

Common interior design styles and how to shop with purpose

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For the News-Leader

There are many types of interior design, with the list ever-evolving. Some of them are fads and others are timeless classics that stand the test of time. Each style is comprised of distinctive furniture, décor, lighting, and accessories that give its signature look. In getting to know some of the most popular styles, you'll better understand what styles stand out to you and meet your preferences.

Pay attention to which inspiration images and design elements catch your eye. In addition to doing your research, getting to know your personal interior designer style is also easier than ever before with the help of design services from interior designer experts available.

Transitional interior design style

Let's start with one of the most popular styles in the design world today. Transitional design is what we like to call the happy medium of interior design styles. This is the style for you if traditional design is too stuffy, but contemporary is too out of your comfort zone. Transitional is the perfect mix of traditional elegance with contemporary lines and textiles. In addition, transitional interiors keep accessories to a minimum. It's important to let the furniture and the textiles do the talking. Take advantage of area rugs, throw pillows, and blankets to accessorize. Perhaps the most aesthetically pleasing aspect of the transitional design style is the mix of masculine and feminine. Curved furniture and finishes like wood, rattan, steel, and lacquer are common elements. The combination of two very different styles creates an interesting and welcoming home design perfect for all rooms.

Traditional interiors use tables and chairs made from dark wood that is ornately detailed. Traditional design draws its inspiration from 18th and 19th century England and France. This explains why it's common to find expensive textiles like silk, velvet, and linen used everywhere from upholstery to window treatments. Fabrics also feature a variety of different patterns. A few popular patterns include damask, florals, stripes, and plaids, for example. Traditional homes also like to bring in a sense of glam with crystal chandeliers. European décor heavily influences traditional interiors. Most traditional homes have a very neutral color palette with pops of color brought in with oil paintings or floral arrangements. If you're not into "matchy-matchy," traditional may not be your cup of tea. Above all, consistency is key so it's common to find matching furniture sets.

Modern interior design style

Modern and contemporary style are often confused. Let's clear up the difference between the two. In spite of their number of similarities,



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there are a few big signs that you're looking at a modern interior. Modern design refers to a specific time period while contemporary design is ever-evolving. Modern interior design came on the radar in the early to mid 20th century. Due to the mix of Scandinavian, mid-century modern, and post-modern design, we have our current definition of modern. For example, furniture has clean lines with smooth, sleek surfaces. In particular metal, chrome, and glass are favorite choices among designers. However, with modern interiors, décor is kept minimal. They tend to ditch the knick-knacks and use art as the main décor. It's common to see bold colorful accents in art and furniture in a mostly neutral space.

Eclectic interior design style

There are common misunderstandings when it comes to the eclectic design style. A few different key features identify eclectic interior design. Think of it as a high-energy collection of carefully selected pieces brought together to create a culture-rich interior. Because of this, many think eclectic design has an anything-goes spirit. However, there is a fine line between layered and collected, and busy and distracting. Stick to a neutral color palette and use a select few accent colors to bring in the worldly vibe you're looking for. With this in mind, the ideal eclectic interior balances color and texture. As a result, it's the perfect blend of old and new.

Contemporary interior design style

When you look at interior design styles throughout history, contemporary interior design is the one style that is always evolving. The contemporary design style will most likely continue to change over the course of the 21st century. Contemporary refers to anything of the present moment. This unique interior design style borrows from various time periods which creates an environment fit to last a lifetime. Contemporary interior design is a sleek and simple space. It uses different features like detailed moldings on walls and windows and open layouts to create an interesting and distinct space. Typical contemporary furniture shows exposed legs and clean lines to give a light and airy feel. It's common to see materials like metal and glass used because of their light-reflecting properties. This look is the ultimate mix of house décor styles. Neutral color palettes are the most common for contemporary design with textured fabrics to create interest. This creates the perfect luxury modern interior.

Minimalist interior design style

Contemporary design and minimalist design



have a lot of the same qualities. Both have uncomplicated forms, clean lines, and simple finishes. However, the minimalist decorating style is inspired by Japanese design and concentrates on the principle that less is more. In the end, minimalist design loves empty space. While most minimalist interiors have a neutral color scheme, primary colors can also be used as an accent color. Patterns are nowhere to be found and texture is a necessity. Because of the less is more philosophy, you'll find functional furniture is the most essential design element. Storage is also important in minimalist interior design. For this reason, furniture often doubles as hidden storage. For example, a coffee table that lifts up to reveal storage is one of the many creative solutions minimalist interiors use.

Mid-century modern interior design style

A classic that seems to stay relevant no matter the decade is mid-century interiors that started in the 1950s and 60s in post-war America. During this time, the design industry was

trying to break out of its traditional barriers and dive into the modern era. As a testament to this style's timeless quality, there are still so many popular mid-century modern furniture pieces that are still used in our homes today. Keep an eye out for versions of iconic furniture such as the Eames lounge, the egg chair, or the wishbone chair.

