IDENTIFY YOUR INTERIOR DESIGN STYLE

Interior design options for homeowners are vast. Styles contrast with some looks based entirely on functionality and efficiency while other styles share overlapping elements. With so many styles, homeowner’s have the option of following a specific genre closely or tailoring a mixture of genres into their homes. Before choosing a style, get to know all your options with this comprehensive guide to the most popular styles amongst homeowners today.
MODERN

These sleek interiors are open and airy, with minimal clutter. Simple color schemes are chosen for walls, ceilings, doors, cabinets, and light fixtures. A neutral palette using grey, cream, white, or black is most often used. However, colorful palettes can be used to create a bolder appearance if desired. Regardless of the color palette, the variation of colors used is kept to a minimum for a given space.

This interior design style uses functional decorations like light fixtures. Unique, yet minimalist, light fixtures add to the appearance of the space without cluttering it or distracting from the other incorporated elements. Often times, Scandinavian light fixture designs are mimicked.

This “no fuss” style is ideal for rental spaces, open floor plan spaces, and urban apartments. The sleek lines and bare aesthetic create a pristine and sophisticated atmosphere. The style is non-distracting and clean in appearance, making it a popular design choice for office and event spaces.

Main elements of Modern interior design:

- Open spaces
- Clutter-free
- Uniform layout
- Non-ornamental cabinetry
- Simple furniture and minimal decorations
- Utilizes metal, glass, and polished wood
- Simple color palette
- Geometric shapes and hard lines
- Unique light fixtures
CONTEMPORARY

This style overlaps with modern and transitional, but has its own defining characteristics. Contemporary interior design is much more a reflection of “current” decor. The look is never outdated or overstated in appearance, but instead takes on a refined and approachable appearance.

This style is often seen in family homes, as it is functional yet attractive. Natural textures, materials, and colors are key elements to pulling off this look. It relies heavily on traditional materials like stained woods. These interiors have a soft aesthetic and use warm lighting to create an inviting atmosphere.

Perhaps the biggest of strength of contemporary is that it’s able to evolve while maintaining a classic aesthetic. Therefore, a space designed in this style can easily be updated without making major changes to its appearance.

Main elements of Contemporary interior design:

- Natural textures and materials
- Classic appearance
- Wood as main material
- Metal accents
- Neutral colors for walls, doors, and fixtures
- Utilizes natural light
Minimalism has become very popular in recent years. It's a style based on efficiency and practicality. Colors for ceilings, cabinetry, and floors are generally muted tones, white and grey are commonly used for walls. Lighting is purely functional and never overly decorative. Minimalist design works well for both small and large spaces. Generally, this design is popular for open-floor plans and works well with natural lighting.

This interior design style is popular amongst younger generations and are ideal for individuals who don't spend much time at home. Since this style is based on functionality, it is also ideal for office and event spaces.

Main elements of Minimalist design:

- Non-ornate cabinetry and trim
- Neutral, light colors
- Functional
- Minimal installations and furniture
- Simple lighting
MID-CENTURY MODERN

This design style takes a sleeker and more refined approach to looks from the 1950s and 1960s. Mid-century style has always been based on functionality, which increased the popularity of the style during its original era and has encouraged its resurgence today. It’s a timeless style that you can expect to see in the spotlight for years to come. Older and younger generations alike are pursuing this interior design style for their homes.

This style is most successful when the home fits the look entirely. It works well with 1-story ranchers and large bay windows. The look incorporates flat-faced cabinetry with simple handles, hardwood floors, and retro light fixtures to create a nostalgic atmosphere. Furniture and decor should be kept to a minimal and hints of the present era should accent the mid-century aesthetic.

Main elements of Mid-Century Modern design:

- Uses wide-range of colors, especially tertiary tones
- Clean lines
- Soft textiles
- Decorative light fixtures
- Bay windows
- Teak wood
This style pairs a “raw” aesthetic with utilitarian installations and lighting. Minimal furnishings are used to achieve this look and quite often composed of salvaged items. Or, the items can take on the appearance and textures of salvaged materials. Reclaimed wood and metal are popular elements for this design style.

Older buildings and warehouse styled spaces carry this interior design style well. Open-floor plans, brick walls, and concrete floors are often incorporated into this design style. In addition, metal cabinetry and exposed ceiling beams further enhance this unfinished look.

Main elements of Industrial design:

- Salvaged appearance for fixtures and lighting
- Brick walls
- Reclaimed wood and metal
- Raw aesthetic
- Concrete floors
BOHEMIAN

This style stands on its own but is comparable to an eclectic style. It borrows and fuses elements from other styles in a successful manner. It’s a style that borrows from the East, with large Mediterranean archways and sometimes ornate decorative metal work on cabinetry, doors, or mantles. It incorporates bold colors, patterns, and elegance with a touch of rustic flair.

Bohemian is so freeing, because it allows homeowners to mix and match with playful variety. However, there is always a balance to be maintained. When it comes to this design style, a neutral base is key to adding in bolder elements. For instance, boldly colored and patterned tile flooring should be offset by neutrally painted walls. By following this rule, you’ll avoid creating a chaotic and over decorated space.

Main elements of Bohemian design:

- Eclectic mix of textures and colors
- Ornate and decorative
- Rustic and elegant
- Embraces contrast
- Custom fixtures
RUSTIC

Rough-hewn wooden ceiling beams, unpolished barn-wood floors, and warm low lighting, these are all characteristics of what you’ll encounter in a truly rustic home. Traditionally, this is a style that is represented by cabins and farmhouses.

