

Furniture & Design Trends





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Harmonizing Wood Tones

A variety of wood tones can lend a warm, cozy feel to a home, but using too many shades or textures can give it a more chaotic feel than intended.

By following just a few simple principles, though, you can keep your wood-shaded home feeling peaceful and calm, like the oasis it should be.

USE THE RULE OF THREES

Avoid having more than three wood shades in a single room to achieve a look that's layered and cozy without being disorganized. At the same time, don't keep it to all one shade, which can make a space look flat.

Apartment Therapy experts suggest setting a hierarchy of wood tones. The base tone is what you see the most of. It's the wood flooring or the largest piece of wood furniture in the room. Use contrasting tones as a secondary design element to add depth and accent shades for smaller vintage pieces or shelving.

UNDERTONES MATTER

Choose all your wood shades in the same undertones — warm, cool or neutral — but feel free to play around with this. If you find it difficult to match undertones, try seeking pieces with the same species of wood in different stains or shades. To find the undertone of your wood pieces, look beyond the surface color in natural daylight. Warm undertones will be red, orange or yellow while cooler tones are gray or blue.

Neutral undertones are beige or brown. Use white paper to contrast against the wood and highlight hidden colors.

CREATE BALANCE

When you're mixing wood tones, make sure the same tones are dispersed throughout the space instead of grouped together, which can overwhelm the space or create a disorganized vibe. Don't be afraid of using lighter and darker tones or even vintage, reclaimed wood to add character to your home. To create balance, coordinate the wood tones throughout the entire home, which can make everything feel tied together. Take sightlines as well as individual rooms into account when you're placing pieces. Use bridge pieces that contain both light and dark tones to tie spaces together.

Convertible Home Offices

Multifunctional home office spaces hinge (pun intended) on space-saving furniture pieces that serve several purposes.

The good news is there are lots of creative, functional quality pieces that can help your room seamlessly transition from office to guest room.

DESKS

As an office space, the desk is the center of attention. But as a guest room, the desk needs to slip silently into the background. Consider these options for keeping desks functional but able to slip into the background:

- **Murphy beds with desks:** These pieces of furniture look like a console table, but transform into a bed for guests. For maximum functionality, look for a murphy bed with an integrated desk that stays level. There are even options that can allow you to work from the bed.

- **Fold-down desks:** These desks are mounted to the wall and fold out when needed. Then you can turn them into a decorative shelf or a mirror or other decorative piece when needed.

- **Armoire:** For those who need more storage space for their hidden offices, consider a larger piece such as an armoire. Close the doors and poof, the office is gone (mostly).



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LIGHTING

Offices should be light and bright while guest rooms should be warm, calming oases. Choose lighting that can do both, go from cooler to warmer with just a switch or by using an app. Lighting should be varied, both in

tones and in heights around the room. Choose fixtures that can easily make the transition from office to bedroom. Be aware of any light that tech gives off, such as computers and routers, and make sure it's hidden when you switch to bedroom mode.

CREATE ZONES

If you have enough space, create zones by using elements such as rugs and furniture pieces to separate the work space from the living space.

Consider storage options such as rolling storage carts

and decorative bins that can hide office clutter away while serving to delineate work space and resting space.

These pieces can hide work items such as notebooks and even cables and other work items that can disrupt serene spaces.



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Creating a Sunny Sanctuary

Sunrooms can be a bright oasis in the home but they are accompanied by design challenges.

Furniture needs to be durable enough to withstand bright sunlight but cozy and comfortable. Orient pieces to take the best advantage of abundant natural light and the views of the outdoors. Here are some ways to design the perfect sunny sanctuary for every season.

TEMPERATURE CONTROL

With sunlight comes heat. Battle

that by installing ceiling fans and portable HVAC units for the warmer months. In colder months, use a fireplace or portable heaters to keep it cozy. Keep blankets or portable fans for bridging the seasons. Use window treatments with thermal properties, such as honeycomb shades, to help regulate the temperature.

