTV advises choosing patterns and motifs that speak to you. Use one piece as an inspiration and choose your palette and other options from there. And get

creative with your millwork to create a subtle design statement. "Whether you opt for a bold hue or a subtle tone, a painted wainscot can add a dose of color to an area without overwhelming it," Nayak says.

DITCH THE WHITE TRIM

In the same vein, forget the

off-white and white trim.

"We used to see walls being painted a bold color and the trim and molding being painted white, but like the flip of a switch, we're seeing the opposite," Nayak says. Window trim, doors and door casings, baseboards and more are getting a dose of color.



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Settle Into these Sofa Trends

Just like natural tones are hitting walls, natural shapes are coming to a seating area near you.

Jane Lockhart, founder of Jane Lockhart Design, told Living Etc. that puffy, feather-filled couches with curved, lush forms are hitting showroom floors.

Look for versatile pieces such as daybeds and chaises that bring a casual vibe to a formal space. Choose a design that's sophisticated and adds warmth

and charm. Asymmetry will help give the piece some whimsy and is a nod to natural shapes.

For the awkward or small space, consider a sectional or L-shaped sofa that gives plenty of lounging room and can be bookended with tables for storage. "The textural scale alone begs for relaxation and invites intimate conversation," says Regan Baker of Regan Baker Design. "With a few cozy blankets and pillows galore, it's a perfect timeless backdrop for personalization."

Fluted or tufted sofas can add soft structure to a space. The soft forms are simple yet tidy and can keep the furni-

ture looking great even in busy homes with kids, pets and other furniture-deestroying creatures. A Chesterfield sofa, with its high arms and tufted upholstery, is a timeless piece that works well with this trend.

Curved sofas are once again having a moment. The right piece can fill up a corner or awkward space and make more room for entertaining or other pieces. Many modern curvaceous couches have a distinctly mid-century feel that has appeal for homeowners who lean into that aesthetic.

Shelf-end sofas are great solutions for a small space that give the space a sleek,

modern look. It eliminates the need for another piece of furniture, making it an appealing choice for the apartment dweller. Look for these sleek pieces with natural finishes and contrasting warm, textured fabrics.

Cover these sofas in punchy, statement-making color. Deep blue is a popular choice, as is charcoal gray and moss green. Interior designer Jonathan Adler told Living Etc. that he's most excited about pairing the natural feel of rattan with couture details such as high gloss lacquer and flashes of color. "It's laissez-faire fabulousness, with a hint of pop!"

Shed Some Trendy Light

Warmth is king once again when it comes to lighting, Houzz says, including metal finishes and textures. Here are some trends the site spotted for 2024.

SWITCH UP THE SHAPE

Light fixture shapes are continuing to evolve along with LEDs' ability to seamlessly blend into the fixture itself. Ring chandeliers are a great example, with an interior loop of LED lights that disappear into the piece. The same trend was spotted in lantern shapes and banker's lamps.

STATEMENT CHAINS

Not just for necks, anymore, statement chains are making a statement with lighting. Pieces are playing with scale, adding chunky links to sleek pendants and sconces in classic shapes and minimalist colors.

MATTE WHITE

It's back again — matte white with the addition of organic textures. Look for matte white paired with natural earth tones and pops of glossy finishes to contrast.

WOVEN, BEADED AND NATURAL TEXTURES

Rattan is all over the place, as is woven grass, wood and other materials that give a room a natural feel. Wood beads are also starring in large-



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scale pieces that give warmth and texture to the space.

Other designers are pushing the bounds of natural materials with eggshell-like finishes and lighting shapes that evoke leaves, trees and other natural elements. Leather is even making an appearance.

STONE GOES WARM

Bye, cool Carrara and hello to warm, earthy travertine. Stone is still having a moment,

just look for it in warmer, comfortable colors and terracotta hues. Metal is also warmer, with gold and coppery tones leading the way in low-shine textures.

FLUSH MOUNT COMES BACK

Where a designer previously would have asked for recessed or can lighting, they're now increasingly going with a flush mount or semi-flush mount fix-

ture. Small fixtures, or even a grouping of them, can add warmth and interest.

