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Latest trends in home decor for the season

TAGS: Home decor | Cushions | Polish | Antique pieces | Bangalore | Living room | Dining room | Childrens room | Bedroom | Bathroom | Kitchen | Garden

Want to give your house a make over this year? Bring out your brightest cushions, polish those antique pieces, and pull out those vibrant rugs. **Simply Bangalore** brings you the latest trends in home decor for the season.



Living room: Bold and beautiful
Today, home design is about tailoring a space which reflects your personality, giving it your distinct stamp. From intricately embroidered weaves to bold floral prints, the perfect juxtaposition of art and utility is something that everyone looks for in upholstery. This season, go for deeper and warmer colours like reds, tangerine, chutney greens and turquoise blue.

Add abstract geometrics, gallery stripes or an animal print to your living room to give it a stylish dimension. To enhance and add to the theme of the room, use fabric coordinates.

"Rugs and carpets as well as dark wallpaper make a space cozier, especially when used with wooden floors," says Anjum Jung, Head of Morph Designs, the awardwinning interiors division of the Prestige Group. Cove lights and low level lamps are ideal to create mood lighting.

Sandeep Khosla, principal architect of Khosla Associates, advocates printed cushions against flat tone furniture. "I'm not a minimalist but I enjoy juxtaposing highlights against neutral surfaces," he says.

Pay attention to the minutest of details, for that's where true aesthetic is best displayed and most noticed.

Tips and tricks

- Silver leafing, gold foiling and sponging with paints are simple techniques that can dress up walls and furniture.
- Don't be afraid to change the positions of things in a room. That may be all that is necessary to create a brand new look.
- If comfort is the key factor in your decor scheme, opt for downy, fabric-covered couches and chairs.
- If you find a hole in the upholstery, trim the edge lest the loose threads get further ripped.
- Natural fibres tend to absorb stains faster, while synthetics can be cleaned easily. You can opt for blended fabrics that give you the best of both.

Dining room: Delightful dinners

Conversations become livelier and smiles broaden when accompanied by heaped plates and refilled glasses. Go for a contemporary look with woodwork and straight lines as a minimalistic design works well for the dining area. Flavour it with tableware suited to your taste and it's a recipe for sure success.



For everyday casual dining, glazed stoneware dishes are durable and easy to care for. For special occasions, add more zing with trendy tableware in rich colours of ruby and mandarin blue, adding an Oriental flavour to your plates.

If your table top is covered with glass, opt for table mats that come in a variety of materials ranging from cotton to leather and bamboo. Bring out bright runners with decorative threads to cover up the consoles in the dining area.

"Chairs need to be simple because these tend to be the most practical. If you want to dress up a chair, a permanent option is to have them reupholstered or painted," says interior designer, Vinita Chaitanya of design firm Prism. "But just putting on a beautiful slip cover also transforms them for a formal do," she adds.

Khosla encourages outdoor dining spaces, like on a deep verandah or partially covered large terrace. "Even though this may not be the main dining area, having such a space allows you to enjoy Bangalore's weather that is near perfect through the year," he says. "Of course, proximity to the kitchen is always practical," he adds.

Tips and tricks

- Make sure there are enough plug points and table surfaces which allow you to play with lowlevel lighting.
- Use reflective decorative plates instead of placemats for a chic look.
- Old photo frames can be repainted and hung in an interesting arrangement to make for inexpensive wall art.
- Dress up your chairs in colours of your choice- the brighter the better. Keep the table stark by using a black glass top- this will add to the overall impact.



Children's room: Happy days
We know that keeping up with the young ones is not an easy feat but here is help to make sure that junior's room grows up with him. The only thing that grows faster than kids are their wants, so try and ensure that their rooms have sufficient space for it. Replace the monsters under the bed with storage space. A chest of drawers offers sufficient space for toys, and eventually clothes.

"Earlier, themes were big. Not so much anymore," says Chaitanya. "Soft furnishings are where you can indulge the child. Parents are now requesting non-toxic paints and rounded edges on the furniture," she adds.

"It is important to keep the child's age in mind because they are very closely linked to phases. From 0-8 years, the child likes certain motifs. From then until they are teenagers, their tastes change," says Jung.

