

A TOUCH OF BOHEMIA

Bath interior designer Clair Strong demonstrates ways to achieve a relaxed bohemian vibe without slipping into hippie dippy mood

It's really easy to fall in love with a trend and want to incorporate it into every aspect of your home design, but doing so can be quite overwhelming. In my experience, the most chic and stylish spaces are those that hint at particular trends without going completely overboard.

The bohemian trend is one look that can very easily go from 0-60 in ten seconds. To avoid your home looking like a cliché, I recommend pairing some of your favourite features from the trend with a touch of modern minimalism. It's a pared back look that gives you all the joys of boho without the 'oh no'.



PLANT LIFE

Plants, whether real or otherwise, are practically a necessity for an authentic bohemian look. The boho trend is very much in touch with nature so you'd better load up on those pot plants. Exotic plants like cacti, succulents and palms are the most visually striking choices for this scheme. All that lush greenery goes especially well with the texture, colour and patterns of boho textiles too. How you display the plants is equally important so give careful consideration to placement. I recommend mixing neutral terracotta or stone plant pots with a light-handed dose of macramé hangers and decorative vases.

LIGHT TOUCH: monochrome plant holders by Rigby and Mac



A NEUTRAL COLOUR SCHEME

Start with a very modern and fresh colour scheme of white or grey. White walls, white floors – a neutral foundation on which to layer the more boho elements. I'd also ensure the paint job is crisp and pristine. Boho chic is traditionally very colourful with rich jewel tones and dusky desert hues, but it can all be a little overbearing. The neutral backdrop acts as an anchor, it brings everything together and creates a sense of calm so you can go wild with accessories and furniture.

COSY: Schnuffle pouffe by Loaf



PRINT AND PATTERN

An iconic aspect of the boho trend is layers upon layers of pattern and colour. Think rugs, blankets, cushions, tapestries and curtains in clashing, eclectic prints. While this really works in boutique hotels or perfectly styled magazine photo shoots, it's not practical for everyday life. I think a simplified look of a few key pieces has more impact than heaps of unnecessary textiles that overwhelm the eye. Textiles are often inspired by traditional ethnic patterns and weaving techniques like ikat, Kilim and Moroccan tile.

PATTERN: left Blackberry collection china from Marks & Spencer and, above vintage style cushion, also M&S





DON'T CONFORM

I've already hinted at this but a really important aspect of boho is a non-conformist attitude. You can be really subtle here and think about new ways to display things or unconventional furniture choices.

Like a daybed instead of a sofa and big, comfortable floor cushions instead of armchairs. You might make a statement with the way you display art or collect unique items and create vignettes. Have fun, be creative and see what works.

Velvet cushions by **Rockett St George**

ACCESSORISE

It's the little things like ornaments, art work and lamps that really finish a space. When you're working to a particular 'theme' or trend it's easy to make obvious choices, like picking a lighthouse sculpture for a nautical bathroom or a Moroccan lamp for a bohemian living room. Think outside the box and pick accessories that only give a sly nod to the trend. For example, this Cactus Vase by **Rockett St George** is charming, playful and stylish and would look great in a boho space.



VINTAGE FURNITURE

Bohemian chic has a carefree, relaxed attitude. It's about breaking free from convention and dancing to your own tune. Repurposing well-loved and well-worn vintage furniture is as much a part of this trend as sourcing ethnic textiles. Finding one-off, unique pieces to decorate your home allows you to channel that bohemian spirit. Clair suggests combining vintage and modern pieces for a balanced look. If you want to buy all vintage, choose pieces that complement each other, leave the clashing to the textiles.



Black rattan chair by **Alexander & Pearl**

Clair Strong Interior Design is a small, friendly, creative business based in Bath and London, providing services for residential and commercial clients. Visit: clairstrong.co.uk or contact: clair@clairstrong.co.uk.



LITTLE ACORN
TREE AND GARDEN SERVICES

DANIEL FLOWER

t: 0117 909 8231 m: 07936 623 646

enquiries@littleacornbristol.co.uk

www.littleacornbristol.co.uk

GRASS CUTTING • TREE SURGERY • PRUNING
HEDGING • SCARIFYING • WEED CONTROL
FENCING • £5 MILLION PUBLIC LIABILITY



MJ Finishes

MJ Finishes offer unique wall and floor finishes to transform any room. Beton Cire is a polished concrete resin, which comes in a range of exciting colours. Beton Cire is totally waterproof, ideal for bathrooms, wet-rooms and kitchens. No grout needed!

This durable product can transform dull rooms into stunning living spaces.



www.mjfinishes.co.uk • mjfinishes@gmail.com