

DESIGN COMEBACKS

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These features from years gone by are making a comeback, but with a contemporary twist.

BY MELISSA DITTMANN TRACEY

In home design, history often repeats itself. Many of the latest trends take their inspiration from the past, whether that's borrowing from the 1950s' pinks, the 1970s' velvets, or the 1980s' wave of florals. "By reaching back for culture and forward for contemporary techniques, we combine the best of old and new,"

says Katie Skoloff, principal designer and founder of In Site Designs, an interior design firm in Greenville, S.C. "People feel validated by heritage, especially as we age, and are always peeking into our ties from the past." Trends we once loved reemerge and are being enjoyed with fresh eyes. Homes are becoming design

time capsules of a sort as ideas evocative of themes and styles from the past spring to life. "Everything old is new again," says Julea Joseph, owner of Reinventing the Space, a home staging and interior design firm in Chicago. Take a look at some trends of the past that have been making a comeback.



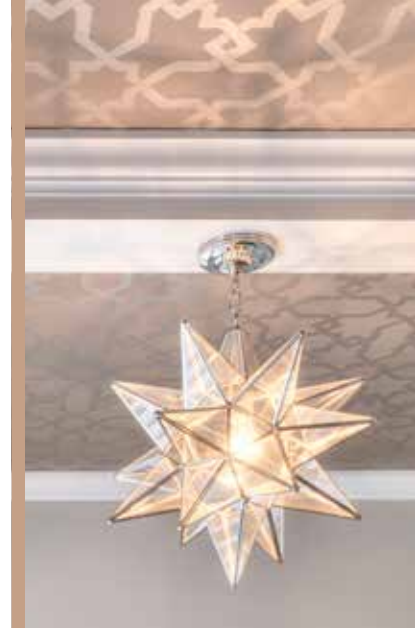
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17th Century Stately Sunbursts

Then: Sunburst motifs

Now: Sunburst mirrors

At the Palace of Versailles in France, 17th century sunbursts grace the Gate of Honor and Hall of Mirrors and are reflected throughout the famous palace's architectural details. Today, sunbursts—in the form of mirrors with thin rays of silver, gold, or natural wood—are a popular accents above a bed or fireplace or in a powder room. "A sunburst mirror in the entryway can be a burst of energy," says home stager Krisztina Bell, owner of No Vacancy Staging in Atlanta.



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1920s Gatsby-inspired Ceilings

Then: Metal-stamped ceilings

Now: Wallpaper or painted ceilings

The statement ceiling is back, but it relies on paint, wallpaper, or wood molding instead of the copper- or tin-stamped sheets that emerged during the 1920s, when floral patterns or corniced ceiling roses painted white gave a hand-carved look. Today, metallic wallpaper in gold or silver offers up history and luxury at an affordable price. "We find the interest on a ceiling draws the eye up, and you cannot help but feel a space is there to 'wow' you," Skoloff says.



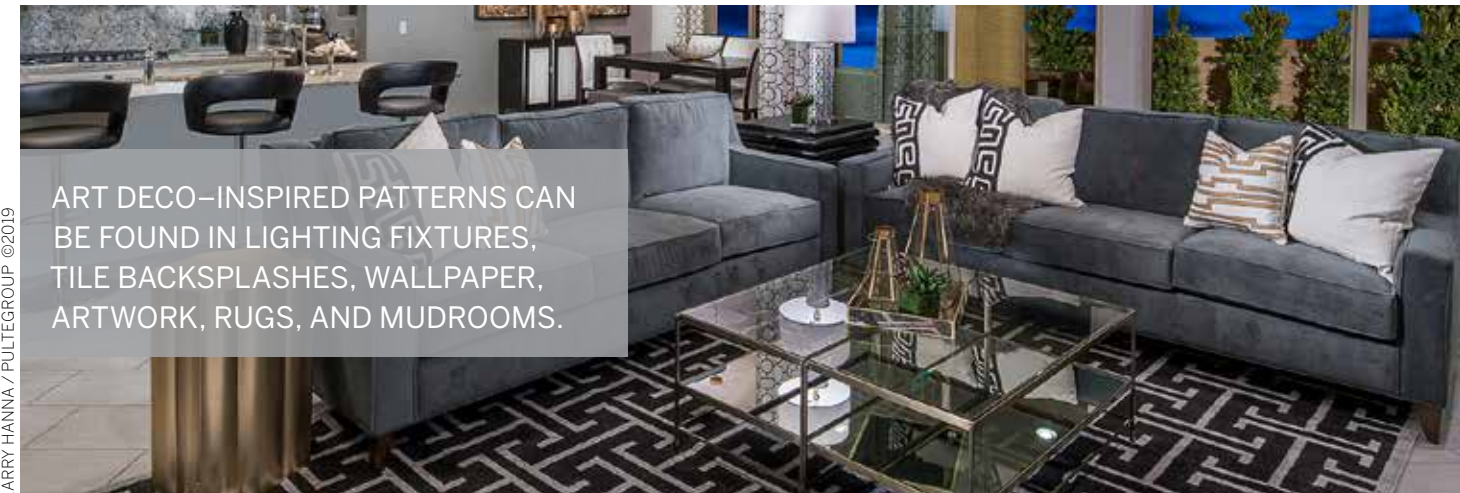
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1930s Art Deco Glam

