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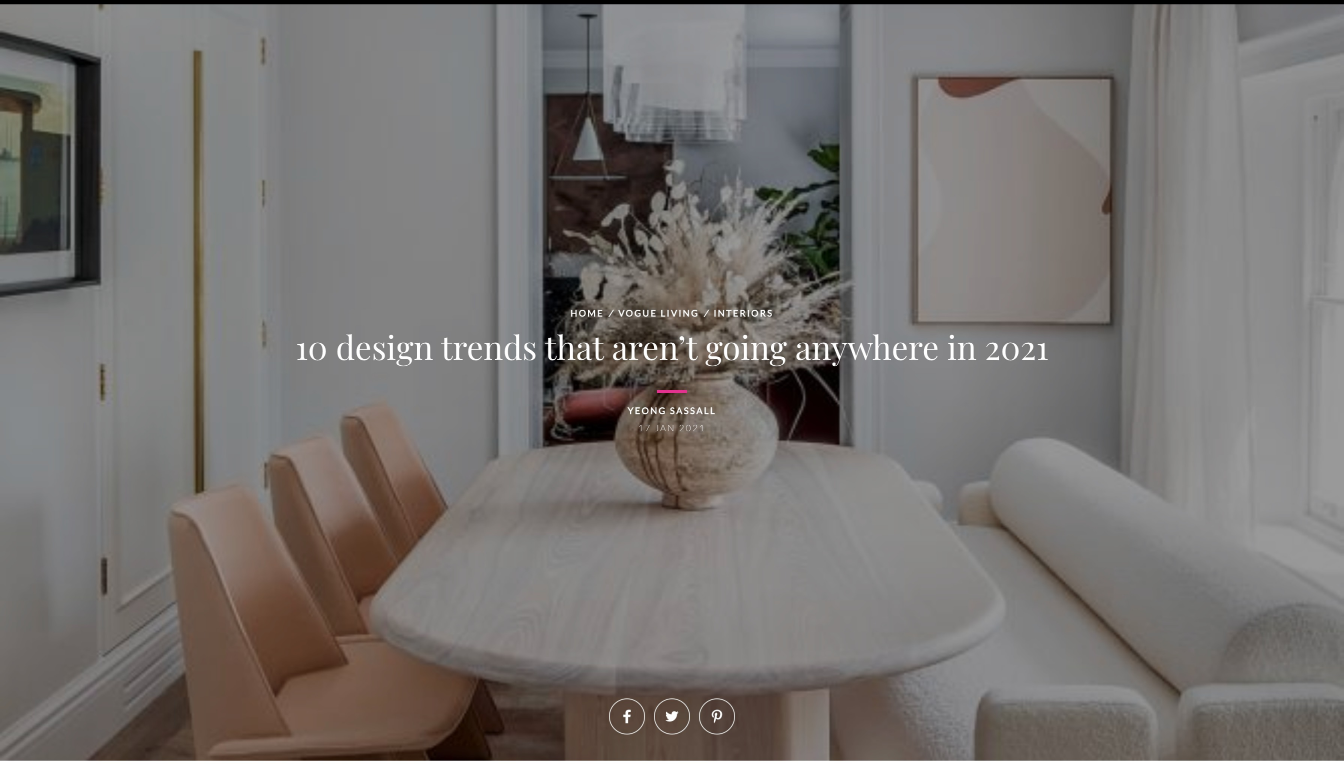

10 design trends that aren’t going anywhere in 2021

YEONG SASSALL

17 JAN 2021

Looking for an interior style that won’t look tired in 12 months? Here are 10 trends with serious staying power.

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1/11

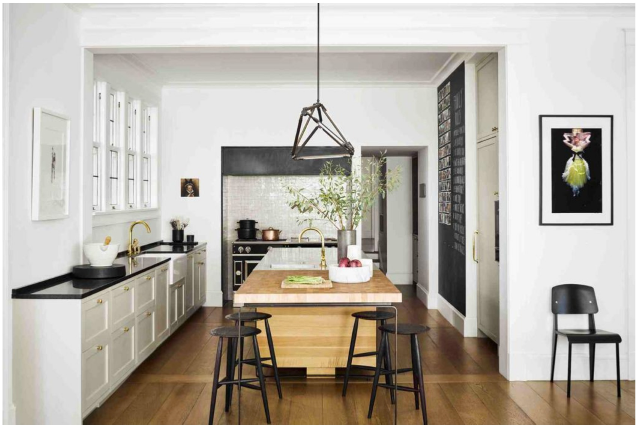
Photographed by Taran Wilkhu and interiors by Banda Property. From the Notting Hill apartment designed by Princess Beatrice's husband Edoardo Mapelli Mozzi

When it comes to decorating your home, the sky really is the limit. Whether you're a purist who likes to decide upon a theme and stick with it or more a free-spirit, who's happy to cherry pick from a number of styles for a more eclectic approach; we can all agree that no one wants a home that's quick to date. Not only can it be costly to redecorate all the time, it's also incredibly un-sustainable to be constantly throwing away furniture and homewares every 6-12 months.

