

8 Leading design trends for 2009

We searched Austin and found the most qualified architectural and home interior designers to give you the top trends. What's in for 2009...

1 Modern Design A popular style that is reemerging for homes that range from urban townhomes to rural estates. Sleek, clean and uncluttered modern homes are looking back to the Mid Century Modernism of the 1950s for inspiration in home design that connects inside with outside, enjoys copious natural daylight, and is colorful, welcoming and comfortable.

Riley Triggs, Principal of Austin Field Office

2 Wallpaper Is In! Reemerging as the wall adornment of choice, wallpaper is taking paint's place as the trend of today. Although initial thoughts may turn to grandma's pink floral wallpaper and matching border, times have changed. Today a myriad of modern, eye-catching designs and materials are available. Silk, embossed velvet, sea grass and beads are just a sampling of materials used.

Komal Sheth, Founder / Owner of Spaces Designed

3 Solar Panels Austin Energy rebates for photovoltaics (solar panels). Austin Energy has the best solar rebate program in the nation—period. By the time you couple their rebate with the federal tax credit, your system's cost is almost cut in half. For more information, visit:

<http://www.austinenergy.com>

Brett Pitt, Sentient Architecture

4 Complement Neutral Neutral color gives your eyes a rest and it brings peace to the soul. Chic, sophisticated and easy to live with, neutrals are a natural choice for any room in the house and it invites the opportunity to introduce a color that pops, like orange.

Komal Sheth, Founder / Owner of Spaces Designed

5 Home Office Telecommuting. Second jobs and cottage industries have all contributed to the proliferation of the home office. Bearing little resemblance to the den of Ward Cleaver in *Leave it to Beaver*, the home office has become an essential component in home design. Now outfitted with flat screen TVs, computers, scanners and printers, it is easy to stay connected while staying close to kids and spouse – which is why more and more homes now include two offices to maintain home harmony.

Riley Triggs, Principal of Austin Field Office

6 "Re" is très chic! Reducing, reusing, recycling, repurposing, redecorating, redesigning and remixing are key elements in design in 2009. Due to tighter budgets, homeowners are forced to re-use or re-purpose items from around the house. Some of the best finds can be picked up for next to nothing at flea markets, garage sales, thrift stores and craigslist. Unique, affordable, creative and eco-friendly are just a few of the inherent qualities of being "Re-chic" when designing a room.

Ashley Whittenberger, Owner of Interiority Complex

7 Smaller Homes (2500-2700 SF, rather than 3500-4000SF) The public is becoming more aware of their individual impacts on the environment—their carbon footprint. Part of this footprint is the physical space the home utilizes, but it's also the amount of energy required to maintain and operate it. Making the decision to reduce the size of your home by 15-20% is an immediate 15-20% energy reduction across the board.

Brett Pitt, Sentient Architecture

8 Eco-Friendly Paints Low VOC and no VOC (VOC = volatile organic compounds) are available in a variety of hues and excellent quality, so consumers can breathe easy knowing they've made an eco-friendly and non-toxic choice for bringing color into their space.

Ashley Whittenberger, Owner of Interiority Complex



photos courtesy of Komal Sheth

The Experts

Spaces Designed was founded by Komal Sheth with a commitment to creating beautiful, livable spaces that meet clients' aesthetic and functional goals while respecting the environment.

www.spacesdesigned.com



Komal Sheth

Brett is a partner at Sentient Architecture, and manages the firm's client relations, marketing efforts and project design and delivery.

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Brett Pitt

As Owner and President of the Texas-based interior decorating firm Interiority Complex (founded in 2002), Ashley has personally sold, staged and decorated hundreds of Texas homes.

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