Then: Checkerboard tiling

Now: Geometric patterned accents

Black-and-white checkerboard tile flooring in bathrooms and kitchens was all the rage in the 1930s. Now, these art deco-inspired patterns can be found in lighting fixtures, tile backsplashes, wallpaper, artwork, rugs, and mudrooms. Bold black-and-white shapes are being merged with urban farmhouse styles; think of mosaic black-and-white octagon tiles paired with a classic period piece like a claw-foot bathtub. "Black-and-white is timeless," Joseph says.



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ART DECO-INSPIRED PATTERNS CAN BE FOUND IN LIGHTING FIXTURES, TILE BACKSPLASHES, WALLPAPER, ARTWORK, RUGS, AND MUDROOMS.



GRAHAM & BROWN ©2019

1940s Jazzed-up Terrazzo

Then: Terrazzo as a flooring surface
Now: Terrazzo as a pattern
Confetti-like terrazzo traces back to the mosaics of ancient Egypt. The composite material, made up of marble chips set in cement, became popular in the 1940s as a flooring option for art deco and modern homes. The craze picked up steam again last year, with terrazzo showing up on shower walls or in countertops as an alternative to granite. Pinterest users saved imagery of terrazzo-designed spaces in 2018 at more than triple the rate of the year before. Further evidence: speckled wallpaper, lamp shades, and kitchenware.



AMY LEE PHOTO / PULTEGROUP ©2019

1950s Pretty in Pink

Then: All-pink bathrooms
Now: Pink accents
First Lady Mamie Eisenhower's affection for pink launched a national craze in the 1950s. The color dominated housewares, clothing, and even bathrooms. Those bubblegum hues have given way to more muted varieties and are more likely to be found as accents on throw pillows, vases, and blankets. Accent walls might feature "living coral," which paint forecaster Pantone named its 2019 color of the year. Pairing pink throws and pink vases with crystal, like in a chandelier, offers a luxe look, Joseph says.



KRISZTINA BELL / NO VACANCY STAGING ©2019

1960s Groovy Curve Appeal

Then: Rounded furnishings used in formal living rooms
Now: Curved accents
The curvy design aesthetic of the 1960s is finding its way back into homes. Rounded backs can be spotted in everything from orb bar stools to wingback chairs. In staging, curvy furnishings can accentuate a fireplace or create a cozy spot by a picture window, Bell says. Rounded designs even have the potential to make people more relaxed in their space, according to a 2011 Oregon State University study that appeared in the journal *Environment and Behavior*.



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1970s Velvet Glory

Then: Velvet everywhere
Now: Velvet furniture
Plush velvet in curtains, furniture, and bedding was a signature look of the 1970s. Now it's back, adding a retro vibe to interiors. "Its success lies in its adaptability to various interior trends," says Rebecca Snowden, interior style adviser at Furniture Choice. Bolder velvet hues—in navy, green, or fuchsia—make for a contemporary yet sophisticated contrast to lighter interiors, she says. On the flip side, lighter pastel tones, such as baby blue or dusty pink, give rooms a softer touch.



FURNITURE CHOICE ©2019

1980s Flower Power

Then: Chintz florals
Now: Supersized florals
The 1980s ushered in a floral explosion: think of floral-patterned chintz bedding with matching drapes and pillows. In today's design, the floral touch is more discerning and less "matchy," Joseph says. Today's florals are larger than the patterns of the 1980s. Large peonies or roses show up as artwork accents. Florals "pop well with smaller decor and can firmly anchor the room with a striking feature wall," Snowden adds. Larger botanical prints, in murals or as wall art, make a bold statement.



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1990s Green Machine

Then: Hunter greens
Now: Jewel tones
The popular dark green accents of the 1990s—evident then in leather sofas and marble flooring—are back but infused with today's passions for the great outdoors. That's why the paint company PPG chose Night Watch, a dark green with blue undertones, as its 2019 color of the year. Darker greens also provide accents in bedrooms, dining areas, and spaces lacking a tie to the outdoors, PPG says. For a luxury statement, pair jewel-toned greens and navy blues with gold or brass accents, Joseph says.



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PINK ONCE DOMINATED HOUSEWARES, CLOTHING, AND EVEN BATHROOMS.



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VELVET ACCESSORIES LIKE CUSHIONS ARE ON TREND AND CAN TRANSFORM ANY ROOM.