Walls form the backdrop of your kid's territory. Add a touch of creativity and character with wall decals or large graphic stickers. A cheaper and more temporary investment than wallpaper, they allow you to pin up your child's fancies and peel them off once the craze wanes.

A tent serves as the perfect hideout and is quite an innovative way of demarcating your child's sanctuary while making it easier to clean the mess up. Add a snug sleeping bag and it doubles up as a bed, especially useful for night stays.

When it comes to kids, rules are made to be broken. Stray away from classic colours and play around with d  cor ideas to create a space with everchanging personality which your little one won't be embarrassed of in five years.

Tips and tricks

- Wooden or laminated floors work well for an area that is likely to get dirty often. Easy to clean, these surfaces can also be changed without much hassle.
- Bookshelves that double up as steps to an upper bunk, mini hammocks to lounge around on and sliding doors on wardrobes are all good ideas as well as space savers.
- Putting labels on pull-out baskets, boxes and trunks will help them keep the place neat.
- Use an old-fashioned projector to create an image of their choice on the wall.

Bedroom: Practically pretty

Are sensational bedrooms the stuff your dreams are made of? If so, there's help at hand. Interior designers are now creating glamorous bedrooms with exotic themes, vintage furniture and luxurious linen. While there's an emphasis on showcasing new and cutting-edge interior trends in this relaxing space, there are efforts to personalise it as well, with artworks, accessories and other statement pieces.



There are dozens of themes to choose from, but the idea is to keep things streamlined. Clearly, the bedroom has moved up the pecking order, morphing into a high-octane personal retreat with design flourishes.

"Keeping different parts of the bedroom separate from each other helps promote relaxation," says Jung. "Instead of waking up to the sight of a wardrobe, building a walkin closet where possible helps keep dressing needs and clutter out of view," she adds.

"Soft headboards are in these days because they are more comfortable. High headboards create a sense of drama," finds Chaitanya. "People are also willing to shell out obscene amounts of money for mattresses that promise various kinds of benefits," she adds.

Tips and tricks

- Accent walls, or a wall that is a strikingly different colour from the rest of the walls can brighten a room. Use a high gloss paint for this.
- Bookshelves work great as utilitarian room dividers.
- Border wallpaper adds an interesting touch to a room.
- If you want to replace the flooring, you can go for wall-to-wall carpets as they are less expensive than wood.
- Add a dash of colour to a beige or white bedroom with hand painted cabinets.
- Furniture makes the bedroom look complete. So, it is wise to invest in pieces like beds with nice headboards, sofa, side tables, comfy seats and cocktail tables.



Bathroom: Luxury meets utility
If a languorous soak in the bathtub coupled with an invigorating massage is your idea of perfect bliss, there's some good news coming your way. Bathware labels across the world are upping the whirlpool experience in washrooms by several notches. With a bouquet of massage options, coloured lights and a larger seating capacity, the new generation of whirlpool baths promises to take your de-stressing session to a whole new level.

"Lifestyle products are now reaching every nook and corner of the Indian home. Apart from the wide variety of well-being products already available, the modern day bathroom can now boast of whirlpool tubs and saunas," says Asutosh Shah, Managing Director, Duravit India.

"People are willing to really splurge. Fixtures range from ₹20,000 to ₹two lakh. They come with unimaginable features like WCs that stay warm and those that flush on their own," says Chaitanya.

The new age bathroom materials take a cue from opulent decor schemes predominant in the rest of the house. Precious metals like gold and silver are now used in faucets and showerheads.

This decadence extends to towel bars and door knobs which come studded with crystals or sculpted in glass. Khosla suggests, "Bathroom tiles now come with sharper edges that allow a more seamless finish. Go for products that come with a synthetic mix which does away with some of the problems that natural materials pose. Sandstone and marble tend to stain. It is advisable to go for the more durable granite instead."

An inseparable part of bathroom aesthetics is the mirror. The current head turners are the Bluetooth-fitted mirrors with in-built speakers. So, skip your spa session this month and soak up the goodness of a luxurious bath instead.