While we appreciate a new design trend as much as the next person, we're also keen proponents of buying with longevity in mind. From investment lounges to iconic designer chairs that you'll love for years to come, there's a number of ways to embrace design trends that will last.

It's a topic US-based interior designer Karen B. Wolf has spent plenty of time thinking about as the subject of her latest e-book, *2021 Timeless Trends*. With a degree in fine arts and a masters in consumer behaviour, Wolf's trend analysis is a worthy approach to styling your home. While you can read about each of her projected trends in detail in her e-book, Wolf has summarised each trend for us below.

Think of it as the clever and considered approach to styling and decorating your home in 2021.



2/11

Photographed by Douglas Friedman. From a renovated Californian townhouse turned gilded family home

1. Grounded

"Designed for family gatherings, entertaining, isolating, socialising and sheltering in place, this trend is pandemic-prepared with large open floor plans, double kitchens, double islands, large outdoor entertaining areas, adulting play spaces, kids play spaces and self contained multi-generational co-living spaces," says Wolf. "Interior finishes are time worn, handmade and take their cue from sun-baked artistry. The palette is warm and earthy with depth of tone and darker woods."

Think: modern farmhouse stylings, warm earth tones, outdoor stone brought inside, brick, and black steel windows.

3/11

Photographed by Raquel Langworth

2. Cuddle

“Cuddle is about comfort and touch,” explains Wolf. “While we crave human interaction and stay in place in our pyjamas, soft, tactile materials and forms have become a daily hug. Monochromatic, voluminous and layered, this trend is not about coloor, but a welcoming tactile experience.”

Think: layered textiles, boucle fabric and voluminous forms.

4/11

Photographed by Traianos Pakioufakis. From the quirky beachside Sydney home of Reliquia Jewellery’s founder

3. Pastiche

“Pastiche is a playful twist on the '80s and '90s ugliness,” says Wolf. “Previously called the Memphis Art Movement, the current take on this trend is pastel colours, rather than primaries with simplified patterning. Forms are still over exaggerated and colours clashing while mass materials like plastic are used in brighter colours and fun shapes.”

Think: terrazzo, archways, clashing colours, Deco pastels and playful sculptural forms.

5/11

Photographed by Raquel Langworthy

4. Joy

"This trend is mostly about colour, humour and positivity. Most of us add small moments of Joy to our homes in small doses that can be revolved or replaced over time. We expect 2021 to be all about joy with Pantone's yellow colour of the year shining bright," adds Wolf.

Think: colour blocking brights, neon, playful rugs, colour in unexpected places and whimsical wall art and murals.

6/11

Photographed by Photographed by Silvia Tenenti. From a maximalist Milan home brimming with creativity

5. Heirloom

"Heirloom is about inclusion, acceptance and hospitality," explains Wolf. "No longer are we donning our family's hand me downs but embracing the nostalgic and storied importance of each item. A return to our heritage, this trend restores meaning to family traditions and historic design elements."

Think: classic marble and brass, floral wallpaper, the return of bed skirting, fringing and piping, formal table settings, antiques and classic fireplaces.

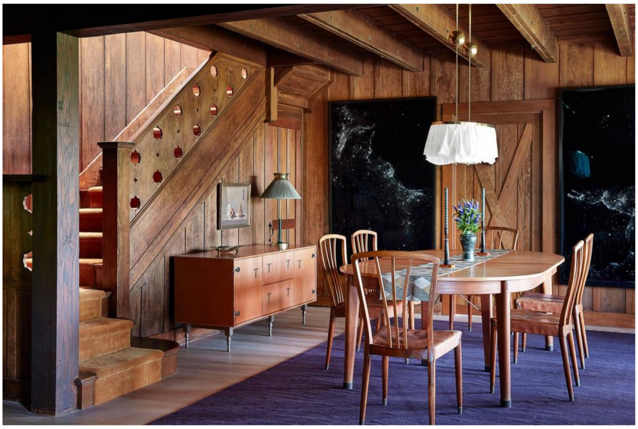
7/11

Photographed by Raquel Langworthy

6. Breathe

“Breathe is about wellness. A cleaner home means less cluttered environments,” shares Wolf. “Woods are lighter, ceilings higher and windows wider and larger. A Cali vibe, breathe is open and airy.”

