

Design Right Now

Top interior designers, architects and builders tell us what's new and what's now in Colorado

By ERIN ENGLISH

Bath Trends

"In the bath, everyone is transitioning from a heavy, traditional look to a **clean, minimalist look**," says Chris Awadalla, designer with Interior Intuitions in Denver. Classic faucets in polished chrome and large-format tiles that require less grout are a few ways to get the look.



COUNTERPOINT FAUCET BY BARBARA BARRY FOR KALLISTA



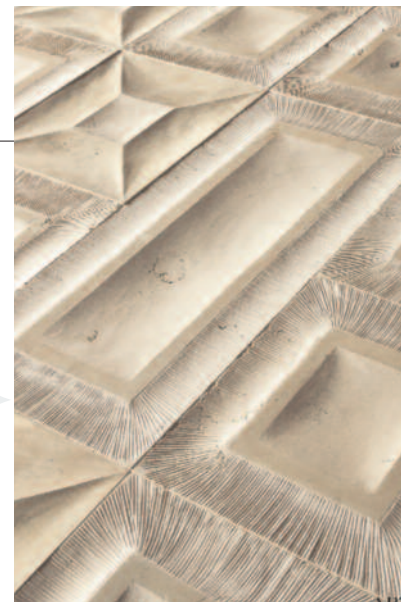
BECKMAN MARBLE WASHSTAND FOR WATERWORKS

Washstands made of a single material, like Beekman's marble washstand, are coveted by consumers due to their "sculptural" look, says Brooke Erkal, showroom manager for Waterworks in Denver. "The bathroom is a retreat, and people really want things that are beautiful."



ZIVA BY ARTISTIC TILE, DECORATIVE MATERIALS

In the world of tile, one of the hottest items showing up in baths this year is **sculpted tile, made of stone and even porcelain**.



PORTRAIT BY ARTISTIC TILE, DECORATIVE MATERIALS



MADDOX TUB BY MTI, FERGUSON

When it comes to washing the cares of the day away, the once-coveted jetted tub is now passé, and bathtubs in general are becoming less popular for actually soaking. "People are buying them as sculptural pieces rather than functional pieces," says Brooke Erkal. **Egg-shaped or perfectly square freestanding tubs** are currently favored over a standard rectangular design.

"Tile is no longer just square and flat—everything has texture and dimension," says Kirsten Schmit, product manager for Decorative Materials. **"In Italy they are taking some of the softer stones and carving patterns into them, which is wildly innovative."**



Color Trends

Retro colors are hot, with mid-century modern influences cropping up everywhere in architecture and interior design. “Characteristic of this period are **cleaner and softer colors, like pastels** without the cuteness factor,” says color consultant James Martin of The Color People in Denver.

While many experts point to pop culture for jump-starting the “mid mod” trend—particularly television’s hit period drama “**Mad Men**”—others say that after a long hiatus, it was simply time for the look to come back around. **“Really, new trends seem to happen with whatever has been out of fashion for quite a while,”** Martin says.

Mid-century modern colors can be feminine, to be sure, with **pale oranges, corals, soft blues, lilacs and lavenders**. However, when paired with neutrals—such as this year’s popular **gray tones**—these delicate hues become decidedly more masculine. The pastel palette is showing up on wallpaper, floor tiles, and just about everything else.

Fresh from a Color Marketing Group meeting in Italy, (CMG is the premier international association that forecasts and tracks color trends) Martin offers this final insight about color in 2013: **“The biggest trend in color is color itself,”** Martin says. **“People love color and want color in everything; they really don’t care so much about precisely what color. They just want more. It makes them feel good.”**



FARROW & BALL PAINTS



TINA SIDE TABLE, MITCHELL GOLD+BOB WILLIAMS



CARA SOFA, MITCHELL GOLD+BOB WILLIAMS



STARVIEW, YORK WALLCOVERINGS

Furniture Trends

Mid-century modern is a growing trend nationally, and in Colorado, the colors and styles of this time period are accenting many a home—especially Denver’s bungalows.

