

inspiration gallery: living rooms

SWOON-WORTHY SCHEMES FILLED WITH COLOUR, STORAGE, COOL DETAILS AND MORE

Wonder wall

Transform a room into a remarkable scene with a feature mural wall. 'The forms of this one are inspired by the Memphis movement. The colour explosion is perfectly balanced with the furniture. We invited ZAworks Design Mumbai to conceptualise and paint the artwork,' says Ali Baldiwala, architect and interior designer, Baldiwala Edge.

GET THE LOOK Sofa, Bent Chair. Cushions from Idam and Ikka Dukka





The floor is yours - place seating along the walls for an edgy and social layout

Long stretch
Expand the living room's circulation space by pushing modular seating out to the walls. The fresh layout creates more room for decorative elements and furniture, plus extra space for guests to walk around. Add an earthy touch with beige upholstery and wooden elements for a Marrakech-meets-modern design look.
GET THE LOOK Design, LOAK. Sofa, tables, ceiling, LOAK's in-house studios Nature Features and Finish Line Contracting

FEATURE ADITI SHARMA MAHESHWARI
PHOTOGRAPHS (WONDER WALL) TALIB CHITRA WALA
(LONG STRETCH) LOAK

DECORATING

Feel the flow

To design a room for living and dining, create different zones – play with changes in colours, furniture groupings, light and finishes, and then unify the room with a carpet to create cohesion. 'Here, we reshaped the apartment's plan to optimise circulation. A large single seating group in the living room can be arranged to support numerous semi-independent zones or brought together for a group gathering,' says Michael K Chen, principal of Michael K Chen Architecture (MKCA).

GET THE LOOK All furniture custom designed by MKCA



Showstopper

If you're dealing with oversized art pieces, give them room to shine with an exclusive wall space. They'll have pride of place all on their own, and you can accentuate the artwork by choosing a contrasting wall colour so the visuals pop. For the most authentic gallery-like feel, place a chair in front of your artwork so guests can take a seat and admire at their leisure.

GET THE LOOK This space is designed by Kevin Sawyers, founder of Sawyers Design. **Walls in** Violetta AF-615, Benjamin Moore. **Sofa** by Lee Industries. **Artwork** by Blek le Rat





Look up

Crown mouldings are like fine jewellery – they add that extra layer of flair and detail to a room. To draw focus to the moulding, keep your furnishings simple with clean lines and very little pattern. ‘To update this 100-year-old home, many decades-worth of paint and plaster finishes were stripped off to reveal the historic details. This is a pressed metal ceiling that we retained,’ says Luki Anderson, founder of Studio Officina Architecture PLLC.

GET THE LOOK Walls and ceiling in Super White, Benjamin Moore

PHOTOGRAPHS (FEEL THE FLOW) MAX BURKHALTER;
(SHOWSTOPPER) ANSEL OLSON PHOTOGRAPHY;
(LOOK UP) INES LEONG

Bright ideas

If colour is key, why not start with a multicoloured rug and allow the hues to flow up? 'The colour story began with the clients' heritage - he is from California and she is from Central America. We were looking to create a relaxed, casual vibe while adding punches of vivid colour that connected the owners to their roots,' says Nathan Cuttle, principal designer, Studio Nato.

GET THE LOOK Callan chair, Room & Board. Fly table, &Tradition. Rug, custom collaboration between Studio Nato and Minna





Scarlet fever

Before plunging into the colour red, take a moment to find the right kind of tone you can live with – a great hue is one with brown undertones. To add more depth, bring in touches of black. ‘Many think red is harsh, but used in a monochromatic way I find it to be very soothing. As for the ceiling, we designed it in collaboration with Porter Teleo wallcoverings,’ says interior designer Chad Dorsey, founder of Chad Dorsey Design.

