

The phoren touches to your home decor

THE home décor industry is changing rapidly, and going international is in vogue. The slow demand for real estate and financial instability has also failed to dampen home owner's spirit when it comes to trying out latest colours, palette, materials or shapes.

The constant upgradation in design, technology and need for sustainable development have influenced interior design in 2012. What most designers aspire for is creating timeless, elegant and contemporary designs that reflect modern and new in a home. The latest trends in home decor to inspire designers are:

Lighting

Lighting plays an important role as it brings about a sense of safety, security and comfort. What's popular internationally is the focus on reducing electricity consumption for which CFL and LED lights are picking up the trend.

Warm shades of yellow in lighting are also in vogue. They give a rich and warm feel. Trends also include lighting fixtures like gentle curving frames, etched glass shades and handcrafted accents. Indirect lighting that includes cove, ambient, task and accent lighting throughout a room is setting a trend. Dimmers, wall mount fixtures, ceiling fixtures



CHIC LIVING: With more exposure to varied home decor options, home owners want to give their homes an international look. Italian designs are a rage with many

and contemporary chandeliers are widely used to add glamour and élan to the space.

Fabrics

Simple and natural fabrics are favoured by many. Warm colours are preferred over lighter ones. Sheer and lightweight fabrics give a dreamy feel to a room, which makes them perfect for curtains. Heavyweight fabrics like velvets, tapestries and leather add a touch of sobriety and can be used successfully as bed-heads and wall claddings.

Given the mood of a room, different shades of leather are used as upholstery for sofas, day-beds and loungers.

They lend a classy look. Animal prints are also coming into fashion.

Marbles and tiles

Italian marbles streaked with different colours brought from quarries across the globe are a hit with home owners. Granites are the preferred choice for commercial spaces. Stone clad walls with hand carved patterns are also trending. Some of the tiles glow in the light as well. Newer designer versions like beige, brown, red or white with their unique veining patterns are liked by the designers. Marbles like Travertino, Satavrio, Onyx, and Verde imported from different

parts of Italy and Spain have become very popular for bathrooms and accent walls in luxury and high-end homes.

Custom made tiles with patterns are also in demand. New 3D tiles are the craze of the season. They are often used with marbles for bathrooms.

Fireplaces

People love fireplaces as it adds warmth to their homes. Instead of the old wooden fireplaces, people like the modern gas operated ones that are easy to install, use and maintain as well as eco-friendly. Suspended fireplaces are stunning and alluring. So, go ahead and add a countryside look!

Furniture

Imported furniture is now available at leading stores across cities. A mélange of custom-made furniture and readymade is the most desired by home owners. Leather and wood finishes are in vogue. Also, a classy assortment of furniture belonging to different styles is used in a single space to add an eclectic look.

Appliances

Appliances play a significant role in scaling the look of home. These include home theatres and kitchen appliances, which are easy to maintain and also add volume to home. Inbuild hob and designer island chim-

neys are picking up pace. In-built microwave, oven, refrigerator and tepanyaki have found their place in the modern Indian kitchen.

Wood

Hard wood has become increasingly popular with the designer fraternity across nations. Natural wood or veneer cladding on the ceilings and walls also give a warm look to the décor. In some cases it is combined with stone to give an enticing appearance.

(This article is contributed by Pritika Kinra, principal architect, Moco Design Studio, Pune)