Today, elements from this style are being used in more “current” homes. Custom barn-wood features for cabinets and shelving add a rustic country-side charm to interior spaces. Rustic metal and clean iron are used as accent materials, but the main focus remains on weathered wood. Driftwood, barn-wood, reclaimed wood, or wood that has been altered to appear weathered can be incorporated into this interior design style.

Main elements of rustic design:

- Reclaimed wood, including barn-wood and driftwood
- Matte tones, no glossy wood or finishes
- Chunky ceiling beams
- Brown and gray color schemes
- Soft low lighting
HOLLYWOOD GLAM

This bold style embraces dramatic stair cases, open-air indoor balconies, high chandelier lighting, decorative molding, and ornate fire places. It contrast to the previously discussed styles, Hollywood Glam celebrates plush textures and pronounced elegance. It's a bold style that makes a statement, incorporating rich bright colors including pinks, reds, deep blues, and royal purples.

Main elements of Hollywood Glam design:

• Makes a statement
• Dramatic design
• Works in large spaces
• Bright colors and contrasts
• Ornate installations
COASTAL

Soft tones and hues, curved lines, and natural lighting create a relaxed atmosphere for this style. The color scheme embraces pastel greens, blues, and grays. White walls or glass walls are imperative to creating an airy effect.

This style takes neither a minimalist or overly ornate approach. It is both functional and decorative with a “down-to-earth” feel. Though most often used to decorate beachside homes, this interior design style can successfully be incorporated into suburban style homes and apartments. A major strength for this style is that it translates well into any sized space. Natural woods and driftwoods enhance the effectiveness of this style.

Main elements of coastal design:

- Bright natural light
- Cool and pastel tones
- Soft lines
- Large windows
- Functional, yet decorative
- Natural woods
VICTORIAN

This style works well with older Victorian homes and for homeowner’s who love antiques. It’s a luxurious and elegant taste that is anything but simple or utilitarian. This interior design style uses deep rich, dark color palates and bold patterns. The walls are commonly covered in patterned bold wall paper and the floors are built from dark-hued solid wood. Stained wood and large windows are popular in Victorian homes, while dramatic chandeliers and large fireplaces are also not uncommon.

This era of design predates many of the more simplistic, no frill designs that are popular today. However, elements from this style remain popular and are often incorporated into home design in a functional fashion.

Main elements of Victorian design:

- Deep rich colors
- Bold wallpaper
- Ornate chandeliers and fireplaces
- Ornate trim
- Prominent staircases
- Dramatic windows and stained glass
TRADITIONAL

This style plays on elements from old world Europe. Classic European design uses ornate moldings, dark cherry wood, and organic lines. It contrasts dark reds, browns, blacks, and blues against lighter earth tones. This style incorporates luxurious textiles like silk and velvet. Though less popular amongst interior designers today, elements of this style are still widely used.

Main elements of Traditional interior design:

- Elaborate molding
- Wood paneling
- Built-in cabinetry
- Vibrant colors contrasted with earth tones
- Intricate tiling
- Wood floors and cabinetry
- Low lighting
TRANSITIONAL

This is one of the most popular styles among designers right now because it allows them to pull items from different time periods and design genres. It has a curated and decorative appearance that is uncluttered and functional. It’s a style that looks complete, using lacquered finishes, neutral color palettes, and varied textures.

It contrasts from more eclectic styles because it maintains a simple appearance. While using elements from various design styles, this interior design style manages to remain fairly “bare-bones” without appearing incomplete. The most important element to completing this style successfully is balance.

Main elements of Transitional interior design:

- Balanced appearance
- Mix of materials: wood, glass, steel, textiles
- Lacquered finishes
- Neutral color palette
- Decorative in a tightly curated fashion
- Blends design styles and periods
ART DECO

Art Deco has a unique and distinct appearance pulling from the parlor style of the 1920s and the contemporary art world. In the early 1900s, this style became quite popular in Europe and the United States. Influenced heavily by Art Nouveau and Cubism, it’s an artistic and streamlined style.

What makes Art Deco interiors most unique is the variation in materials used. Stained glass, jade, ivory, granite, and chrome can all be found incorporated into this style. Commonly, these materials are used as ornamental details in counters, cabinets, doors, and windows. Tiled flooring and walls are a signature statement of this interior design style.

Main elements of Art Deco design:

• Bold tiles
• Smooth lines
• Geometric shapes
• Glam functional
• Manmade and natural materials
• 1920s flair
• Intentional symmetry
SHABBY CHIC

This endearing style translates well into small spaces and cottages. It has an appearance that reads “DIY” to viewers, but is actually quite carefully planned. Elegant and distressed elements are carefully combined to create a charmed atmosphere. Peeling paint on walls, doors, and furniture is very popular amongst this style.

Floral prints and chalk paint are key to the success of pulling off a truly shabby chic look. The color palette varies, but is generally composed of white, off-white, and pastel purple, pink, or blue. If you love the mixture of country and feminine styles, then this style will resonate well with you.

Main elements of Shabby Chic interior design:

- Peeling paint, distressed finishes
- Chalk paint floors and doors
- Translates well into small spaces
- Cozy, country, and feminine
- Pastel and floral prints
Now that you’re acquainted with the most popular interior design styles, you may be torn between which style(s) to choose. Fortunately, by mixing and matching with the 80/20 rule, you can successfully incorporate multiple styles into your home. The 80/20 rule prevents incorporating elements that work against one another, as well as from over-mixing.

It’s important to note that successful interior design begins with the space itself. If the space isn’t translating clearly than furniture and decorations will only disrupt the appearance of a room further. Begin by addressing the basics like walls, floors, doors, cabinets, appliances, and lighting. Making these changes will completely transform your space and give you a solid foundation to build upon.