

NEW YEAR, NEW TRENDS **Spice Up Your**

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Well, it's a new year. Filled with optimism and hope and, of course, a new year means new trends. So what's hot? From my recent trips to both the International Furniture Market and several smaller shows, there are definitely some trends that are coming on strong for 2012 and beyond. Here are just four.

GRAY IS THE NEW NEUTRAL

What do you get when you take black, a neutral, and mix it with white, a neutral? Answer: **gray**, the new neutral. Designers and manufacturers are in love with this color, which can feel cool or warm, masculine or feminine, all depending on what you pair it with. You can dress it up with glamour or dress it down with rustic texture and pattern. Think of a having a gray sofa or bedspread or painting a room in a soft gray. Every accent color looks great with gray—I especially love it with lavender or yellow.

GO FOR THE GOLD!

From jewelry to clothes, faucets to lamps, **gold** has come back. After a decade of silver's dominance, designers and artists have discovered gold's warmth again. Now, we are not talking polished brass but gold – warm and mellow. Brushed or polished, rustic or refined, gold can be used in everything from wall coverings to leathers,



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Home in 2012



Photo courtesy of Murray Feiss

fabrics and accents. It's a warm compliment to today's dominant blues and is a wonderful pairing with silver. (Yes, you can mix silver and gold in the same room! It is much more fun than sticking to one metal-tone for the entire space. In fact, I enjoy the play between these warm and cool metals.)

NAIL TRIMMING IT DOWN

Nailhead trim, whether in continuous rows or used sparingly and artistically, is another big trend seen in 2012. Once just a functional detail, nailhead studs have now emerged as a design detail that can add punch and whimsy to anything. From ottomans, to tables, screens and headboards, nailhead trim can elevate a simple profile into something wonderful. Patterns, finishes and shapes of the nail studs can contribute to an almost limitless combination. A great way to add pizzazz to a reclaimed piece of furniture, nailhead trim is both traditional and modern at the same time.

DO THE "TANGERINE TANGO"

If there is ever a quick and cost-effective way to update and renew a room, it's adding a new accent color. This year, Pantone—the world's color authority—has selected



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"Tangerine Tango" as the hottest color of 2012. This warm, exciting color is already appearing in fashion trends across the globe and just a small dose or two can completely transform your space. Think about painting just one wall behind your bed or sofa in this shade, or adding a new seat cushion to an accent chair or some pillows in this juicy color. Even a few well-placed accents in this hot color can give a room the extra "oomph" needed to stay current.

So, as you start off the New Year, pick a trend or maybe two, and move forward into a new look that reflects the latest styles and can keep your home looking fresh and renewed. **CS**

Would you like to have your design dilemma considered for an upcoming issue? Just send an e-mail to designerguy@haskellinteriors.com.

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