

Now, Let's Talk about Colour Trends

We often study colour samples for hours, hoping for inspiration for a design that will seem fresh and hold up for at least a year or two. At the same, however, this neutral palette is being lit up with sparks of bright colours, especially crimson, acid green and yellow and amethyst. Designers say these vivid accents in area rugs show Americans have hope for the future, even while we're sticking to neutrals in big-ticket items such as sofas or carpet. One of the hardest things about home decor can be choosing a colour scheme for your home design. It's the colour equivalent of comfort food: safe and familiar.

Green, the colour of eco-friendly design also is growing in popularity in every shade. Some designers predict it will be found in everything from curtains, area rugs and upholstery to kitchen and bathroom countertops. Violet has popped up in accessories as a surprise crossover colour from the Goth trend among high school teens. Yeah, that purple-black on your daughter's nail polish and eyeliner is turning respectable, moving into such hues as wine, true purple and violet. These deeper, edgier shades are pushing out recent affinities for softer lavender in home decor.

So what's not on the colour horizon? Experts say that bright, sunny yellows are out, along with orange. Maybe they remind us too much of global warming. However, gold is expected to be seen in all kinds of elegant decor, possibly in response to the money we've lost over the past year in the recession. One good thing especially about the neutral palette that's holding sway over home decor right now: It provides a good foundation for whatever kind of accessorizing you choose to do.