GLASS REIMAGINED

Glass is still around, too, but now in organic, textured forms with crackles, bubbles and seeds. These fixtures offer a softer, diffused light that evokes peace and comfort. Colored glass is having a moment, too, with metallic hues and iridescent shades

adding richness to fixtures.

ADJUSTABLE TEMPERATURES

Another innovation LED brings to the table is the ability to take a space from warm to cool with the flick of a switch. Tunable LEDs can adjust not just the brightness, but also the warmth, allowing users to toggle between cool and warm light depending on what they're up to.

Window Coverings Trends

The right window covering isn't just about adding warmth or texture to a space, though 2024 trends have plenty of that.

The right window covering can result in significant energy savings for homeowners, too.

LINEN: THE NATURAL CHOICE

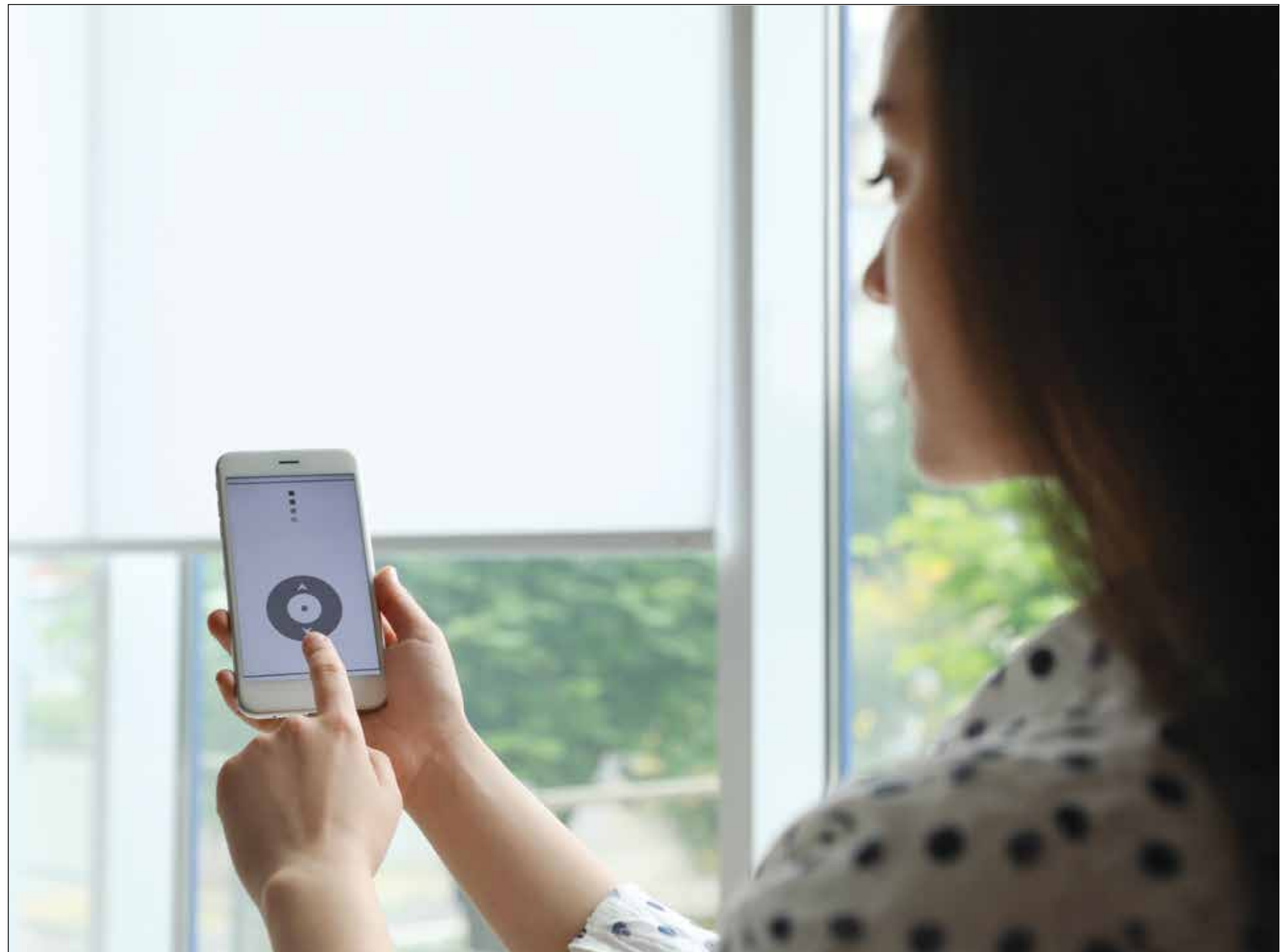
Made from the fibers of the flax plant, linen is a natural fabric choice that is breathable, making it an ideal choice for summer or for warmer climates. It creates a natural, relaxed vibe and often becomes softer with age. Look for earthy neutrals such as taupe or ivory, or opt for bolder tones such as green or terracotta.

