

HOT OFF THE RUNWAY AND INTO YOUR LIVING ROOM

[BY KARIN BOHNE • PHOTO BY PETER JENSEN PHOTOGRAPHY • FASHION DESIGN BY MALENE GROTRIAN]



WHEN IT COMES to staying ahead of the latest trends in interior design, looking to the fashion runways of New York, Paris and Milan can be an excellent source of inspiration and direction. The parallel between fashion and interior design is not a new concept but actually one that has been recognized for generations.

Navigating the translation of a trend from a model strutting down the runway to your living room couch, however, can seem a daunting task. As a general rule you should look for interior design to mirror fashion trends when it comes to colour, fabric and accessories.

COLOUR

After several seasons of vibrant and vivacious colour palettes, a shift towards more shades of black can be seen coming down the runways again. Similarly, black has become an “it” colour in interior design. Accessories, lamps, furniture, tile and even lighting fixtures are popping up in various shades and finishes of black.

Black paint is also being embraced—yes, paint! Excellent for accent walls, a rich black can create an extremely modern yet cozy and grounded feeling within a room. Although some might have an instant aversion to the idea of using black paint, it can evoke a mature, sexy, inviting and luxurious look, even within a small space.

Grey has also made a huge impact as a growing trend in interior design, and similarly so in the fashion world. At a recent fall show, local Vancouver designer Malene Grotrian showcased a collection of lavish, exquisitely detailed garments for which the inspiration was the colour grey. The draping of the clothes was full and dramatic, silks were luxurious and glistening, and ruffles bold and romantic. The models seemed to glide down the runway in silvery grey garments which occasionally also featured a bold hit of deep magenta, saturated yellow or jewel-toned blue.

Grey is equally hot right now when it comes to interiors. It functions as a fantastic

neutral within a space and pairs well with virtually every colour. Grey stands up to bold and warm tones, and in fact, the warmer the colour you pair grey with, the more modern your space will appear. So fear not in placing your warm wood-toned bookshelf against a freshly painted grey wall, or bright yellow throw pillows as accents on a grey couch.

FABRIC

When it comes to fabrics, there are plenty of parallels between fashion and interiors. Leather adorns both jackets and sofas, silk is used for both dresses and drapery, cotton can be found in t-shirts as well as duvet covers, fur can be seen on coats as well as on floors and buttons provide detail on both clothing and home accessories such as throw pillows.

On the fashion scene, silks, chiffon and lightweight materials are no longer reserved for the spring/summer runways; designers daringly mix traditionally heavier fabric such as wool with delicate opposites. Cotton jerseys typically reserved for sportswear are being incorporated into haute couture and formal wear. Unusual pairings of fabric and texture can create depth and dimension to define an outfit.

Creative and daring use of materials also plays a very important role in home decorating. While secondary to larger furnishings, fabric can comprise a significant portion of your budget, so mixing textures and styles may allow you to stretch your dollar and at the same time create an interesting look. The use of fabric and texture can set the mood and tone of the space. Throw pillows are now available in a multitude of materials and are perfect for showcasing a trend that includes more delicate, ornate or unconventional fabric.

ACCESSORIES


It is often said that accessories make the outfit. For ladies, it can be that killer pair of heels or a statement necklace that elevates an otherwise classic black dress. For gentlemen, the details can be as subtle as cufflinks or a handkerchief or more obvious like a slick pair of kicks or a great vintage watch. The personalized details not only add flair but truly separate the style rookies from the masters.

The same goes for interior design—the little details in the hardware can transform a beautiful room into a magnificent one. Consider hardware jewellery for your home.

Upgrading the hardware for your bathroom or kitchen is an easy and quick do-it-yourself project that can uplift the aesthetics of the room. The options for cabinet pulls and door knobs are virtually endless—sleek, minimalist, ornate or vintage—and can be found to fit within any budget. These small accessories are often overlooked in a home, but with a little attention and creativity, they can add a lot of sparkle and create the same level of finish to a room that you can achieve in an outfit.

Sculptural furniture is also a trend that functions as an accessory within a room. An ornate statement table or chair can serve as an accessory in the same way a statement vase or piece of artwork might.

The runways of New York, Paris and Milan are great resources for inspiration when it comes to decorating your home—and translating what you see on the runway to your living space can be as simple as changing the throw pillows on your couch.

It should be mentioned, however, that although fashion moves swiftly, interior design trends change at a much more gradual and fluid pace. The need to refresh your home interior is not as urgent as your seasonal wardrobe adjustments, which is great news considering that buying a new sweater in the hottest shade of the season is not quite the big deal that replacing a sectional or all your lighting might be! So don't feel you have to do it all at once, but the next time you peruse the racks at a local boutique, try to keep your home decor top of mind... 



An ornate statement chair can serve as an accessory in the same way a piece of artwork might.
Vintage Louis Chair, The Cross Décor and Design.



Throw pillows are now available in a multitude of materials and are perfect for showcasing trends.
Black and white diamond throw pillow, The Cross Décor and Design.



Changing hardware can be a simple and relatively inexpensive way to update the look of a room.
Cut-glass drawer pull, The Cross Décor & Design, 1198 Homer Street, www.thecrossdesign.com