Tips and tricks

- Use anti skid patches in the bathtub and other wet areas and floor mats with suction to prevent slippery surfaces.
- Place flower stems in the bathroom with burning incense- the fragrance will add a wonderful feel to your space.
- Install grab bars in the shower/tub areas, toilet area and near the sink.
- Consider using handles for doors and fixtures instead of round knobs-these are tough to grasp when your hand is wet.

Kitchen: Minimalist wonders

Kitchens today are bold, cosy and the heart of a happy home. They are spaces where you reconnect with family and friends after a long day at work, and even serve as entertainment zones.



Experts say that open kitchens do not work for Indian homes. Our cuisine uses spices and methods that do not mingle well with the rest of the house. So it is best to enclose it within a room. "Occasions when open kitchens do work are either when only the lady of the house will be doing some basic cooking, or there is another kitchen where the heavier cooking takes place. I have come across several requests for two kitchens," explains Khosla.

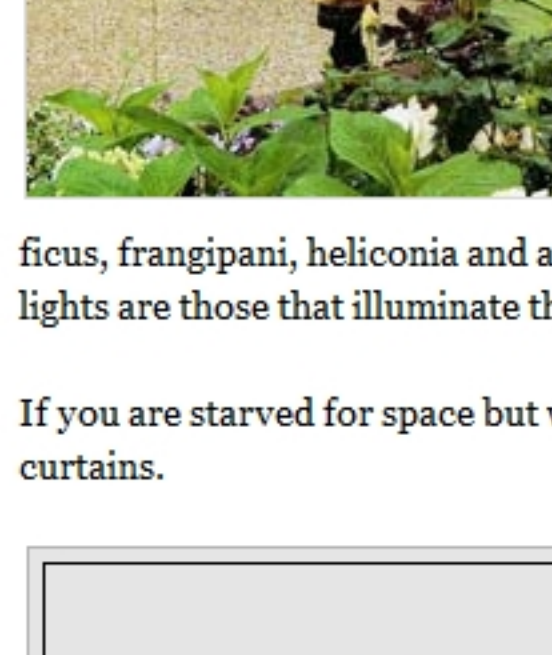
"Larger kitchen spaces within the home are useful, since they allow for amenities like a breakfast nook or butcher's block," says Jung. Go for warm gold, ochre and brown or warm tones of orange and red to pep up your kitchen this season.

Proper lighting can make the kitchen appear larger and trendy. Go for under-cabinet-lighting or under-the-counter lighting which creates an illusion of space. Add chic to your modular kitchen sets with interesting holders for pans, serving spoons, and napkin holders.

Plan ahead and enjoy the benefits of a smart kitchen.

Tips and tricks

- Glass panes on cabinets instead of solid wood make the room seem larger and give it a lighter feel.
- Wipe glass panes with a wet cloth-use absorbent tissue and newspaper to bring a shine.
- The countertop should be durable-try granite as opposed to marble, which stains easily.
- Add ceramic tiles behind and around the stove to make cleaning spills easier.
- Ideally, you should not to go beyond 2.5ft in length for drawers. If they're bigger, the weight of storage may make them bend.



Garden: Breath of fresh air
A home garden, of any size, is a reflection of the inhabitants' tastes and requirements. While most city homes don't enjoy the luxury of sprawling gardens, a small green patch can also do wonders to your home.

Rohit Marol, principal landscape artist at Terra Firma, says "Gardens are increasingly becoming an extension of dining or entertainment spaces." He adds, "Water bodies are still an all-time favourite although subtle usage is preferred. For example, still or trickling water but not gushing waterfalls."

The experts concur that tropical plants are the way to go. India's climate supports the blossoming of many beautiful plants and trees like ficus, frangipani, heliconia and anthuriums. Lights also play an important role. The most effective garden lights are those that illuminate the object or space being viewed and not the viewer.

If you are starved for space but want your share of green cover, opt for vertical green screens or green curtains.

Tips and tricks

- If flowers and plants are too much work, create a rock garden which requires much less maintenance.
- In larger gardens, installing a gazebo acts as a great way to enjoy the space away from the sun.
- Place lights by tall trees and along pathways to make the area beautiful at night.
- Water plants with cool water in which neem leaves have been soaked overnight.

