

Lush & Plush

Design trends go for style in big, elegant way

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Lush and plush" conveys the attitude of design trends for the new year. While there is no prevalent style "It's pretty much across the board," said Michael Garrow, accessory buyer at Newton Furniture, 15050 Middlebelt in Livonia, rooms are dressed in a luxurious look and feel, with a layering that pays attention to detail.

Style has turned the other chic — farther from "shabby chic" and closer to elegant.

"It used to be 'less is more.' I think we're moving away from that," said Terry Ellis of Room Service Interior Design at Michigan Design Center in Troy.

"People wouldn't think of having a sofa without putting pillows on it," said Jackie Schwartz, owner of Home Accessory Warehouse, 1017 W. Maple in Walled Lake.

"Everything has beading or fringe ... Nothing is plain."

Down-filled cushions and plump pillows abound. Pillows show an example of layering — not only are they plump, they bear a lot of trim, such as fringes and buttons, and a material such as chiffon may be draped over them.

An advantage to pillows is that changing them makes it easy to give a sofa a new look or one in keeping with the season.

Richness is in the texture in popular fabrics, with such material as chenille and such elements as an antique weave that gives almost a damask feel.

It's in patterned and plush carpeting, although versatile sisal is still strong this year.

It's on metal, with painting, scrollwork, and a brushed, less shiny look.

"There's just an opportunity for a lot of detailing everywhere," Schwartz said.

For example, decorated boxes make attractive accents as they perform a useful function, such as holding the television remote, she said.

Other details are shades on chandelier lights and finials on drapery hardware, Ellis said.

Accessories are big in size as well as appeal. Walls aren't bare — they hold decorated tiles or plates, if not paintings.

When it comes to color trends, much of the palette is almost tempting to the palate — with such hues as pumpkin, raspberry and pale mustard.

The teal and mauve pairing of the '80s has a softer tone today, in aquamarine and camel, Ellis said.

Colors of nature are also strong, including greens. Among the neutrals are white, taupe and tan; accented with such jewel tones as purples and burgundy.

"Colors are moving to wood tones now," Garrow said.

Trends also favor a strong European influence, and natural elements.

"The Asian influence is everywhere," said Ellis, a member of the American Society of Interior Designers. Among examples are grasses in containers, such as willow spiral grass.

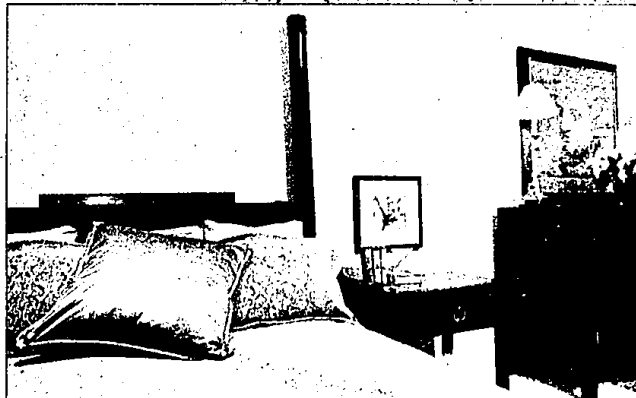
Tables are bigger and higher, an example of European influence, Garrow said. Furnishings called ottoman cocktail tables are popular. These pieces are large, square ottomans that can hold glasses of beverage, almost like a table.

"The Old World look is very popular right now," said Sharrie Singer, showroom manager at Home Accessory Warehouse, which offers professional design consultation. Examples of this look include street scenes and clocks, Singer said.



STAFF PHOTOS BY JIM JACOBFIELD

Asian influence: The Asian — and other European — influence is strong in today's design trends, as in these accessories and grasses at the CAI Showroom at Michigan Design Center in Troy. Accent pieces are also big in size.



Return to elegance: Terry Ellis of Room Service Interior Design at Michigan Design Center stands with an upholstered daybed at the Baker Knapp & Tubbs Showroom (at left). The piece is an example of the lush, plush look of furniture and fabrics for this year. Another trend is seen in the dark wood of furnishings at the Lane Group Showroom (above).



JOE GAGNON

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MARTY FIGLEY

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