Mid-century modern homes have a breezy and seamless flow. They've always encouraged indoor-outdoor living. For this reason, sliding doors and picture windows are left bare to emphasize the connection to nature. Rich and luxurious woods such as teak, rosewood, and walnut are regularly used. Accents of mustard yellow, chartreuse, or avocado are used for a pop of color. The mid-century revival we're seeing in today's design industry makes this popular interior design style more achievable than ever.

Overall, mid-century modern interior design strikes a delicate balance between form and function, combining timeless elegance with forward-thinking innovation. Its enduring appeal and adaptability make it a go-to interior style for those seeking a blend of retro charm and contemporary flair in their homes.

Now that you know the key common design styles, which style are you? You might be a combination of styles. If you are still unsure, a professional designer can help you sort your true style. You can once again shop with purpose and not fall in to the trap of you know it when you see it, you will now know it.

Jeanette Gaskill is the lead designer for Coastal Cottage of Amelia, where she has worked for the past six years. She loves being able to work hand-in-hand with her customers to design the spaces they dream of. Gaskill knows that interior design is very personal so she considers it an honor to be invited into her customer's homes. As part of the process, she takes time to get to know her customer's personality and tastes which is always reflected in the final result – she can make magic.



I got my name changed back

Until I got hitched, and later got unhitched, I gave little thought to my name. Like the rest of humankind, I was assigned a moniker at the time of my debut on planet earth and have pretty much accepted it during my 37 years. Of course, I did briefly exhibit the typical childhood tendency of wishing for a different name.

In elementary school it dawned on me that there are oodles of Jennifers in the world. As a kid who fancied herself unique and quirky, a ubiquitous name like "Jennifer" did not seem to complement my adolescent essence. In contrast, "Esmerelda" suited me to a T. It was whimsical, distinctive, and had an air of magic about it – and I was always in pursuit of magic. Alas, my parents were not on board with my name-swap suggestion, so "Jennifer" I remained.

On another occasion, as an adult sorting through my deceased grandparents' possessions, I came across a receipt from the dawn of charge cards featuring my grandmother's John Hancock. At the dotted line she signed my grandfather's name with the prefix of "Mrs." I was touched by



THE CURIOUS COLUMNIST

Jennifer Silverman

the sentiment that a gal would be so proud of her marriage, she would forgo not just her maiden surname, but her first name when signing documents.

Thus, when I was preparing to tie the knot, I tried to embrace my name change ala the Silvermans who came before. Although my nagging inclination was to clutch my own name like a rare handbag, I eventually acquiesced out of respect for my future husband's wishes. Although I did make peace with my decision, the process of replacing "Silverman" over and over again at the boatloads of retailers with whom I was a patron did sting.

The practice of trading in the name we associate with ourselves and the whole of our lives up that point is a strange one. My given name was something that truly belonged to only me. It

embodied every iteration of my past and present identity. It seemed so peculiar that my life-long identifier would cease to exist post-wedding. Suddenly, I would be someone else.

I wonder if that's why so many future wives anticipate some monumental shift post-marriage. Like suddenly, life itself will begin anew, and feel different, because at least for many ladies, we are different after "I do" – even if only in name alone.

Although in reality, our names do not define us, they represent our journey and our origin. On some level, our names shape how the world sees us, and how we see ourselves. For all of her 12 years, Frances Gumm was a schoolgirl. One day, she morphed into Hollywood star Judy Garland. Average Joe, Marion Robert Morrison disappeared into thin air when he became Old West honcho John Wayne. What happened to Frances and Marion when their former identities were given the heave ho in favor of shiny new ones?

Although I know the discomfort of surrendering my given name for a new one, I'm just begin-

ning to know the relief of again, legally becoming my old one. A variety of snafus rendered me burdened with my ex's surname post-divorce for way too long. Just recently, a wonderful attorney triumphed over the obstacles and returned my original surname to its rightful owner. (So, my married name can finally jump in the metaphorical lake from whence it came.)

As I celebrated my return to myself by blasting the Pistol Annie's song, "Got My Name Changed Back," I belted out the lyric, "who I was, ain't who I'll be" with gusto. Like the Annies proclaim, it's a good feeling to be who we are and have a matching moniker to boot. Plus, it felt extra good indeed when I "got my name changed back."

Jennifer Silverman, the Curious Columnist, has served as a celebrity wardrobe stylist for hundreds of TV personalities and professional athletes. A few of her favorite projects include the Olympic Games, the Oscars and Inside Edition. Silverman and her Westie, Petunia, relocated from Manhattan to Amelia Island in 2019. Silverman may be reached at fashionmousenc@gmail.com.