



INTERIORS | AND | STYLE

SIX OF THE BEST

*2018 looks set to be a year of daring, dramatic interiors. Prepare to go wild with eclectic kitchens, bold colour and jungle greenery says interior designer **Clair Strong***



1/ Mixed-up kitchens

This is the total opposite of an all-white kitchen with identikit cupboards. Instead throw together clashing textures and colours. For example: base cabinets in matt black and wall cabinets in gloss white paired with natural timber worktops. I love this trend because it encourages creativity in the design process, and the final result is one that few other people will have. There's such a great variety of materials, colours and hardware it's now possible to create a bespoke look without a big budget.

2/ Brighten up

Colour pros Pantone have honed in on vibrant colours as a major trend, naming Ultra Violet, a punchy, cosmic shade of purple, as their colour of the year. Also make room in your home for hot pink, turquoise, coral, 'minion yellow', lime green and ruby. These shades can be hard to carry off on a wall but look incredible emblazoned on accessories, cushions and art.

3/ Plant power

One of the year's most uplifting trends is Biophilic design (biophilia means a 'love of nature'). At its most basic it can just mean a few pot plants but increasingly people are decorating with plants via indoor gardens and living walls. Seek out the Chinese Money Plant (beloved by instagrammers for its pretty round leaves) and spiky leafed mother-in-law's-tongue – which is known as an excellent air purifier. Botanical prints are a great way to get the look for those not gifted with green fingers.

4/ Go Wabi Sabi

The ancient Japanese philosophy of finding beauty in imperfection, Wabi Sabi is having a moment. In interiors this translates to naturally worn surfaces, cracked edges and oxidized materials. Seek out materials like wood and wool and style them alongside warm earth tones such as sand, taupe, mocha and moss.

5/ Maximalism

Get ready for clashing prints, bright colours and plenty of knick-knacks. Whatever your style; bohemian, retro, rustic or Scandinavian, you can embrace the principles of maximalism to up the ante in your space. Just layer on pattern, colour and texture until you're happy with the finished look. The only difficult thing is creating a space that's more luxurious chaos than hoarder's paradise, but you'll get there with practice and experimentation.

6/ Handcrafted design

From the smallest needle-felted ornament to the largest king size bed, artisan-made will be in the forefront this year. Ceramics in particular will be key as people look to update their tableware with bespoke pieces. Handmade items hold so much appeal because they offer something different to the mass-produced pieces found on the high street and are often made with sustainable materials.

Clair Strong Interior Design has offices in Bath and London, visit: clairstrong.co.uk



Clockwise from opposite page: Rich colours of claret red and royal blue add drama to this grand living room – hogging the limelight is a Duresta Carnaby chair with gold-tipped legs from John Lewis, johnlewis.com; muted colours in different textures complete this deVOL shaker-style kitchen, devolkitchens.co.uk; The Forest Bathing wallpaper series from Pixers is a great way to add a bold botanical look, pixers.uk; natural materials like polished walnut, leather and hessian sooth the effect of this modern living room with accessories from H&M Home, 2.hm.com