FLOORING

Sunrooms are meant to meld the inside with the out. Avoid carpets in favor of hard surfaces such as tile or stone. Choose flooring surfaces that are durable and easy to clean as well as a color that can stand up to the constant beating of the sun.

FURNISHINGS

Furniture and textiles, such as cushions or rugs, should be durable, sun-safe and fade resistant. Look for fabrics that withstand intense UV rays. Furniture needs to be lightweight and durable and textiles should be easy-care and sun-safe.

COLOR PALETTE

Opt for light or neutral wall and furniture colors. These make the spaces feel bright and open and can fare better with the sun's harsh rays. If you enjoy pops of color, do that with accent pieces and accessories. You can line the room with sun-friendly plants scattered throughout the room at

varying heights.

LIGHTING

Even though it's a sunroom, you'll still need lighting for evening hours or cloudy days. Floor lamps are great choices as are string lights, which can give a more festive feel. Put lights on dimmers to give occupants options for brighter lights or a more cozy atmosphere.

PRIVACY

If the sunroom is situated where outsiders can see, consider installing sheer curtains, Roman shades or other window treatments to avoid harsh sunlight and provide privacy.

Revamping the Mudroom



Mudrooms are the hidden treasures of the home. They're often the first spaces people see and need to be durable, functional spaces that provide a comfortable drop zone.

The furniture, walls and flooring in the space should all be durable and easy to clean. These spaces should be designed to maximize organization and accessibility. Here's how to do it.

FURNITURE AND BUILT-INS

Use cabinets, armoires or custom built-in pieces to hold individual family members' coats, boots, sporting goods and more. Provide seating to make it easier for people to remove boots. Include wall hooks for coats and bags. Maximize small spaces by using vertical storage. Choose finishes that are glossy for easy clean-up. Have lots of drawers or space for decorative bins to keep clutter hidden.

FLOORING

Select flooring that is durable and easy to clean. Use mats to keep it as clean as possible. The mud room has to hold up to abuse, such as water, snow, mud and more. Consider large-format tiles to minimize grout exposure. Use trays on the floor to store shoes off the floor. These should be durable and easy to clean; just take them outside and spray them off. If you use rugs, consider washable rugs that can be easily and quickly cleaned.

ROOM FOR PETS

Use the mudroom to add a functional space for pets. Install a dog-wash station or a built-in dog bed as well as secure storage for pet food and hooks for leashes as well as baskets or bins for toys and other accessories. Put in a small trash can to catch garbage that would normally get brought into or left in the house.

CREATE A MESSAGE CENTER

As part of a mudroom makeover, consider adding in a family message center with a chalkboard or whiteboard for messages and a peg board for notes, calendars, school papers and more. Add a mail center and hooks for keys. Consider installing a small desk, maybe even a folding desk to maximize space, to handle quick tasks such as paying bills or signing permission slips.

The Return of Cozy Colors

Color palettes are warming up again, trending away from the cool grays and stark whites of recent years in favor of creamy off-whites and rich earth tones.

Spaces are going away from stark minimalism into personalized, cozy spaces that offer people familiarity and comfort in the home. And while big colors are back, bold design isn't so much. Instead, these colors appear in more intentional ways designed to elevate the space.

Turn to these colors if you're redecorating this year.

WARM NEUTRALS

Where once Agreeable Gray reigned, now there's camel, beige and creamy off-whites. These create a warm, cozy look that's slowly come back since the pandemic and is now fully on-trend. Pair these with earth tones such as walnut brown, terracotta shades and toasty dusty pinks. You can turn to deep browns and cognacs, pairing them with the lighter colors that can really bring out depth.

BIOPHILIC PALETTES

Turn to the natural world for inspiration. Look for warm greens and sunny yellows along with deep blues. And yes, there's gray, too, but look for warmer undertones rather than the cooler grays previously



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popular. Jewel tones in deep greens, reds and burgundies are also having moment and work well with the neutral accents popular now.

YELLOW

Butter yellow tones are back, too, and are great for creating

pops of sunshine around the house. Pair with earthy blues, pinks and greens to create an inviting space. You can also go hotter with retro orange notes that harken back to the 1970s in the best possible way. Instead of neon, think rich, deep color. Accent colors for oranges and

yellows can be luxe purples or soft blues if you don't want more beige in the mix.

