



# SPACES

Trends and FOMO

BY TANOAN RESIDENT PATTI HARRELL HOECH

What if I bought a pair of *those* shoes? What if I ordered a new, white sofa? What if I inserted an accent color? The questions are endless.

But how do you decide what you want or need with this moving target? To begin, it is important to analyze what you like – what you like in general and what you might like in a new trend. Especially in your home – your personal space – your retreat.

Dissecting trends to determine what about them applies to you is key. Some trends stand the test of time and become part of the on-going design vernacular, while other trends run their course never to be seen again except in retro recreations or parodies. Do you have things in your world that appear “dated” or out-of-style? This is the juncture at which you ask yourself – Is it the thing or the placement of the thing, color, or context of the thing that is making it appear dated?

How do you know a new design element will have staying power? FOMO. It’s important not to be hasty out of fear of missing out. Trends appear in the design community well before they hit the mainstream. It is often the case when a new introduction is so overused and common that by the time the public sees it online or in magazines, the designers are saying that it has flooded the market and will leave the client with a *passee* look almost before it is even installed!

What is a good trend and what is a not-so-good trend? If you have the wherewithal (monetarily and emotionally) to regularly change your style. Color scheme, arrangements, and “look,” adopting trends might be for you. However, if you value your investments, appreciate tradition, enjoy a modicum of consistency in the familiarity and comfort of your existing spaces, with a periodic dash of new introductions and changes, well then, these tips might be for you!

Know, though, that designers are not immune to embracing trends, but that is when it is important for you to know what you like and why. And it is important that you and, if applicable, your designer understand you, your history, your goals... Most people know what they don’t like – or think they do. It is harder to define what you like, because the choices are so vast, and they are interdependent upon other considerations and adjacencies. And then there’s the question of how to update and refresh without feeling like a copycat? How do you accomplish the new look and make it your own?

We have been seeing much in the way of white upholstery and slipcovers and a melding of “organic” elements such as live plants and natural materials – wood, stone, woven grasses and reeds or even *fake/faux* versions thereof. We can address faux finishes and also biophilic design in another column. Meanwhile, think twice about living with white, as the performance of the fabric is important. Technology has advanced the durability and cleanability of many textiles for practical purposes. But finding the right one is key to livability.



A bachelor wanted a modern, new look that was practical and simple. A serpentine, sectional sofa was locally sourced and reupholstered with a handsome, durable black, tweed, fabric.



White upholstery is so in vogue, but finding the right material is key to the success of it retaining its clean appearance. On-trend can have its challenges.

Maybe this furniture is in a room that is rarely used and more for formal gatherings than everyday living. Whereas the great room or family room or even a study will receive more wear and tear. Regardless, you want something that is going to have “appearance retention.”

To offer suggestions to “create a modern, inviting space,” all the above must be taken into consideration. Also, sentimentality enters into it, plus budget and individualism. These components, paired with new additions and certain changes, are what will reflect *you* in a modern, inviting way – and not just generically “on-trend.”

Give yourself a break. Look around your space. See what you like on an individual piece-by-piece basis and mentally set that aside. See what you genuinely dislike and try to analyze why, whether it is about fabrics, furniture style, art, wall color...

Sometimes the physical process begins by rearranging furniture. After you decide what you want to keep, you can change the layout of the furniture, reupholster good bones, check the flooring and wall color, switch-up the placement of your artwork. It is after you thoroughly evaluate what you have versus what you need to do, that you will begin to create your own updated version to refresh your interior into a “modern inviting space!”



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I just received this inquiry from a reader. “I’ve noticed that when I visit my friends’ homes, they all seem so on-trend and stylish. I’m looking to update my living room, but feel a bit conflicted about where to start. What suggestions do you have to help me create a modern, inviting space?”

That’s a great question! Trends, they tantalize. On-trend, you want it, you need it, you know it! But *do* you really? You recognize trends. They give that look of new and stylin’ – but how quickly do they run their course, if you adopt them strictly? And if not new and trending, how do you recognize classic style decisions that will not appear dated sooner than you even finish your project? Who wrote these rules?

Every season and certainly every year, new trends hit the market. They are a necessary part of our economy. They are a critical focus for creatives in every industry. They keep both the creatives and market in motion. Trends tantalize our imagination. What if I got a new car in that style and/or color?

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