

# THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

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REAL ESTATE | DESIGN

## Top 5 Interior Design Trends for 2016

We asked 26 very opinionated interior designers for the five top decorating trends to look forward to this year. Plus: Five trends that are kaput

By **DAVID A. KEEPS**

Dec. 29, 2015 4:17 p.m. ET

### What's in for 2016



SCP X Jasper Morrison side table *PHOTO: THE FUTURE PERFECT*

York designer Julia Haney-Montanez.

### ROUNDED FURNITURE

#### BLACK METALS

“There is nothing fussy about iron and blackened steel,” said Mr. Butera. No longer sidelined as the metal for overwrought outdoor furniture or bed frames, the decidedly unflashy material is appearing as simple hardware, bathroom fixtures and even flatware, said British interior designer Martyn Lawrence Bullard. Contemporary designers, such as Jasper Morrison blend it with wood and glass, or sometimes create entire pieces of matte black metal. “Welders are the new rock stars,” enthused New

“It started with the iPhone,” said New York designer Wesley Moon, who’s noting a curvy trickle-down aesthetic in home

décor. English designer Rachel Laxer loves the execution of B&B Italia’s Oskar table: “It’s a racetrack shape, almost a rectangle, with the sexiness of curves.” Radial and bullnose edges soften hard materials like marble, said Glenn Lawson of Lawson Fenning in Los Angeles. Meanwhile, Los Angeles designer Timothy Corrigan asked, “Who doesn’t want to rub their hands along a smooth, rounded piece of



Bethan Gray’s table for Lapidica

marble? Touch is essential to design.”

## OLD-WORLD ORNAMENTATION

“People want the traditional and dressy, with a shot of nostalgia, to feel like everything is going to be OK,” said Tobi Fairley, based in Little Rock, Ark. In 2016, look for brocades, tapestries and Georgian and Empire antiques. Fringe, cording and tassels “soften the austerity of modern upholstery,” noted Kirill Istomin, who has offices in Moscow and New York. Expect, too, dramatic drapes. “Rooms without curtains are like a man in a suit without shoes,” said British designer Kathryn M. Ireland.

## MEXICAN MIDCENTURY MODERNISM

Mexican designers who practiced in the 1940s, ’50s and ’60s, such as Arturo Pani, Eugenio Escudero and Pepe Mendoza, “cling to the clean lines of [American and European] midcentury modern,” noted Jonathan Savage, a designer in Nashville, “but many of them also place a high importance on mixing materials—wood, metal and stone.” South American designers, including Jorge Zalszupin, are also coming into vogue for “uniquely shaped pieces in exotic rosewood and jacaranda,” said Perry Walter, a designer based in Decatur, Ga.



Pillow from Anthropologie PHOTO: F. MARTIN RAMIN/THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, STYLING BY ANNE CARDENAS

## SCANDINAVIAN FLAT WEAVES

“With elegantly balanced geometric compositions, these rugs are a sophisticated answer to the omnipresent neutrals and sisals,” said Los Angeles designer Madeline Stuart, who is fond of early-20th-century designs from the company Märta Måås-Fjetterström. The somewhat folksy carpets adapt to a variety of contexts. “The restraint of Scandinavian design works with both contemporary and traditional interiors,” noted San Francisco designer Heather Hilliard.

## What’s Out for 2016

### ROSY METALLICS

In 2015, copper and rose-gold metals so dominated, they’ll be identified with the year. “You can pretty much date a home based on the metal finishes used,” New York-based interior designer Timothy Brown said. While high-quality pieces may stand the test of time, Barclay Butera, a designer with offices in Los Angeles and Park City, Utah, warned, “The rosy-gold hues can go garish and look cheap in moderately priced pieces.” Others maintain that such shades have no place in décor. Says Los Angeles decorator Lindsay Pennington, “Copper is for pots and pans. Rose gold is for jewelry.”