Think: woven homewares, greenery, blonde wood floors, shells, rope and textural materials.



8/11

Photography by Stephen Kent Johnson, styled by Michael Reynolds. From Anne Hathaway's cozy Californian home

7. Cabin

“The cabin concept is a new vacation model representing family values, the good ol' days and togetherness,” says Wolf. “Campy and simple, the cabin is not a down country shack, but a nod to nostalgic America.”

Think: outdoor bonfires, wood panelling, wood plank walls and rustic, cosy vibe.

9/11

8. Renew

“Renew is about reflection and ritual. A recharge for the soul and forgiveness to self. Slower moments are celebrated and boundaries between work and home established. Home has become our sanctuary and finding spaces to recharge within our walls is essential.”

Think: healing candles and crystals, self pampering, comforting hideaways, sanctuary spots in the home like reading corners, indoor swings, meditations areas, and luxury bath tubs.

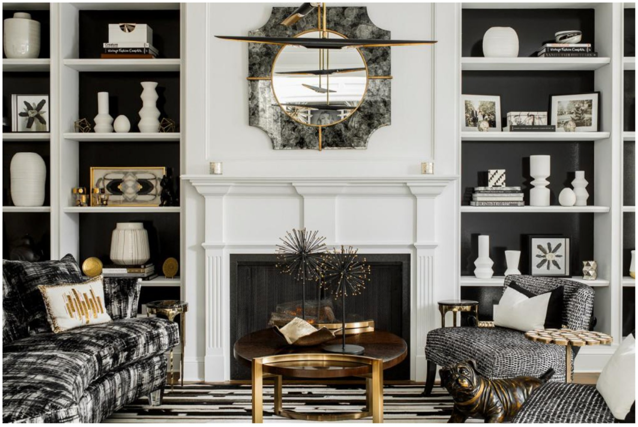
10/11

Photographed by Kara Rosenlund. From a consciously-designed homestead in the Byron Bay hinterland

9. Modern ruralist

“This intimate trend is rooted in the sustainability and sustenance of the land we live on,” explains Wolf. “Handmade, time-worn and collected; the modern ruralist shares family memories and traditions mostly unplugged."

Think: deep colour palettes; hunting, landscape and portrait art; flax linen; worn-in leather; open shelving; and hand-glazed ceramics.



11/11

Photographed by Christian Garibaldi

10. Urban atelier

“Bespoke and boutique this luxury, curated trend is about the quality of materials” says Wolf. “In this soft, minimal style, forms are sinuous and eased. Sculptural and sexy, the Urban Atelier is a trend for the well-travelled sophisticate.”

Think: sinuous, line artwork, soft symmetrical architecture and warm metals.

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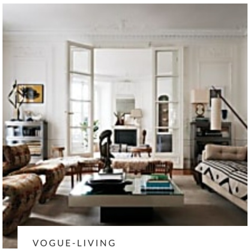

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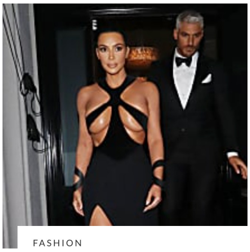

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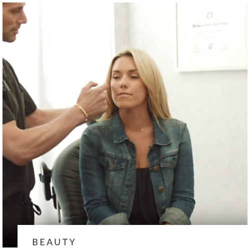

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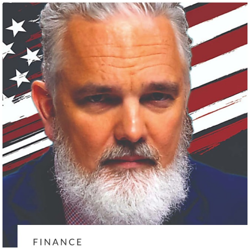

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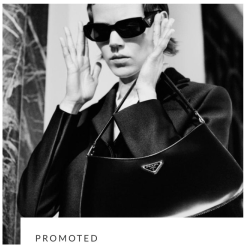

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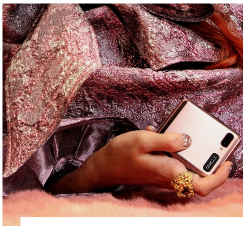

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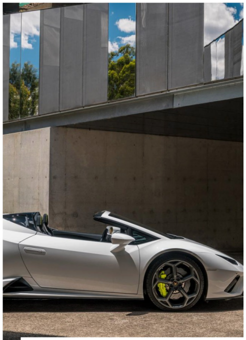

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