SMART HOME TREATMENTS

Window treatments are smart, now, too, and not just in looks. Motorized window treatments can work with your remote, smartphone app or digital assistant to make your blinds go up or down with just your voice or by a schedule so that they adjust to maximize or minimize natural light. They can move with the temperature, lowering if the space gets too warm.

LAYERING

Don't limit yourself to just



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one window treatment. Sheer drapery over blackout blinds creates depth and visual texture that gives homeowners options for adjusting their light level throughout the day. Layered treatments, when done correctly, can create a sophisticated look that makes the windows a design focal point.

PATTERNS AND PRINTS

Window coverings can be artistic, with bold geometric designs, oversized floral prints or abstract textures that turn a windowed wall into an art statement. Look for bespoke blinds and shades in a variety of fabric choices to complement your color palette.

WOVEN NATURAL TEXTURES

Bring the outside in with woven wood shades made from natural fibers such as bamboo, grass or reeds. In an array of warm and earthy neutral tones, these shades can bring an organic element to your space that invites comfortable, peaceful relaxation.

WOVEN SHADES OVER WOOD BLINDS

Mix up two natural materials for one sophisticated look by layering woven wood shades over wood slat blinds. The blinds offer privacy and light control, while the woven shades give the space a warm, organic look.

Dining by Design

During the COVID pandemic, our dining rooms became offices, schools and more. This year, dining rooms are coming back in force as their own physical space with an intended purpose — entertaining and relaxing.

Here are some trends to look for when planning a dining room refresh.

STATEMENT LIGHTING

Toss the builder's grade chandelier for a piece with character. Statement lighting creates a dramatic focal point for the dining room, elevating and formalizing the space. Look for pieces that illuminate the space but also add structure, more a work of art than a light fixture.

BOLD COLORS

Bye, greige. Welcome bold, jewel tones and rich color palettes that create drama and sophistication. The Spruce says its designers are leaning to deep blues, emerald greens and berry tones with metallic accents and luxe fabrics, coming together for a cozy, elegant space.

UPHOLSTERY IS BACK

For years, homeowners drifted away from upholstery,



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particularly if they had kids and pets that wreaked havoc on dining room fabrics. Upholstery is back again, this time in performance fabrics that resist wear and tear. Designer Megan Molten says she's been having "so much fun" with the textures and colors available in dining chairs, bringing depth and character to the space.

In the same vein, banquette

seating is making a comeback, refreshing small spaces with comfortable, functional seating that adds depth to the space. Formerly seen in breakfast nooks for tight kitchen/dining combo rooms, banquettes can make the dining room a more functional, casual space.

MULTI-USE SPACES

While great rooms may be

on the way out, dining spaces are going versatile.

"I see them turning into spaces with a fun mood and vibe to host and entertain since formal dining rooms are used so infrequently," Bre Hance, founder and principal designer of InHance told The Spruce. "Like a cool communal space you would find in a luxury hotel lobby."

Look for features such as a

bar, casual seating or bookshelves.

FUNCTION BESTS FORM

Look for pieces that are functional, such as tables with extendable leaves, built-in cabinetry with creative storage spaces and multi-purpose chairs. This goes hand-in-hand with creating a multi-use space that gives the dining room more versatility.