### FACETS



Escudero's Pyramid armoire PHOTO: 1STDIBS

“We’ve grown tired of items that feel sharp, hard and mechanized,” said Los Angeles designer Leslie Shapiro Joyal, sensing a certain facet fatigue. Newport, R.I., designer Ally Coulter observed of the style, which afflicted everything from objets d’art to armoires this past year, “It’s overproduced, unsophisticated and clunky.” Meanwhile, architect Mark Zeff reserved his appreciation of the oversize-gem look for the real deal: “Unless a faceted table is made of real quartz, what’s the point?” he said.

## THE INDUSTRIAL LOOK

Joe Lucas of Lucas Studio in Los Angeles considers “industrial chic” an oxymoron. “Enough of looking like we are living in the garage,” he declared. The style has become a signifier of millennial-coffeehouse design, said Mr. Brown, who maintains a design practice in New York. “I’m all for reduce and reuse, but I would prefer not to drink out of another Mason jar in a barn in Brooklyn.” New York designer Julia Haney-Montanez takes the oversaturation personally: “I have ended friendships with people asking me for Edison lightbulb resources.”

## OPPRESSIVE MIDCENTURY MODERNISM

“I love Don Draper as much as the next guy,” said Mr. Butera, referring to the lead character of the 1960s-set AMC series “Mad Men,” “but we have to move on.” Though the occasional womb chair or teak credenza still adds style, said Los Angeles decorator Trip Haenisch, “the quintessential example of not chic is a room done entirely in midcentury or Danish Modern.” And derivations of the classics also threaten to kill a good thing. “Mass-market brands have mimicked the original designs to the point of almost ruining their genius,” New York-based designer Thomas Jayne said.

## SISAL AND JUTE



A 1962 design by Barbro Nilsson for Märta Måås-Fjetterström *PHOTO: BAC*

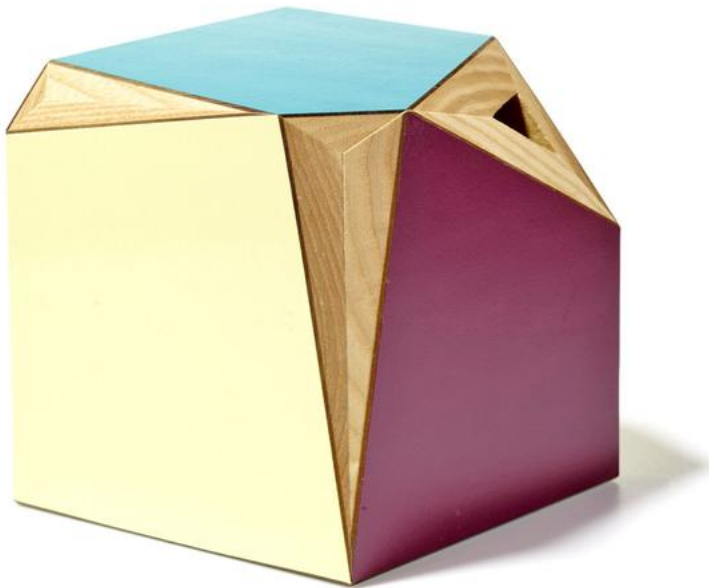
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Of these two types of fiber rugs, sisals are the tougher but also the rougher. “They don’t feel soft or cushy on bare feet and are not very child- or pet-friendly,” said Mr. Corrigan. And jute lacks durability, said New York designer Philip Gorrivan. “It wears quickly, stains easily and is virtually un-cleanable.” Its worst offense? Ubiquity. “When you can get a rug for \$140 at mainstream stores,” said Birmingham, Mich., designer Corey Damen Jenkins, “the trend has overstayed its welcome.”



A copper lamp *PHOTO: MARK LUSCOMBE-WHYTE/THE INTERIOR*

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A facet table *PHOTO: F. MARTIN RAMIN/THE WALL STREET JOURNAL DESIGN*



Gray metal stool *PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO*

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Midcentury dining room *PHOTO: CORBIS*

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Sisal samples PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

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