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smart moves



2021 Design Trends to Fall in Love With

by homewarranty.com

2020 was a year that had most of us re-thinking the way we live our lives, especially indoors. 2021 design trends tip their hat to yesteryear, with trends like floral print wallpaper or indoor plants. Homeowners are seeking comfort and functionality rolled into one, comfortable experience. Here are five 2021 design trends to fall in love with.

Nostalgia

For 2021, think "Laura Ashley" and you will get a sense of how 2021 has many of us opting for a cozy, comfortable space. Bring optimism into your living room by way of sculptural furniture, bright colors, lots of florals, and slipcovers. Take your home back to a simpler and familiar time. You may be tempted to hunt down a VCR - don't do it.

Outdoor Living Space

2020 kept us in, so get outdoors in 2021. Create a beautiful outdoor dining area by expanding your home's living space. Covered patios protect you from the elements and prevent leaves and debris from falling on your furniture. Outdoor dining areas are a perfect way to visit with family and friends this year. Get outside more, and stay out longer.

The Coastal Connection

Most of us share the idea that tropical settings bring with them relaxation and a sense of well-being. Picture soft breezes and warm tropical nights, and you get a sense of a trend in 2021 living spaces bright hues and lots of floral accents. Use tropical greenery indoors, and add theme prints to bring the tropics so close you can almost hear the waves.

Arts and Crafts

The Arts and Crafts movement hearkens back to a time of handcrafted, quality woodwork and furniture. Once again, 2021 trends take us to a simple era that allows us to slow down and appreciate the little things."

The Arts and Crafts revival is a trend that's gaining momentum recently. People are appreciating the value of handmade and decorative styles encapsulated within the trend," says Marie Parry of Prestigious Textiles.

Closed Floor Plans

We all learned a great deal about being home in 2020, and one thing was painfully obvious. Open floor plans, so popular for so many years, did not lend themselves to Zoom calls and afternoons full of virtual learning. As families co-existed within the same floor plan from sunrise to sunrise, carving out personal space became a priority. In 2021, we see a rise in the trend of the traditional "closed" floor plans of yesteryear.

"The pandemic has forced us to recognize how important our space is, and open floor plans aren't always the best decision when it comes to intentionally using a room," says Los Angeles interior designer Gabrielle Santiago.

This year, embrace the days that made you who you are and celebrate February with 2021 Design Trends to Fall in Love With. Just leave the disco ball and velour jumpsuits in storage, for now.



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February Calendar

February 2 - Groundhog's Day February 14 - Valentine's Day February 15 - President's Day February is Cherry Month

Homeowner Tip:



Tile and Grout Maintenance

Winter is a great time to inspect your tiles and grout around your house. Grout is a porous material, so wet locations should be kept water-tight. Keeping grout free of cracks will prevent water damage or mold from developing a simple fix into a major issue.

Grout may settle or shrink over time, so keep it clean, and re-seal it every few years. Always repair cracks right away.

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The Business of Love: Valentine's Day by the Numbers

No one celebrates Valentine's Day with the same gusto as Americans. Always in search of a reason to celebrate, the U.S. spends billions of dollars every February to commemorate our love. Who are we buying for? Our sweethearts, children, friends, co-workers, and even pets.

Here is Valentine's Day by the Numbers.

\$27.4 Billion - the amount spent as forecast by National Retail Federation.

67% - 67% of romantics between 25 and 34 will spend more than all other age groups.

45% - Cards still reign king of purchases, and represent 45% of sales.

\$4 Billion - Amount spent on taking your sweetheart out to paint the town pink.

\$2 Billion - Revenue generated from domestic bouquets of flowers we give our Valentine.

19% - Jewelry sales represent about 19% of Valentine's Day buys.

\$6 Million - Amount spent on Valentine-themed dog toys and treats for the 4-legged loves of our life.

#1 - More than 80% of gift giving on Valentine's Day is the classic gift of chocolate and candy.



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Celebrate Cherry Month with a Simple No-bake Cherry Cheesecake

Ingredients

2 cups graham crumbs

6 tablespoons butter melted

16 ounces cream cheese softened

- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- 21 ounces cherry pie filling (1 can)

Directions

Line an 8-inch x 8-inch square baking dish with parchment paper. Set aside.

In a medium mixing bowl combine the graham crumbs and butter. Mix until all the graham cracker crumbs are moistened. Pour into prepared baking dish and press down to form the crust.

In a large mixing bowl, beat together the cream cheese and the sugar until it becomes light and fluffy.

In a separate bowl beat heavy cream on low speed, then increase speed to high. Mix until you have whipped cream with medium peaks.

Pour the whipped cream into the cream cheese mixture. Mix on high until combined and smooth. Scoop into the baking dish and smooth into an even layer with the back of a spoon or spatula.

Spoon the cherry pie filling evenly over the top. Smooth out carefully to cover the cheesecake.

Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least 4 hours before cutting (preferably overnight).



Photo & recipe courtesy of: realhousemoms.com