

Interior Trends 2008

Text By Deb Corning

Organizers of the Annual International Furnishings Show sent five design experts to Russia to discuss the latest trends in interior design. During a two day brainstorming session, the team examined colors, patterns, shapes and materials influential in furniture and lighting in 2007. They broke down the current market into four categories:

- **Outside In** — Bringing the natural environment inside.
- **Neo Nature** — organic forms, especially those derived using the latest technology.
- **Design School** — The explosion of design and “anything goes” attitude.
- **Priceless** — Where design meets art — limited edition works by signature designers with hefty price tags.

Large windows and open floor plans are essential for bringing the outside in. The desire to bring nature into homes has been apparent with the explosion of outdoor rooms. Designers will demonstrate the expansion from outdoor rooms to indoor changes that will bring the natural environments inside. This is true of color selection also.

Blue Iris is the color that will carry trends in 2008 says, Pantone, a leading manufacturer of eco-friendly paint. Blue Iris is billed as a combination of the stable and calming aspects of blue with the mystical and spiritual qualities of purple. Other colors that designers will be using in addition to Blue Iris this year are medium heu of blue, red, magenta, greens and tans.



Terms including “functionally,” “innovation,” “materials” and “system” continue to stand today for a design philosophy that originated in Germany. German modernism and International Style has

spread modernist ideas around the world and into all areas of everyday life. This philosophy will remain strong through 2008 and beyond.

There’s definitely been a backlash to the maximalist trend of a few years back, but luxury is creeping back into fashion, making leather a hot favorite again as an upholstery choice. The trick is to combine it with cool, retro-styling, like the box sofa combined with wood.

Lighting and lighting effects are a massive impression this year. The trend prediction is ‘big is beautiful,’ as shades and pendants come super-sized.

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