

ASK THE DESIGNER: Upcoming Home Décor Trends

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We have just returned from our trip to the High Point Furniture Market and can't wait to tell you all about our fabulous finds! The High Point trade show is the leading furniture and home decor show in North America, where trends are set and seen industry-wide. Every six months more than 75,000 people head to North Carolina for this amazing event that takes place with more than 2,000 exhibitors from over 100 countries. There is so much to see and we get to see the latest design trends take shape. We've put together a trend report so that you too can be 'in the know' and have an idea of what's coming to the Niche Decor showroom.

1. Black and Gold

Black and gold are the current home decor dream team. It's a take on traditional, but we're seeing it with modern updates. This gorgeous pairing was everywhere ? lighting, furniture and accessories. There were dining tables and chairs with gold bases, black upholstery with gold or brass studs, and there was no shortage of beautiful cushions and fabrics featuring this stylish duo. If you're not ready to change your whole home's colour scheme, you can subtly introduce these hues into your space using photo frames, mirrors, art, or by simply switching up the hardware on your furniture.

2. Industrial

The industrial look is still going strong. We saw a lot of exposed frames, mixed metals and materials such as concrete, stone, along with reclaimed and unfinished woods. What was interesting to see was this rustic and masculine look being introduced into traditional and more formal spaces. A beautiful white kitchen had industrial metal pendants for lighting and rustic counter stools. We also saw an island with a concrete countertop which created the perfect contrast to the stone countertops in the rest of the kitchen ? absolutely stunning.

3. Texture

Layers, layers, layers. Whether it be the layering of art, fabrics, or other materials, this was the look in almost every showroom. To layer on walls, mirrors are being hung over a table or buffet and art is being set upon the table and leaned up against the mirror. The more art and the more layers, the better. There was a ton of textile layering as well. We especially loved the layers added from embossing on cabinet fronts. As we get into the winter season toss pillows, throws, plush rugs and ottomans are really important for warming a space up. Don't be afraid to layer your fabrics too. A leather sofa with knit cushions and a fur throw is both stylish and practical for the cooler months ahead.

4. Back to Nature

Introducing natural elements to any space is already something that we love to do at Niche, but it's becoming easier now with an amazing selection of new products. Designers have started to incorporate more of Mother Nature's gifts into their furniture and décor items. We're seeing lots of alabaster being used in lamp bases, raw wood centerpieces and live edge dining tables. Hand-made items are becoming more and more popular as well ? the live edge tables we feature in our showroom are all made to order with the wood's natural texture and knots being the feature. Only water-based seal and natural stains are used. We've saw a huge number of large scale animal photography and art prints, as well as other nature-based designs like table bases fashioned after molecules.

5. Colour

Contrary to looks we have seen in the past, colour was at the forefront of the market this season. In the past there were a lot of neutral looks with bold pops of colour being introduced via accessories. Now, colour is being used as the new neutral. We saw black walls, smoky purples, navy blue and emerald greens. Having a darker wall is so unexpected. It breathes new life into a room and lets the furniture stand out. Here at Niche we practice what we preach. We were so inspired by this look that we just HAD to come back and recreate it in our showroom. Our new dark walls are getting amazing reactions from clients and designers alike.

Our orders have been placed and merchandise should start rolling in shortly. Make sure to stop by the showroom and check out all of our new finds. We've also posted our finds from the Market on our Facebook and Instagram accounts so be sure to take a look! We

can't wait to hear about your favourites!

Feel free to send me your comments or questions to askjean@nichedecor.ca