TEXTURES

It's not only the colors that are important. Texture is making a big comeback. Adding texture in the form of rugs,

pillows, cushions, throws and even wallpaper creates depth and creates a layered look that invites rest and relaxation. Add in woven baskets, plush rugs and throws, textured wall art, fiber art and more. Choose timeless pieces that break up flat surfaces.

Details Dripping with Quiet Luxury

Quiet luxury is a type of understated elegance that emphasizes quality and sensory comfort over more ostentatious displays of wealth.

In the home, this means focusing on high-end, natural materials such as honed marble and burnished woods, contrasted with premium fabrics that are touchable, such as cashmere and linen.

FLOORING CHOICES

Choose flooring that is soothing and neutral with an emphasis on durability and acoustics. Walking on it feels muted and luxurious. To capture the quiet luxury feel, textures and patterns are minimalist and sophisticated without being overbearing. Flooring flows throughout the home and makes it feel cohesive. Add a high-quality acoustic underlayment to keep floors quiet and give them a cushioned feel.

COLOR PALETTES

Look for muted, desaturated, and warm tones that are inspired by nature. The palette doesn't have a lot of bold swathes of color or high contrast splashes, but instead is more sophisticated, even elegant. The feeling is softness and comfort; a whisper instead of a shout.

LIGHTING

Again, the materials are what is important here. Choose timeless fixtures that are high in quality and avoid harsh glare. Select fixtures that are dimmable with matte finishes. Stack several features in one room for layers of illumination that create an inviting glow.

Indirect lighting and uplighting can reflect light off surfaces, adding more depth and creating shadows.

FURNISHINGS

Once again, quality is king. Look for understated, elegant pieces that are timeless with an air of simplicity, accentuated

by high-end finishes and natural materials. Arrange furniture in a meaningful way that creates comfort and emphasizes function. Furniture pieces are inviting and calming, which is a statement in itself.

ORGANIZATION

Quiet luxury isn't cluttered.

Include accessories that help hide family clutter, with only carefully curated pieces seen by the public. Intention is at its heart with a timeless, effortless air. Baskets and bins with sleek lines made of natural materials that are easily stashed are critical to pulling off quiet luxury with a busy family in tow.



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Statement Headboards

Headboards are often the center of the bedroom, attached to the biggest pieces of furniture in the room, making them focal points.

This year, they're often oversized in natural materials and colors, architectural statements of the room that make occupants feel cooed and warm.

GO BIG AT HOME

Going big with the headboard as a built-in feature of the room, similar to a hotel room, is on trend this year. Wall-to-wall or ceiling-to-floor designs are popular and create a luxurious feel. Elongated designs can create a dramatic space and accentuate the width of the space. Tall designs give the room extra height and supports sitting up in bed. As for shape, look for soft curves and simple lines. Materials are similarly soft and highly tactile, such as suede or boucle.

FUNCTIONAL BUILT-INS

Headboards with integrated elements, such as shelving, nightstands or LED lighting are more popular. These aren't the bulky behemoths of the 1970s and 1980s. Look for sleek, harmonious choices that quietly hide chargers. Display curated books and decor that create a sanctuary.

MATERIALS

Look for earthy, organic materials such as wood, rattan and bamboo. Sustainable choices are popular and, when paired with a timeless, functional and classic design, make for a durable headboard that can also stand the test of time. Mixing materials is

gaining in popularity, with headboards that pair wood, fabric and even metal in one piece.

TEXTURE

Channeled, segmented fabrics and almost sculptural quilting, tufting and other elements can give the bedroom a

rich depth. And yes, we're still talking about the headboard and not the linens.

In this case, use the bedding as a foil to contrast with the form of the headboard. Choose durable fabrics that are easy to clean in shades that are warm and complement the room.

Leather is a bold choice that is durable, but may require special care. Its natural texture accentuates soft corners and curving structures while still giving it a modern, sleek look. Wood is a lovely natural choice and can add texture through graining or spindles.