However, says Susan Ferrari, vice president of Slifer Designs in Edwards, a “**softer, traditional look**” is also gaining traction in the design world and with consumers. “Especially in Colorado, comfort and lifestyle are most important,” Ferrari says. **“There is a return to more classic silhouettes. Where there used to be a straight hard arm [on a chair], now there is a little more padding.”**

The desire to have functional furniture is apparent across every demographic in our state. But twenty- and thirtysomethings are still seeking out eclectic pieces that express their individuality—without sacrificing that element of comfort. **“The young professional is looking for new textures, geometric shapes; they don’t want what their parents have,”** says interior designer **Noelle Hernandez, founder of NCH Design in Aspen.**

Hernandez says that “playing with textures” is the predominant trend in furniture, examples of which include **mixing suede or steel with wood, or combining matte and satin finishes.**

Consumers are also showing a preference for **ceruse furniture**, a weathered look that has evolved from raw wood designs that cracked over time to intentionally distressed pieces that are more durable.



LEXICON COPENHAGEN BENCH, BAKER



LOUIS CHAIR, ROOM AND BOARD



WHITEMORE SHERRILL CHAIRS, COLORADO STYLE HOME FURNISHINGS

“People don’t want cookie-cutter, generic stuff,” agrees Brent Simon, president of Colorado Style Home Furnishings in Denver. **“They want pieces that are usable and functional, but also interesting to look at.”**



BANTAM ARMCHAIR IN FABRIC, DESIGN WITHIN REACH



MAJOR CHAIR, MITCHELL GOLD + BOB WILLIAMS



MILO CONSOLE TABLE, JAMES RIVER COLLECTION, FROM THE HICKORY CHAIR COMPANY, SLIFER DESIGNS

“Restoration Hardware really brought cerusing back into the marketplace, with that driftwood look,” Susan Ferrari says. **“People still want it to feel natural and reclaimed, but now there is a finish to it. The high-end buyer wants it a little more refined.”** ▸



DANFORTH CHAIR, GUS*MODERN AT MOD LIVIN’



ENDLESS FLOW DINING CHAIR, DIRK VANDER KOOIJ

Green Trends

From shingles made out of poplar tree bark to pillows fabricated from recycled post-consumer waste, many Coloradoans are unwavering in their devotion to green products.

The reasons for 'going green' are numerous. **"I want to be as energy-efficient as possible,"** is the comment Paul Adams, architect and founder of Denver-based Earth and Sky Architecture, says he hears the most from his clients.

Inside and outside of the house, there is an ever-growing trend of combining old and new materials.

"I am seeing a broader, more consistent use of reclaimed materials, and the pairing of reclaimed with new," David Adamson, owner of Eco-Build in Boulder, says. **"People like this idea of finished and rough together—like high-tech windows with strawbale construction, or a green roof with a really modern concrete exterior—a mix of natural and manufactured."**

Brooke Erkal, showroom manager for Waterworks in Denver, says many of her customers are simply drawn to **organic, imperfect products**—such as these "tremendously popular" recycled clay tiles from Grove Brickworks.



LIME PLASTER, ECO-BUILD

Understanding the entire lifecycle of a product is becoming more commonplace, with individuals often digging through online resources for information, such as the Pharos Chemical and Material Library and the GreenSpec Directory. **"People are interested in how much energy it takes to make a certain thing,"** David Adamson says. **"For example, it takes a lot of energy to make a can of paint. Lime wash with a pigment in it protects the wall, is beautiful and requires a lot less energy to make. There are now better tools out there for people to evaluate 'greenness.'"**

Kitchen Trends

Technology is playing a larger role than ever in the kitchen, from the massive sharing of creative design ideas through websites such as Houzz and Pinterest to **increased efficiency through automation.**



BK2 COLLECTION, EFFETI USA

Modern cabinets designed with **walnut and mahogany** are in demand, as are cabinets with **unique finishes**. "People want a warmer contemporary kitchen; they want it to be eclectic," says Margie McCulloch, owner of Red Pepper Kitchen + Bath Design. "Very often I'll use **more than one color** on the cabinets."

Technology is also making a big impact when it comes to beautifying kitchens. At Decorative Materials in Denver, **waterjet-cut glass and tile mosaic backsplashes** are a hot item.



CASTILLA FLOWER BY NEW REVENNA, DECORATIVE MATERIALS

Tom Hartman, President of Kitchen Distributors in Denver, agrees that technology and automation reign.

"We are seeing a lot of automated systems for interior lighting and the opening and closing of drawers."