GET THE LOOK Kekke longchair, Studio Piet Boon. **Artwork** by Ethan Cook from Ryan Campbell-Garrett Art Advisory



PHOTOGRAPHS (BRIGHT IDEAS) HANNA GRANKVIST, (SCARLET FEVER) DOUGLAS FRIEDMAN



Light & shadow

The beauty of black and white is that it works with any decorating style - and welcomes a third hue with ease. Black serves as an anchor, heightening any composition, and white stands in as the light feature, driving black to stand out even more. Here, colour works its way back into the picture via stained glass windows. 'The windows are from the 1900s and were in the building when we started work. We chose dark curtains to further make a feature of them,' says Madeleine Blanchfield, director of Madeleine Blanchfield Architects.

GET THE LOOK Tufty-Time sofa, B&B Italia. Blackout curtains, Simple Studio



TV time

Gone are the days of hiding the television in bulky armoires and black glass-tinted cabinets. A wall-to-wall panelled storage painted with eye-catching hues will not only add colour to the space, but also personality. 'The concept for the apartment was natural urbanity, so we chose a combination of materials, round lines and colours that express nature and tranquillity. The green unit in wood covers an entire wall, its ridges giving an organic feel to the space,' says Natalie Gedalia, principal designer at YGNG.

GET THE LOOK Joinery in Greenwich Village 445, Benjamin Moore. Tables and chair, Arik Ben Simhon



Two-in-one

In rooms that aren't separated by doors, a wallpaper can stand in as a soft partition, zoning one area from the other. For a more stylish look, consider paint for the wainscoting. 'While working with a dark scheme, make sure most elements in the room have the same intensity or tone of colour. Also, ensure the colours are reflective of the mood you want to evoke in the space,' says Jeanne Schultz, principal architect and designer at Jeanne Schultz Design Studio.

GET THE LOOK Sofa, Roche Bobois from 1stDibs. Barocco Birds wallpaper, Versace Home

Control your room's mood
by choosing elements with
the same intensity of colour

instant inspiration

SOME OF OUR FAVOURITE INTERIOR DESIGNERS FIRE OFF A FEW LIVING ROOM DESIGN IDEAS TO MAKE NOTE OF



Colour
drenching
leads to a
luxury look

Panelling definitely adds interest – in a new build opt for a sleek fluted panel

‘One excellent way to compile an earth-toned palette is to look to nearby nature. If you’re close to a beach, choose sandy beiges, blues and greens as seen in the landscape. If you’re near a forested area, pick up saturated greens, deep browns and terracotta tones. While a typical earth tone palette is grounded in brown tones, punctuations of brighter colours found in nature, from mustard yellows to floral pink hues, can help to introduce vivid moments of colour.’

Sarah Barnard, a WELL and LEED accredited designer

‘While the industrial living room style is marked by raw concrete on walls, ceiling slabs and even polished concrete floors, completely redesigning a space in these materials may not be a possibility. In that case, a great substitute is a micro-concrete layer on the existing walls, which would bring that raw flavour to your space.’

Prashant Chauhan, founder of Zero9

‘For living room blinds, I always suggest Hunter Douglas blinds that are invisible, sleek and hide away when not in use. They seamlessly stack up in one corner, giving the entire window a picture-perfect and clean look. From sheer to blackout, these can change with just a slide. The blinds are energy-efficient, diffuse harsh sunlight and can even insulate a space.’

Architect Karan Desai

‘When it comes to the art of displaying objets in the living room, to achieve a beautiful and balanced look always use uneven numbers and group things in threes or fives – odd numbers help to add balance and are much easier on the eye.’

Emma Deterding, founder, Kelling Designs

‘There was a psychological study that was conducted where pink was used in an environment where normally people would be a little rowdy, but the colour made them calmer. This is an incredible hue and when used in its pastel tones, it can change the mood of the living room. It can also make pale skin look brighter and more luscious.’

Natalie Tredgett, founder, Natalie Tredgett Design

‘If you feel like your space lacks character, panelling can add interest – just make sure the style is in keeping with the house. Don’t add detailed Victorian-style panelling in a new build but opt for something sleeker, like a contemporary fluted panel.’

Ann Marie Cousins, founder, AMC Design