

DESIGN STYLES:

A Brief Overview of Four Popular Design Styles

By Tracee M. Bomberger

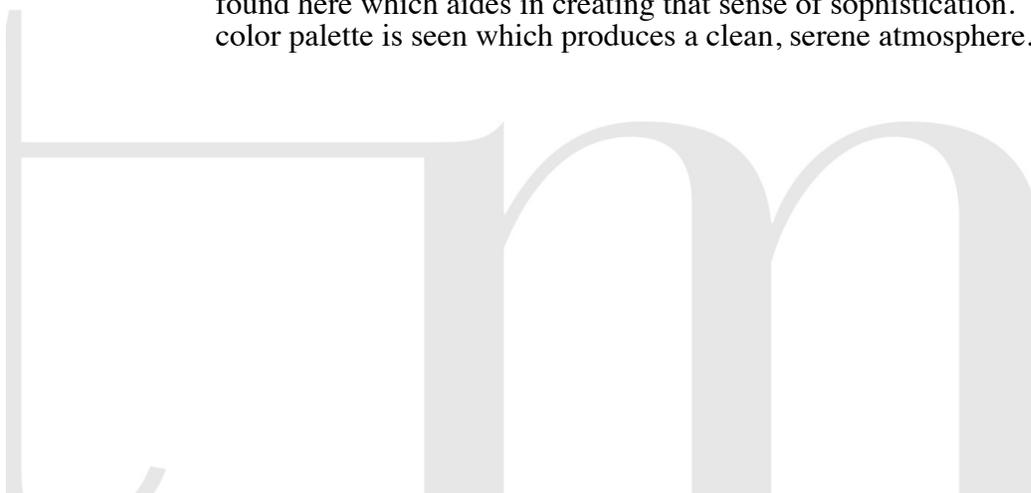
One of the things I enjoy the most about my career as an Interior Designer is the day-to-day variety. I have my clients to thank for this. Every one of them has their own personal style that makes them feel comfortable in their home and it's my job to be sure that is achieved through design. It keeps me on my toes and requires me to have a wide knowledge base of furnishings for each particular design style. A majority of my clients aren't really sure what appeals to them until we go through the interview process to nail down what their likes and dislikes are when it comes to home furnishings. Below is a brief overview of a few design styles that are popular here in Sarasota, Florida. This is just a few of the many out there. It is important to note that region you live in has a large influence over the popularity of a design style.

Traditional

This approach is an elegant and inviting one. It emphasizes beautifully patterned fabrics, as well as the details on the furniture and accessories. It is a more formal design where the furniture tends to have graceful curved lines and the wood tends to be dark with ornate carvings on it. Some typical accessories used are large floral displays, oriental rugs and fancily framed mirrors and art. The most popular fabrics associated with this style are florals, tone-on-tones, plaids and brocades. Lighting fixtures used in a traditional space range from beautiful crystal chandeliers to mixed glass and metal fixtures. Colors that reflect the traditional period are deep hues of golds, reds, greens and browns.

Transitional

Transitional style is a blend of traditional and contemporary and equals a classic and timeless design scheme. A minimalistic approach is taken by using a neutral palette with few accessories. Furniture lines are simple, yet classy. Fabrics used are very widespread but most of all create a comfortable but upscale space. There is a lack of ornamentation found here which aides in creating that sense of sophistication. Often a monochromatic color palette is seen which produces a clean, serene atmosphere.



13203 Brown Thrasher Pike
Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202
T: 941-228-6574 | F: 941-756-1683
E: tmb@trademarkinteriordesign.com

www.trademarkinteriordesign.com

Contemporary

Contemporary reflects very clean lines and is based on function. Sleek lines are an important trait with contemporary design. This can be seen in the furnishings and accessories. Simple design elements play a large role such as unadorned windows and streamlined lighting fixtures, accessories and furniture. Black, whites and other neutral tones are dominate colors and sometimes are mixed with dramatic punches of color. Cool, muted palettes are also one of the norms. Texture plays a role and is incorporated by combining natural materials and fibers with the sleek smooth surfaces of wood, metal and glass.

Tropical

An easy, relaxing atmosphere is the feeling that is achieved through tropical design. This particular style is one that truly evokes a mood. Texture is essential here. It is normally introduced by the use of materials like wicker, rattan, teak and bamboo. Grass cloth wallpaper is widely used to create an exotic feel as well. Fabrics used are ones that are light and airy and in tune with the tropics such as linens, cottons and silks. Color tones typically consist of a neutral base with pops of color in the jewel tone family or alternatively, citrus hues. Introducing blues and greens are an option as well, as they are reminders of the sea and sky.

The key to finding out your design style is to pay attention to what is appealing to you. Once this is accomplished, it becomes easier to narrow down your personal style.

Tracee Murphy Bomberger, one of Southwest Florida's most prominent interior designers, provides services to luxury homeowners throughout the Sarasota area. To have Tracee help you achieve your design needs based on your own personal style - or Trade Mark Interiors full range of services – contact her at 941-228-6574, or visit her website at www.TradeMarkInteriorDesign.com