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HOMING IN ON SPRING TRENDS

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INTERIORS
TRENDS

HOME LIFE

With spring right around the corner it's the perfect time to give your home a refresh. We've enlisted some of Cardiff's interior design experts to share their tips on the latest trends and how to make them work for you

By EMMA DANCE



Jewel Scnaley Interiors could help you make your home look as good as this!

“

PICTURE
THE COLOUR
COMBINATIONS FROM
MOTHER EARTH
HERSELF AND YOU
CAN'T GO WRONG

”

NATURAL SELECTION

As spring arrives, and the trees and plants outside begin to burst into life, it's only natural that thoughts begin to turn to nature. And there's no reason why you can't bring the colours from outside, into your home.

“The trend for all things grey and neutral is very much alive and kicking but a generous sprinkling of spring blues and greens injects an element of vibrancy into the mix, perfect after a long, dull winter,” says Ceri Hill, design director at Chalkhouse, which specialises in bespoke kitchens and bedrooms. “Picture the colour combinations from Mother Nature herself and you can't go wrong. Natural stone features heavily in both floors and worktops – it's the muted colours and organic textures that appeal and add depth to a scheme. Add in some glossy nickel to lift the spirits and give a touch of luxe to create a kitchen that will stand the test of time. ▷



Luxury shelving from Trendy Products looks stylish dressed with greenery



One of Project One's super-stylish projects

"If you're starting your project from scratch it's easy, but if you already have a neutral toned kitchen, paint is one of the easiest and cheapest ways to transform your home. You could use a bold kingfisher blue on just one wall, add jugs of fresh greenery, a textural throw over a chair or add vibrant coloured fabric at the windows to capture the look."

"Green is the perfect springtime colour," agrees Rufus Bowen, UK sales and operations director of furniture retailer Trendy Products. "Not only is it good to look at, but we can also make ourselves feel better by surrounding ourselves with greens." And adding a hint of green, doesn't mean that you have to make any major décor changes. It could be as simple as just introducing some greenery. "You could dress a luxury shelving unit with healthy, air-cleaning greens," continues Rufus. "Or, if you want the look but not the admin, we have some amazing artificial plants which give you the look but without ever needing to water."

"The lushness of greenery in house plants and living walls is bringing the outside in," adds Dorian Bowen, head of creative thought at interior design specialists, Project One. "Large bloom prints are the prints for the season."

Gail Jones, co-owner of Haus Contemporary Furnishings which specialises in made-to-measure blinds and curtains is also seeing plenty of fans of foliage coming through her doors. "Botanical has gone crazy!" she says. "Fabrics, cushions, bedding and towels will all bear palm leaves and cheese plant designs. Remember though, that less



On-trend earth tones from Jewel Scanley Interiors

INTERIORS TRENDS



Add pops of colour with soft furnishings, like these from The Place for Home

is more, and select one on-trend statement piece with one or two new on-trend accessories rather than packing the latest look in to everything.”

“Accessories and soft furnishings continue to be key trends with leafy botanicals as accents to luxurious velvet sofas and a mixture of textures becoming a big thing this season,” adds Rhian Francis, managing director of independent furniture store The Place for Homes. “Cushions and throws are popular in wools and with lots of embellishments and appliqué details all irresistible to the touch.”

Adding a touch of nature doesn't necessarily have to mean big and bright, however.

“There are a lot of watercolour florals making an appearance,” says Hayley Perkins, interior design consultant at Jewel Scanley Interiors. “It may not be for everyone, but if used wisely it can complement some more earthy tones you may have.”

“We're seeing very soft, muted tones coming in this spring, both in paints and soft furnishings,” adds Christian Brookfield, kitchens and interiors manager at Topstak which specialises in high-quality kitchens, wood-burning stoves and fireplaces. “Neptune paints, which we stock, have ▷



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Bursts of spring colour in this Chalkouse kitchen

INTERIORS TRENDS

brought out a very sophisticated, subtle shade called Old Rose, which is particularly attractive. This, like other Neptune colours, is inspired by nature and helps create a very restful ambience in a room. As almost everyone leads a very busy, and sometimes stressful life, it's important to have an antidote to that and create an area in the home where it's possible to wind down. Shades like Old Rose are ideal for a sitting room and can be paired with slightly stronger colours such as walnut to create some contrast and definition."

At floor specialists, Floored Genius, it's not just in styling that they're seeing the nature having an impact.

