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**What's Hot**

**Special Report "Living Room"**  
*The Heart of the Modern Living:  
Tips on Living Room Design  
and Renovation*

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*connecting interior design & space globally*



**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**



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## Yin-Yang with Accents of Red

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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 continual change.

The same theories hold 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 gaining acceptance in the US market too.

At the World Market Center in Las Vegas, Maison & Objet home furnishings show in Paris and High Point in North Carolina, the hottest design trends that were setting the stage for 2009 were on display. These shows are essential for giving us litmus 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 (western)

**Black Attributes:** Elegant, mysterious, sophisticated, worldly, powerful

**White Associations:** Calm, purity, sterility, mourning (East) brides (west) blank canvas

**White Attributes:** Pure, clean, fresh, modern, neat



## God Is In The Details

Mies van der Rohe, Architect

Patterns are being simplified, with little demotion. These minimalist designs looked like one to three color silk screens; silhouettes with their play on light and dark were prevalent in everything from art work to fabrics. Twigs and more twigs as well as wood grain patterns, are emerging in fabrics and art work. Twigs are also being incorporated into case goods. LED lighting is being incorporated into furniture; back lit, wood veneer inlays displaying wood grain are emerging. Squiggles are another popular pattern. Embellishments are being understated. Upholstery, beading and pillow details are becoming highly tailored and minimalist; tassels are becoming scarce. Art work in black and white; not sepia are emerging. Photography, pen and ink and sketches are becoming popular.

## Styles

**MODERN** is the star 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 like its simplicity which is why this style is expected to remain popular for several years. Form follows function.

**EUROPEAN MEDITERRANEAN** luxurious, with its ornate decoration swings to the other side of the pendulum. These dramatic, Spanish, Italian and French formal styles are gaining in popularity. Its details are Venetian plaster, scrolled iron work, grape and olive vine motifs. This trend is holding strong; it is expected to remain in style for several years. It's a villa in Tuscany.



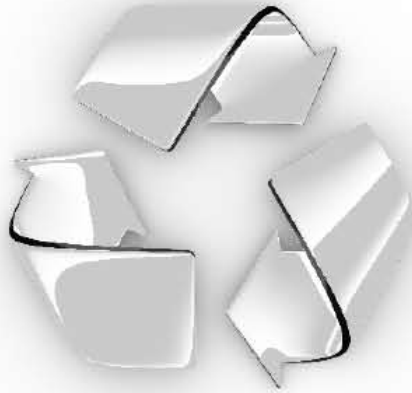
**SEA SIDE COTTAGE** is a style many furniture manufacturers are adopting.

Comfort is essential; it is Shabby Chic refined. Casual off white, wooden furniture, with light upholstery, is often seen in schemes of palettes of light blue and yellow.

This kid and pet friendly style is accessorized with nautical elements and beach combing treasures. It's a weekend in the Hampton's regardless of how far you live from the water.

**ROMANTIC YOUNG WOMEN** is feminine, opulent style (like in this Jessica Mc Clintock bedroom set). Cabbage rose coverlets with yards of pink ribbon, bows and ruffled pillows combined with antique ivory slay and canopy beds. The fabrics are Victorian and elegant; window treatments are of white gossamer. It's for princesses in training.





## Look At Me I'm Green

Environmental issues are affecting colors. From Green Design to using authentic natural materials all of which are having a greater impact on colors. With Green manufacturing on the rise Eco Friendly companies proudly displayed their environmental policies; companies that are already Eco Friendly, touted business as usual. However many home furnishing manufacturers do not have a pristine past; there has been a great deal of energy consumption, raw material, water and air pollution and land fill waste associated with the manufacturing of their products.



## American Made

With the recall of imported 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" sign. 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.



## Maison & Objet

Color was not the star of the show at Maison & Objet Home Furnishing Show in Paris. This year's Yin-Yang palette offered few restrained surprises. The black and white palette gave focus to form, textures and pattern, with interplay of shadows and light. For many, Black and White represents simple, chic and luxurious; for the remainder of us, it is a déjà vu recalling recent succession of seasons of white, then black, then black and white, and then white again (with a dollop of black) have become the inevitable European, home decor palette. Consumers continue to seek anything shiny. Such as patent leather or vinyl, that reflects the light, however more sophisticated and less bling-bling.

Metals were a trend held over from last year, which were seen on gold snakeskin boots and matte silver handbags.