B3 DESIGN SYSTEM IN WALNUT, BULTHAUP

For countertops, consumers still have a love affair with granite and are steadfast supporters of the timeless look. **"Granite is, and will continue to be, the captain of the kitchen. It's durable, beautiful, has wonderful resale value and is a safe choice for homeowners,"** Chris Awadalla says. ▽



BEAUXARTS 02, SIEMATIC

Steam ovens as well as induction cooktops—lauded for being huge energy-savers—were slow to gain acceptance but are now routinely requested by consumers. "We are moving away from pro-style gas ranges," Tom Hartman says. "Induction cooking is becoming really popular. It is fast, precise and easy to clean."

In new kitchen designs and remodels, designers such as Chris Awadalla with Denver's Interior Intuitions are routinely including a **designated station for using and charging laptops, tablet computers and cell phones.** Once just found in studies and entryways, these stations are now necessary in increasingly high-tech kitchens.



BS280 COMBI STEAM OVEN BY GAGGENAU, KITCHEN DISTRIBUTORS



TURKISTAN EMBROIDERY, SCHUMACHER



CAP D'ANTIBES BY RUBELLI, JOHN BROOKS



CHINOIS PALAIS, SCHUMACHER



ELLEN, STUDIO BON



CALISTA, DESIGNER'S GUILD

Textile Trends

Consumers want **handcrafted and unique fabrics** to adorn their homes, and the textile industry is more than meeting the needs of today's scrupulous clientele. **"People are gravitating toward things with multi-processes," says Matt Goettge, showroom manager for F. Schumacher in Denver. "They are willing to pay extra for the nuances of a handcrafted product."**

Consumers are asking for fabrics that have received a wide variety of treatments, including **embroidery, beadwork, crystal embellishments and hand-printing. Perforated sheers and metallic finishes** are also on-trend.

Interior designer Beth Armijo of Armijo Design Group in Denver says that Rubelli's Cap D'Antibes fabric "sums up" what is showing up in **florals this year: designs that are sophisticated, bright and cheery.** "We are seeing so many **botanicals** back on the scene," Armijo says.

Consumers are snapping up **ikat fabrics** as well, and Goettge even predicts they will stay steadily in demand for the next five to ten years. "Ikats are popular in our region because they have the feeling of Native American textiles," he says.

Goettge's clientele are also requesting wallpaper, particularly the grasscloth variety, with and without embellishments, applied to whole rooms or as an accent behind a bookcase or on a single wall. **"We are seeing a lot of fabrics that have been paper-backed, even plain cream linen," Goettge says. "Just bringing a surface fabric texture to the wall adds a unique richness."** ▸

Architecture & Building Trends

CHALET DEVELOPMENT

Authentic. Understated. Refined. These are descriptors that Don Ruggles, founder of DHR Architecture in Denver, routinely hears from his clients as they try and define what type of home will make them the happiest.

“There is a resurgence of traditional design with a more refined sensibility,” Ruggles says. “It is in between contemporary and full-on traditional.”

John Mattingly, principal at Chalet Development in Denver, hears similar terminology from his clients, who prefer “durable, time-honored materials” and “tried-and-true” concepts.

“We attract a lot of what I call ‘contemporary classic’ or new traditional,” Mattingly says. “The design can be translated back to 150 years ago, but there is a current edge to it.”

In mountain towns, people’s tastes are more varied. Al Beyer, owner of Al Beyer Design in Aspen, says his recent workload has ranged from classic “storybook” Colorado cabins to extremely minimalist homes. But as a general observation, he notes that a move from rustic to updated has been in the works for a while.

“A more modernist ethic is supplanting some of the traditional classic purely gabled mountain architecture,” Beyer says.

Architects and builders have seen their workloads grow in 2013, as people are once again interested in building homes or making a move with a project they put on hold during the economic downturn.

“There is confidence in the marketplace that there is a sustained upward trend, and people are comfortable with making the leap to start a project,” Ruggles says.

“The new-build market has seen a positive change in the last six months, more so than the last few years,” Mattingly says. “We stayed pretty busy during the downturn and it was easy for clients to find building sites. Now, there are many more people looking for dirt, so land costs have gone up considerably.”

“We were separating things out, where you would have a cigar room, a wine room, a wrapping paper room,” Ruggles says. “Now there is a move to recombine functions into one room. The list of requirements hasn’t changed, but there is a more efficient use of square footage.” □