

Flatter Homes

SINGAPORE

Come Together

Cosy ideas for creating spaces to gather
+ the hottest decor trends to know



1. COLOUR: LIGHTEN UP

According to AkzoNobel's Global Aesthetic Center, which tracks colour trends, while neutral tones have dominated in the past decade, the trend now leans towards lighter and brighter colours, in response to the need for positivity during the global pandemic.

This light and off-white palette is a classic look that stands the test of time; it continues to find steadfast fans among minimalists. Layer various textiles and materials in cream and neutral hues to keep the look interesting and tactile. Adding just one accent piece in a striking colour helps, too; these include pastel-toned pieces in colours such as Bright Skies, the Dulux Colour of the Year 2022 (more on page 46), the trending shade selected by AkzoNobel's colour experts for paint brand Dulux.

"After a spell of feeling shut in, we crave expansion—the great outdoors, the open air, a fresh approach and a new start," says Heleen Van Gent, creative director of AkzoNobel's Global Aesthetic Center. "Our Colour of the Year is a light, airy and optimistic shade that encapsulates a breath of fresh air."

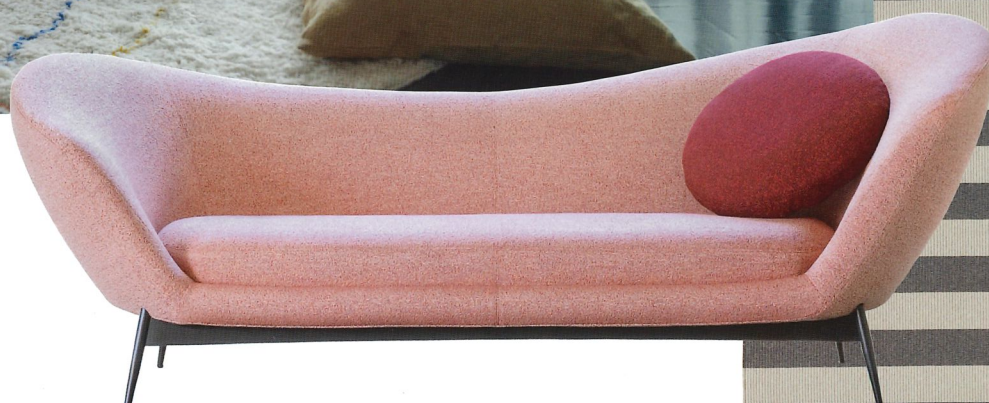
2. FORM: NEW ICONS

These unique designs may be well set to become the new classics. Choose accent pieces feature striking yet sleek sculptural forms that will do well to stand the test of time; highlights include the Living Divani Lemni armchair by Marco Lavit, as well as the Classicon Sol side tables, both available at Space Furniture.

Clockwise from top left: Available at W. Atelier, the Clam pendant light by Ahm & Lund is among the new collections from Fritz Hansen; these pastel tones are among the light shades spotlighted in AkzoNobel's colour trend forecast; an upholstery fabric from the Zimmer + Rohde 2021 collection, from Cetec; Living Divani Lemni armchair by Marco Lavit; Classicon Sol side tables by OrtegaGuijarro



Clockwise from top left:
Upholstery fabrics from
Hodsoll McKenzie 2021
collection, from Cetec;
Woodnotes Big Stripe
rug and Saba Italia
Oltremare sofa
by Antonio Marras,
both from P5 Studio;
a kitchen designed
by JJ Acuna /
Bespoke Studio



7. STYLE: COTTAGECORE

Because of the pandemic, many city dwellers are now dreaming of countryside houses, so it's no surprise that cottagecore—a rustic aesthetic inspired by rural environments—is in vogue.

"We love cottagecore! I think this trend responds to people's desire today to be more grounded, settled, and closer to the land and the forests," says JJ Acuna, founder of JJ Acuna / Bespoke Studio. "That said, you don't have to live in a remote rural location to appreciate the grounded materiality of cottagecore; you can simply find beautiful ways to incorporate the style into your urban home," he says. For one of his clients, he created a modern rustic kitchen by using a mix of oak and wicker furnishings, as well as terracotta and brick tiles.

To avoid an overly rustic vibe, incorporate elegant, curvy furniture pieces in vibrant hues such as Saba Italia's Oltremare sofa by Antonio Marras; then anchor the look with rugs in modern patterns. Flowy pastel and nature-print drapery and upholstery fabrics, such as those from Hodsoll McKenzie's Utopia collection from upholstery

purveyor Cetec, are wonderful ways to weave cottagecore elements into your home.

"Natural, sustainable, minimalist, comfortable, and British—these are the characteristics of the cottagecore trend," says Winnie Heimgartner-Wong, managing director of Cetec. "Cottagecore is all about choosing nature over fast-paced, high-tech living, so designs and patterns inspired by flowers, trees, stones, soil, wood and water, pastel colours, as well as natural linen, wool or cotton are ideal for creating this look."





12. STYLE: RETRO MOOD

Expect more retro-influenced elements to show up in the coming year. "With a retro-inspired concept, you can transport people to the past and create a certain atmosphere," says Acuna.

When designing a retro-inspired home, Acuna recommends using colours, patterns and shapes found in interiors from the 1950s to the '80s, and to use what works best with your contemporary pieces. "The idea is to be curatorial when designing to evoke nostalgia. Rather than go all out, give a nod to the past with the right furnishings and decor items to keep things fresh and timeless," he says. These include curvy banquette sofas, bespoke mirrors, tables crafted with materials such as green or red marble, along with mid-century modern timber panels, and muted red-orange tones.

Neo of EightyTwo likes to add retro touches with materials such as terrazzo, rattan or lacquered wood surfaces, and shades of mustard yellow or desaturated green. To put together an effective retro-inspired scheme, Neo suggests including retro products such as a vinyl disc player, or antique wall clock or bar trolley for a blast from the past. "Try to combine materials and furniture from the same era to create a sense of continuity within the space," he says.

Clockwise from top left: Chairs upholstered in velvet fabrics from Zimmer + Rohde 2021 collection, from Cetec; Sialk table centrepiece, from Hermès; Molteni&C Round D.154.5 chair by Gio Ponti, from P5; Arflex 9000 armchair by Tito Agnoli, B&B Italia Allure O' table and Flair O' chairs by Monica Armani, all from Space Furniture

Opposite page, clockwise from top left: A dining room crafted by Design Intervention; Fendi Casa Margaret Bracelet armchair, from Da Vinci Lifestyle; Cassina Sengu table by Patricia Urquiola, from W. Atelier; Versace Home Narcissus floor lamp, from Marquis QSquare

