

EDITOR'S TRENDS



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Top right: The Ardmore heritage lives on in the innovative new fabric prints that have just been released. This couch was VISI editor Jacquie Myburgh Chemaly's Most Beautiful Object in SA at the Design Indaba earlier this year.

VISI is one of South Africa's most trend-forward décor, design and architecture titles. Published bi-monthly, the magazine has a timeless, collectable quality and almost every designer home in the country has a complete collection of VISI on its shelves. 2011 has seen the relaunch of VISI.co.za to be the country's leading design news portal as well as Covet, the Visi design network.

THE COLOUR BLUE. Fashion's already embraced navy blue and all shades are emerging in décor.

VELVET, IKAT AND TEXTURED FABRICS. They're definitely the current favourites and going to be around for some time still.

UNPRETENTIOUS DESIGN. We're done with things that look good but don't work.

WOOD. Have you ever seen so much wood around? From furniture to décor and some astounding architecture – we're loving the timber revolution.

GLASS. It probably has a lot to do with our wonderful climate and South Africans are finally insisting on as much glass in their homes as possible.

CUSTOM-MADE ANYTHING. We all crave a little individuality. Now true luxury is being able to afford something no-one else has.

LEATHER ANYTHING – IN NATURAL COLOURS. We're not talking about animal skins here, but rich and warm natural leather in décor and fashion.

UNDERSTATED BRANDING. With fakes ruining all our fun, it's become rather fashionable not to brag about your brand, but keep it so understated that only the in-crowd will understand the value.

HERITAGE. In a world where trends come and go, there's a renewed sense of heritage and of valuing those things that last. The saying: "They don't make things like they used to" has never been truer.

AUTHENTICITY. Again, we're all tired of flash in the pan fashion and prefer to live with fewer objects that have a story to tell.

REAL FOOD. The days of towers are over. Give us healthy, unprocessed ingredients that we can trace back to their source and we're happy.

UPCYCLING. We haven't seen the last of the budgetary pressure, so giving our old items a new lease on life is going to continue as a trend.

As we emerge from the recession, the mood is optimistic but tempered with caution. Although few will be embracing the materialism of the past, there will be opportunities to add that touch of glamour with an uplifting splash of colour, a beautiful light fitting or an opulent wallpaper.

Colour-wise, this year you can't go wrong with grey and this includes all shades from soft dove greys to rich charcoal. Wonderfully versatile, grey suits the present mood and is ideal for use in both classic and contemporary interiors. Chartreuse will still be with us for the next year or so which is good news as it looks wonderful with grey. Other colours to look out for this winter include rich plums, tangerines and corals. Although it's never gone out of style, texture in its myriad forms is coming to the fore and wood will be everywhere. Lace and crochet patterns are also seeing a revival, not only in fabric but also on ceramic and glass.

The global look inspired by different ethnic cultures is still fashionable, with ikats, patchwork and embroidery very much in evidence. A significant influence is The Far East with chinoiserie found on both fabrics and wallpapers. Moroccan and Arabic motifs are popping up in inlays, fretwork and tile designs, and tiles are being used to introduce pattern in much the same way as wallpaper.

Wallpaper is still very big but there's a new light-heartedness about it with design taking a whimsical direction. What's also new is that wallpaper is going three dimensional with beading, texture and optical effects.

As a result of the recession there is a new appreciation for what's important. For most people this is family and home and there's more

emphasis on living simply, but comfortably. Kitchens are rapidly becoming the most important space in the home. Many now incorporate TVs, home offices, eating and sitting areas and often have Wi-Fi Internet access as well. They're like a mini home within a room.

Lighting is another big trend. Following on from the popularity of chandeliers, pendant, table and standard lamps are also becoming as important for their good looks as they are for their function. Living smarter is also something we'll see more of. New technology allows you to control not only lighting systems, but operate the sound equipment, regulate the air conditioning and raise and lower blinds just by using a remote or even your cellphone.

With power outages becoming the norm, many homeowners are planning homes that are less dependent on the national grid and there will be more spend on non-glamorous elements such as insulation and solar power. And with water shortages being predicted in the near future, the new status symbol won't be a fancy new car but a large rainwater tank or underground rainwater-harvesting system.

The blurring of boundaries between the interior and the garden continues. There have been incredible advances made in waterproof and UV-resistant furniture, light fittings, fabrics and even rugs that can be left outdoors all year round.



VISI.co.za was recently redesigned to become the country's foremost design news portal plus the home of Covet, the country's first design network.