"Homeowners are starting to consider the impact on the environment with their major purchasing decisions," says managing director Sean McIntyre. "Not just with the flooring material itself, but with the way it is packaged, disposal methods and the long-term cleaning and maintenance requirements.

"We have a new product, MC Poured Eco, which is an environmentally-friendly poured floor made from natural, renewable materials. It retains the beauty of poured flooring, but without the need for the harmful chemicals that are often found in poured resin floors."

THE BOLD AND THE BEAUTIFUL

If you like to make a statement with your interior design, then this season's vibrant hues will appeal.

"We're seeing vibrant colours making a bold entrance this spring," says Dorian. "Red is making a big statement."

"Colour is set to be stronger this spring," adds Gail. "Grey will remain popular, but with the addition of violet, emerald green, navy, or earthy shades of ochre and terracotta."

Rhian agrees. "The trend continues to move towards moody blues, violets and the new striking emerald and ochre are coming through as popular sofa choices," she says.

"Bold use of colour in any living space can totally transform the feel of the room," adds Rufus.

But such striking tones need a careful touch. "It can be challenging to know how to use accent colours so they don't become overpowering and it is good to be aware of the context they are being used in," says Dorian. "When incorporating the vibrant colours, choose one vivid colour and use it in key furniture pieces to make a statement," he advises. You can have fun with paint block colours in each of your rooms and add colour or depth by juxtaposing a dark tone with a pastel colour." ▷

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A neutral colour scheme, like in this Topstak kitchen, is the ideal base for adding splashes of colour



INTERIORS TRENDS

“The latest bold colours may overwhelm homes so introduce carefully,” agrees Gail. “This can be achieved by painting rather than papering a wall.”

It can be surprisingly easy to add a splash of colour to your home, however. “A lot of people have gone with a grey base tone in their homes so this trends is fantastic for updating the season,” says Hayley. “Add bold block colour sparingly to a feature chair or footstool and don’t forget items that are less committal, like scatter cushions, which are also great if you want to update regularly for seasonal trends.”

“Often choosing a neutral colour that can be accented with scatter cushions and accessories can reflect the season’s colour palette can ensure your room looks on-trend but without having to change key pieces every season,” adds Rhian.

Whatever shade you go for, however, the key is not to rush into it, especially if you’re going big.

“You have to look at the room in daylight and after dark and assess how your chosen colour or colours work in different lights,” advises Christian. “A shade can look very different with bright sunlight flooding in than it appears after dark with the lamps lit. It’s worth taking the time to choose the colour for you rather than rushing in and choosing something you later feel the need to paint over.

“Spending time in the early stages reaps benefits and the colour scheme in your chosen room will give you pleasure for years to come.” **CL**



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Flooring Genius can provide environmentally friendly flooring solutions for your home



All the green appeal, none of the gardening, thanks to Trendy Products

ASK THE EXPERTS:

Adam Elliot, Vale Business Park, Llandow, Cowbridge; Tel: 01446 677171; www.adamelliott.co.uk

Chalkhouse, 3 Bessemer Close; Tel: 029 2023 3308; www.chalkhouseinteriors.co.uk

Curtain Raisers, 2 Kelston Road; Tel: 029 2061 4966; www.curtain-raisers.co.uk

Haus Contemporary Furnishings, 6C Heol-Y-Deri; Tel: 029 2061 1372; www.haus-cardiff.co.uk

Floored Genius, The Business Centre - Cardiff House, Cardiff Road, Barry; Tel: 01446 746555; www.flooredgenius.com

Jewel Scanley, 2 Glebe Street, Penarth; Tel: 029 2070 7779; www.jewelscanley.co.uk

Natuzzi, Havannah Street; 029 2048 8698; www.cardiff.natuzzi.co.uk

Project One, 3 Glebe Street, Penarth; Tel: 029 2140 6283; www.projectone.com

SMC Kitchens, Unit 5B Hepworth Business Park, Coedcae Lane, Rhondda Cynon Taff, Pontyclun; Tel: 01443 449759; www.smckitchens.co.uk

The Place for Homes, 1 Sutton Road, Llandow, Cowbridge; Tel: 01446 772927

Topstak, Vale Business Park, Llandow, Cowbridge; Tel: 01446 771567; www.topstak.co.uk

Trendy Products, Unit 4, Havannah Street; Tel: 0345 299 4211; www.trendy-products.co.uk