When decorating your living spaces, it’s important that the furnishings complement the exterior architectural style. For modern homes—the hot new buy in the real estate market—that means modern furnishings and a modern interior look (clean, simple, bold). However, that doesn’t mean everything needs to be silver and black, or cold and futuristic.

Today’s modern style encompasses a wide range of materials, colors and textures. Plus, interior designers are encouraging their modern home clients to mix and match all those different elements to create a fusion of styles, shapes and patterns: curved shapes next to sharp lines, bright colors offset by pastel tones, metal combined with leather, glass with wood, antiques mixed with new pieces, and so much more. Other top trends include:

**A feel for nature**

Famed architect Frank Lloyd Wright was one of the first modern-day building designers to “bring the outdoors in,” as he put it, making it easier for the occupants to see and appreciate the surrounding trees and greenery. Today’s modern homes follow much the same thinking—plus incorporate
There’s an art to displaying framed artwork on your walls:

- Don’t limit yourself to typical frame and mat standards. Be creative (by including two pictures inside the same frame, for example). But choose a frame that not only complements the colors in the artwork but also matches its style and era.
- When possible, arrange your furnishings based on your artwork instead of the other way around.
- Try different artworks in different rooms—and different combinations of art on the same walls. Lean the artwork against the wall, or have someone hold it in place while you assess it.
- A cohesive look and feel is ideal, but don’t be afraid to mix in works that have more pizzazz to keep your art display from becoming too sedate.
- When hanging more than one piece of art on the same wall, try using different sizes and shapes.
- Consider hanging small works in a grid rather than in a straight line (use the same type of frame for all; and allow two to three inches between each piece). For more artistic arrangements of small artworks, tape like-sized pieces of cardboard to the wall until you find a layout you like (start with the largest piece in the center).
- Hang the art so the middle of the piece is about 60 inches from the floor (otherwise known as “eye-level”). Consider hanging things lower in kid’s rooms, and in rooms used mostly for sitting. Above all, treat each piece of art you hang on your wall as a focal point, rather than an afterthought.

The Latest Trends: Modern Home Interior Design

**Tone-on-tone (mixing multiple saturations of the same color) is another trend popular among prints. The effect is sleek and sophisticated.**

When it comes to the size of the repeating shapes in patterns, big is best. Where a throw pillow might have been covered by a pattern featuring 15 shapes in the past, today the trend is to cover it with two or three big, bold imprints.

**Foreign influences**

The current mix-and-match interior design trend is loosely based on a Middle East bazaar, with objects of all different sizes, shapes and colors on display together.

To complement that effect, designers are encouraging the use of foreign accent pieces: imported vases and tchotchkes, foreign maps as framed artwork, foreign coffee table books, tribal objects, and much more. The ideas and objects are gathered primarily from Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. When combined, they form a mixing pot of international design.

**New types of metal**

Chrome and stainless steel have long been popular materials for modern home interior design. But the new trend is towards integrating steel, copper, pewter, and gold. The surface of these materials is also changing, with a movement towards more matte finishes.

**Industrial furnishings**

The industrial look has been popular with modern homes for the past couple of years, and that trend is forecast to continue. Expect to see more factory tools (wrenches, hammers and measuring devices) used as accent pieces; more industrial containers used for storage; and more office furniture used for home organizing and seating.

**A concern for the environment**

Most modern homes are constructed with eco-friendly materials and feature appliances that consume sustainable...
amounts of the design. So it only makes sense that the design of the interior would also reflect that same focus on the environment.

Eco-friendly paints and floor coverings are a big part of this trend. So is the use of salvaged materials. Typically, these materials are salvaged from older structures before they’re torn down (homes, barns, school buildings, etc.), then refurbished and reused. Salvaged wood is popular for furniture and flooring. For counter tops, there’s salvaged marble and granite.

Reusing objects is another avenue: an old wood crate used as a coffee table; former canning jars transformed into light fixtures; an old door used as a privacy screen. With a little creative thought, many things headed for the trash can instead be reused.

Other trends of note
- Sheer window curtains, which offer a sense of elegance while allowing more natural light into living spaces.
- Handcrafted items, especially leatherwork, weaving, quilting, needlework, and knotting.
- Oversized, framed photo artwork—but not the typical street scene or nature variety. Instead, the design trend today is to feature abstract photography.
- White marble counters in the kitchen and bathroom. These trends are exciting. And the results can be stunning. For referrals to professional designers who can help you implement any of these ideas, don’t hesitate to contact me.
Most homeowners only think about color schemes when selecting paint. However, a professional designer will tell you that having a color plan for your furnishings and accessories is just as important. The following colors are all standouts in the latest interior design trends:

**Marsala** – Selected as the “2015 Color of the Year” by Pantone, the world leader in color formulation, Marsala is best described as a robust and earthy wine-red. According to Pantone, Marsala can “add elegance to any room,” no matter whether it’s used as a paint, in rugs, or as a covering for upholstered furniture.

**Cobalt blue** – This particular shade is being hailed as the new black for its all-around elegance and timeless look (especially for design basics). It works especially well when paired with gray, pink, and other shades of ocean blue.

**Mocha-and-white combination** – When featured in a fabric print or a piece of artwork, this color combination can serve as a bold statement. But beware: using it too often in the same room is overkill and can quickly overwhelm; use it sparingly for the best effect.

**Soft neutrals (pale pink, cream, gray, flesh tones)** – When you want to create a sense of romance, accessorize with décor from this color spectrum. Gray is the most popular.

**Ochre yellow** – Particularly popular when paired with other jewel tones, ochre yellow is ideal for modern furnishings with a retro flair.

Of course, the perceived beauty of any color is a personal matter. Even the hue can make a tremendous difference. So, before moving forward with any new color scheme, take the time to carefully evaluate test swatches.