SAY HELLO TO MAXIMALISM IN YOUR INTERIORS IN THE NEW YEAR



Just like in the world of fashion and art, styles in interior concepts change according to cultural developments and various other influences. Staying up-to-date with these trends is no easy feat, given the myriad design choices as well as the different facets of decor like art, furniture, lighting, and colour palette. Delhi-based interior stylist **RAKHEE JAIN** lists what you must know:

Colours

Colour has the power to turn heads and influence the soul. It is through colour tones that we communicate the intent that dominates the abode. The choice of shades contribute to vitality and vibrancy in our daily lives. Saturated green is the colour of 2019 — it symbolises nature and gender neutrality. To complement the viridescent tones, we also include dusty pinks, exuberant mustards, misty blues, muted golds, soft clays, oxidised greys, sombre blacks and rich jewel tones.

Art

To me, art is the focal point of any space that immediately attracts attention, hence it needs to be carefully curated. The glorious era of minimalism has finally succumbed to the glamourous movement of maximalism where 'more is more'. A diverse and extravagant range of sculptural and floral patterns and bold strokes are the way forward to saturate a space. Art is now defined with focal personality, forming a busy balance with bright and vibrant colours. Store-bought inscriptions of "Keep Calm and blah blah blah...." are out, as are fabric and tribal art. Abstract designs as well as two- and three-dimensional geometric shapes are the flavour of 2019.

Upholstery

Somehow, we always leave the choice of upholstery towards the latter part of the project even though we know it plays a major role in enhancing, distinguishing and defining a space. It needs to complement and reflect the general vision of the room and contribute to tying up all the loose ends, rather than being the focal point, like it used to be. While the possibilities are endless, the new times have shied away from dull neutrals and cool greys and are now leaning towards rich jewel tones in mushy velvets, daring floral-printed jacquards and mix-and-match printed fabrics as they add diversity with varied motifs and hues. All of them used together in the right balance, team up very well to create an indulgent vibe.

Lighting



Lighting is not just about function. It is about creating the mood that one would like to bask in. Illumination affects everything it falls upon — it creates atmosphere, drama, and intrigue in a room. In my world, it is the magical ingredient that makes or breaks a space.

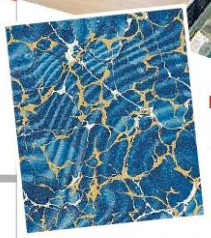
Simplicity is the ultimate form of sophistication. The times when the opulence of a space was defined by crystal chandeliers has now been conquered by assorted pendant lights, stationed together using the bohemian method of carelessly-careful balance. Also trending are functional uncluttered linear formats, exposed chords, handmade ceramic domes, celestial rings and minimalist wall scones that strike impact with controllable temperatures. My personal favourite is sculpture lighting, which double up as statement pieces. The dual utilitarian prong of art and purpose are the theme for lighting up the new era.



Home accents

The difference between something good and something great is the attention to detail. It is always the small pieces that make the big picture — the way you accessorise the embellishments, define your relationship with your home and all things you love. Prone to fast-paced lives, anything in excess brings in complexities and chaos. In the past decade, we loved the pandemonium created by eclectic clutter which has now become redundant, giving way to sustainable and solo statement artefacts. The fetish to hoard all heterogeneous inheritances and display colourful family portraits have now been overtaken by antique sculptures and modern origami-inspired silhouettes.

Green is considered to be a gender-neutral colour, which is the way forward in the new year



Flooring

Flooring is like the foundation of any house. It is one of the most difficult things to replace, hence choosing the material with utmost care is obligatory. In a world full of trends, marble has always remained a classic because it is irreplaceable. The conventional way of just cutting the most coveted Italian marble into slabs and polishing them are mediums and methods that are becoming archaic and they are being swiftly replaced by Turkish and Spanish marbles cut in geometric patterns, laid with inlay detailing and finished with matte-leather finishes. The real wood floors which are high-maintenance are becoming defunct and gorgeous laminates in stunning oxidised shades that are affordable and effortless to preserve, given the hot weather conditions in the sub-continent, are gaining ground.

Furniture

The process of converting a brick structure into a cosy domain involves mixing a whole lot of unrelated pieces into one homogenous blend. Buying appropriate furniture for a house can be tricky as it needs a sense of balance, comfort, functionality and beauty, all put together to make it a home. Linear, minimalistic, glossy furniture has now sublimed to introduce us to the world of metal-laced curved pieces which raise the comfort bar with their enveloping nature. Fascinating and enigmatic faceted furniture is still around and trending as they never let you get bored of looking at them. This year, we will also see the rise of the printed acrylic furniture which adds a dash of airiness, quirk and simplicity to areas which were ruled by wicker in the last decade.



Bedroom

We are living in times of equality, striving every day to eradicate gender bias. Gone are the days when blues stood up for dominating strength and pinks represented girlie grace. Bedrooms are spaces where you relax, think, meditate and dream. Dark monochromes and saturated muted hues help keep the mind focused and collected. The comfort element will be induced by placing cosy beds with generous upholstery, velvet linen and thick, fluffy, and mushy pillows and an assorted mix and match of cushions. With minimalism on its way out, grand, vintage mid-century luxuries are back with four-poster beds teamed up with floral walls and art deco storage solutions.

Kitchen



Home-made cherry cabinets have also had their day in the sun and now we are looking forward to using modular, factory-finished storage units in dark and burnt shades of grey. The old-school, speckled, solid-coloured granite countertops are obsolete and are swapped with stunning scratch-proof, stain-resistant man-made composite stones that can take up to 200-degree centigrade heat.



Bathroom

Bathrooms, like kitchens, are spaces that primarily need to be functional but this area deserves special treatment and attention as it is the most private space of the house. White bathrooms are soon finding their way out of the door, welcoming spirited dark gutsy blacks and dainty pinks. Chrome accessories are now considered ancient and non-fashionable as the most stylish fittings are now fostered in matte black and brushed dull gold. What once was old is new again and nothing proves that more than the recent resurgence of the classic mid-century terrazzo. The colour choices and speckle patterns for this mosaic are limitless and ageless.