What's Hot

Special Report “Living Room”
The Heart of the Modern Living:
Tips on Living Room Design
and Renovation

Mayfair Penthouse - A Cool Make Over of a 60’s London Apartment
Special Coverage on the display of Italian Master Pieces from the 20th Century
Yin-Yang with Accents of Red

By Denise Turner, ASID, CID, CMG
Contributing Colour Editor

Yin & Yang exists in a state of ever changing interplay of opposites. Without Yin there can be no Yang, without Yang there can be no Yin. As one of the most fundamental theories of Feng Shui, Yin & Yang is the Chinese perspective of balance and contrast change.

The same thinking holds true in interior design. In recent years, black and white has continued to be the primary European home decor palette. It remains to be holding strong. This year’s Yin-Yang color palette with accents of red is getting acceptance in the US market too.

At the sleek Event Center in Las Vegas, Maison & Objet home furnishings show in Paris and Mega Home in the UK, classic design names that were emptying the stage for 2009 are on display here.

These colors are essential for giving us licence of what is going on in the world; they keep our finger on the pulse of up coming colors and trends.

Characteristics of Black & White

Black Associations: Simplicity, sophistication, sexy, bad luck, night, evil, power, death, mourning (sadness)
Black Atmosphere: Dark, mysterious, opulent, heavy, strong
White Association: Pure, purity, clarity, mourning (sadness), beautiful, white, bright, warm
White Atmosphere: Pure, clean, fresh, calm, cool, restful

God Is In The Details

Mies van der Rohe, Architect

Patterns are being simplified, with little ornamentation. These minimalistic designs look like one to three colors on screen, alludes with their play on light and dark. Some prevalent in everything from art work to fabrics. Beige and more beige as well as wood grain patterns, are emerging in fabrics and art work. Beige are also being incorporated into new grades. LCD lighting is being incorporated into furniture back, wood veneers many displaying wood grain are emerging. Saguaro are another popular pattern. Embroideries are being simplified, fabric art and gauze are becoming very tailored and minimalist. Lacework are becoming scarce. Art work in black and white, not seams are emerging. Photography, pattern and line and textures are becoming popular.

Styles

MODERN is the style of the show, it is characterized by straight lines and simple hardware. It is Shaker, Scandinavian and Asian. These timeless classics are embraced by many age groups from the young consumers to the baby boomers. They live to simplify, which is why this style is expected to remain popular for several years. Form follows function.

EUROPEAN MEDITERRANEAN is continuous, with its serene decoration design to the other side of the pond. These dramatic Spanish, Italian and French furniture styles are gaining in popularity as owners are venturing places, sourced from work, grape and olive view rooms. This trend is holding strong, it is expected to remain in style for several years.

SEA SIDE cottage is a style many furniture manufacturers are adopting.

Comfort is essential in this Shaker-like environment. Casual off white, wooden furniture, with light upholstery, is often seen in accents of pinks and roses.

This is a one part friendly style is accessorizes with rustic elements and beach coming treasures. It’s a weekend in the Hampton’s maybes, how far you live from the water.

ROMANTIC YOUNG WOMEN is fascinating, elegant and cute line in this, although the Colonial bedroom (left). Cushions now combine with years of pastel tones, boxes and scuffed plates, combined with antique iron bed and canopy bed. The fabrics are yesterdays and elegant white brocade one of white gauzematter, its for princesses in training.
Look At Me I’m Green

Environmental issues are affecting colours. From Green Design to using authentic natural materials all of which are having a greater impact on colours. With Green manufacturing on the rise Eco Friendly companies are becoming more environmentally friendly. Companies that are already Eco Friendly, continue business as usual. However many home furnishing manufacturers do not have a proactive past; there has been a great deal of energy consumption, raw materials, water and air pollution and too little waste associated with the manufacturing of their products.

Maison & Objet

Color was not the star of the show at Maison & Objet Home Furnishing Show in Paris. This year’s trend is the mass of the space. The black and white palette has been the focus of form, texture and pattern, with interplay of shadows and light. For easy, Black and white designs a simple, easy and luxurious look for the remainder of us. It is a bold look building upon the success of whispers of white, then black, then black and white then white again with a corpus of black. Some will be the inevitable European, home decor palette. Consumers continue to seek anything classy such as patent leather or vinyl that reflects the light, however more sophisticated and less bling bling.

American Made

With the trend of import products, combined with the outsourcing of manufacturing abroad resulting in lack of jobs in the US, companies who manufacture in the US proudly displayed their "American Made" signs. This grass roots, home pride trend is anticipated to generate more manufacturing efforts in the US. Also expected to emerge from this trend are American made arts.