

# SAN DIEGO HOME/GARDEN LIFESTYLES®

## FALL INTERIOR DESIGN REPORT



Architects' Mission Hills Aerie  
The Artful Garden of University City

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*Fibonacci chair by Sebastian Brajkovic (2015), patinated bronze with metallic embroidered upholstery by Jean-François Lesage*

Interior design involves a multitude of elements coming together — harmoniously in successful cases. Three basic categories cover the realm of everything from walls to throw pillows: shape, color and texture.

We're happy to report that fall trends indicate a common thread among these umbrella groups: They're encouraging us to venture boldly — in our *own* space.

The tried and true will always be around; after all, that's why it's called "the tried and true." However, once in a while, we need to shake things up; and this fall

appears to be a good time to do just that. Shape, color and texture are taking decided upswings in derring-do, straying from the safe pathways of the ... tried and true.

One of the gratifying aspects of interior design is how easily it can be changed. Walls can be repainted or papered, furnishings and fixtures can be replaced. You don't have to move out of your home to gain new surroundings. All it takes is a spirit of adventure — and it looks like we're headed for a fun one.

— Janice Kleinschmidt, Editor

# THE FINAL TOUCHES

Tactile finishes applied to walls, furniture and accessories regain favor

BY NICOLE BOYNTON



Inspired by traveling and multicultural influences, local designer Kris Lajeskie's *Alhambra* rug is handmade by Kyle Bunting from cow hair on hide.



Aviva Stanoff's handmade *Stardust* pillow collection showcases abstract prints with *Charcoal* and *Gold Metallic* splotches and patches.

Every surface in the home adds another layer of texture to our lives. Frequently overshadowed by brilliant, bold colors and dramatic shapes, texture no longer takes the back seat in design schemes. It is becoming a driving force — even the star of a room.

Beverly Hills and London-based interior designer Birgit Klein is a fan.

"A major texture trend we employ a lot is utilizing a monochromatic color scheme but creating variety through different textures," she says. "A room might be done entirely in creams, but a silk paper on the walls, a chair upholstered in Tibetan goat hair, a bamboo rug, a mohair sofa, and a shagreen and lacquered console bring in interest through texture."

As trends shift from bare minimalism toward more natural, romantic and vintage styles, look for accessories with pearlescent finishes, feathers and fossilized surfaces. Boxes made from shell or bone are no longer merely old-fashioned relics. Local designers are taking notice.

"Furniture can be wrapped in shagreen, inlaid with shells or cloaked in stone," says designer Susan Spath, who layers interiors with shagreen, linens and natural fibers such as raffia and sea grass.

Complete this season's study in natural science with intriguing zoological panels, botanical prints or even a taxidermy collection.

"I went to the Los Angeles Modernism Show this year and

kept seeing feathers and rope," Molly Luetkemeyer says. "I love both, but hadn't realized they had broken out of their place in the passementerie department and were now claiming center stage."

Designers welcome the changing tides and embrace the season's throwback finishes and materials.

"Overall," Andrea May says, "I see some not-so-trendy things trending: romantic botanicals and florals; glamorous silhouettes and detailing from bygone eras; elegant surface treatments; and classic metals like brass, gold and copper."

Fabrics that are pleasing to the touch, such as heavier velvets and luxurious silks are reclaiming their rightful place under the roof, as are opulent details, including tufting and channel-backed upholstery.

Kim Nadel notices luxury starting to trend outside the home too, from velvet upholstery to outdoor chandeliers.

"There is a buzz about luxury," she says. "There's no need not to feel luxurious just because you aren't inside, especially in Southern California."

Despite luxe influences, unearthing that one-of-a-kind, handcrafted piece with authentic character is still the Holy Grail for designers. "There is a resurgence of raw, primitive materials like wood, metals and stone used in new, creative and functional ways," Robbie Maynard says.

"The artisan's hand is showing more and more, and the result is pieces that feel quirky



Clockwise from above: Woven strands of abaca form the *Amani Drum* chandelier, available in two sizes from Made Goods. The *fluid Link Cascade Plane*, designed for Ralph Pucci by Jim Zivic, combines leather, steel chain and aluminum. Kevin Cobonpue's *Bloom* chair bursts with life in layers of handmade, plush microfiber in bright yellow.



and unique instead of mass produced," Molly says. "I am seeing and using more earthy, natural textures from macramé (now muscular and sexy instead of 'dirty' '70s) to rope of all kinds — the bigger the scale, the better."

Hard edges are popular too. With advances in metal designs and materials, different finishes are being married or added to other materials such as wood, upholstery and stone. Metal is even subtly woven into fabrics and hand-leafed into wallcoverings.

"The incorporation of metal into furniture, cabinetry and architectural details has been huge this year," Brigit says. "Metal is making its way into all areas of design, including crafted iron bases for sofas, polished stainless inlay on the front of bookcases and bent bronze coffee tables."

Textured walls and 3-D wall panels offer an exciting alter-

native to watching paint dry. "I feel these panels start to give life to what would normally be a simple wall with paint," San Diego's Rick Hess says.

Textured wallcoverings add depth, dimension and color variation. They even offer the illusion of a textured or frescoed surface without actually embossing or debossing the material. Geometric wallpaper, for example, can trick the eye to see more height, width and depth.

"Wallcoverings have made a huge comeback in the last few years with movement, scale and various color patterns," says Los Angeles-based David Brian Sanders, who was inspired by a trip to Capri, Italy. "I'm using a lot of sea grass, grasscloth and even some incredible cork as wallcoverings," he notes.

