

# RETURNING TO ROOTS

As we step into 2026, the world of décor continues to evolve, blending timeless aesthetics with innovative functionality



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The trends that defined 2025 are proving to be more than fleeting fads — they are becoming design staples that resonate with modern lifestyles and sensibilities. From the rise of sustainable materials and earthy palettes to a renewed focus on craftsmanship and personalisation, these enduring elements reflect a shift toward creating spaces that feel both intentional as well as inspiring. Designers predict that these trends will not only shape the way we style our homes but also influence how we experience them in the coming year.

**BOLD STATEMENTS OF CURIOSITY** Praneet Bubber, founder and principal architect, Studios PMB, says, "The décor trends of 2025 reject superficiality and predictability. Interiors are no longer

about following rules — they are bold statements of curiosity and restraint co-existing. Raw textures confront polished surfaces, sustainable materials defy luxury clichés, and light manipulates perception rather than merely illuminating. Personalisation is unapologetic, with spaces narrating stories that are messy, human, and real. Minimalism is no longer an absence but a deliberate choice that sharpens experience."

In 2025, décor was not just a decoration — it was rather a challenge to the familiar, an invitation to inhabit spaces that provoke thought, elicit emotion, and refuse to be a neutral background.

### PREFERENCES FOR HANDCRAFTED ACCENTS

Hanisha Gandhi, Executive Director, Archies, adds, "As we move into 2026, home décor is shifting toward a more personal and expressive direction. People are looking for décor that brings comfort while also reflecting their individual style. We are seeing a strong rise in preferences for handcrafted accents, warm textures, soft organic shapes, and décor inspired by nature. These elements help create spaces that feel

### WHAT IS TRENDING

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calm, inviting, and meaningful. Another growing trend is the use of multifunctional décor that adds beauty while serving a practical purpose, especially as homes continue to evolve into flexible living environments."

People are increasingly selecting pieces that tell a story, whether through artisanal details, thoughtful design, or emotional value. The décor trends of 2025 are centred on creating a home that feels authentic, nurturing and thoughtfully curated, where every piece contributes to the overall mood and personality of the space.

### EARTHY TONES

"In 2026, earthy tones will continue to dominate interiors, offering a sense of warmth and connection to nature. Kitchens styled in shades of terracotta, beige, and olive create a cozy yet sophisticated ambiance. Pair these tones with wooden furniture, ceramic accents, and natural fiber rugs to enhance their grounded appeal. These hues provide the perfect foundation for timeless spaces," maintains Amruth Sampige, co-founder, Dash Square.

In 2025, interior décor is gently returning to its roots, embracing warmth, craftsmanship, and a sense of familiarity. Aayush Arya, owner and principal designer, 6Hues Architecture Studio,

says, "Traditional materials such as solid wood, stone, brass, and hand-woven textiles are being favoured for their timeless appeal and durability. Homes are moving away from overly polished finishes toward layered spaces that feel lived-in and personal. Neutral, earthy colour palettes — beige, soft browns, muted greens, and off-whites, create calm and balanced interiors."

Consumers are increasingly choosing accents that add character to their house. The décor trends of 2025 are centred on decorative elements like carved furniture, vintage-inspired lighting, and artisanal celebrating heritage.

Neha Garg, founder and principal designer, Studio Jane Designs, says, "Neutral hues made a comeback in 2025, demonstrating that they are far from boring. Whether anchoring an earthy bedroom or providing depth to public areas, these hues became the backbone of quiet luxury."

**TEXTURE TALK:** From boucle chairs to ribbed wood panels, textures emerged as unsung heroes of interior design trends this year. "Designers layered raw and refined materials to generate visual intrigue. Velvet met terrazzo, while linen softened metals. This tactile revolution demonstrated how interiors are as much about touch as they are about sight," says Garg.

As urban areas shrink, clever design has reigned supreme. Multifunctional furniture has become the darling of small houses, combining efficiency and design.

# Decor trends that were all the rage in 2025

Let's look back at some of the key trends that shaped interiors this year

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Every year, certain interior design trends rise to prominence and quickly find favour with homeowners. In 2025, they clearly reflected evolving lifestyles, a deeper appreciation of craftsmanship, and a growing focus on mindful living. Here's a closer look at some of the prominent ones that emerged as winners.

**Quiet luxury takes centre stage** 2025 saw a shift away from overt opulence, with understated elegance coming to the fore. Rohan Jain, director, RJ Projects, opines, "The year was defined by subtle luxury—clean lines, timeless detailing, tactile finishes, soft upholstery and bespoke

crete were widely used across flooring, furniture and architectural surfaces. They offered durability, texture and ease of maintenance."

**Colour coded** Colour trends in 2025 leaned towards warmth and balance. Vaishali Shah, design lead, home storage, Interio by Godrej, says, "Earthy, warm palettes stood out, creating interiors that felt calm and comfortable. These were paired with curved and softer forms to enhance flow and usability, particularly in compact urban homes." Further, layered materials and textures added depth without clutter, making spaces feel personal and lived-in.

**Multifunctional** As homes in



elements. Materials such as Italian marble, natural stone, warm veneers and muted brass accents were used sparingly, with an emphasis on craftsmanship and quality rather than excess." He also highlights a renewed appreciation for Indian craftsmanship, with artisanal and handcrafted elements lending homes a sense of individuality and warmth. Echoing this sentiment, Sachin Gupta, co-founder and design principal at Beyond Designs, adds, "There was a shift toward maximalism, where interiors felt emotionally grounded and deeply rooted in heritage."

**Shift to sustainability** The year also saw sustainability become a pivotal consideration in material choices. Shreyas Trivedi, vice president, Aparna Unispace, explains, "Responsibly sourced materials like bamboo, rattan, reclaimed wood, stone and con-

crete cities continue to shrink, adaptability became essential. Jain observes, "Sliding partitions, convertible dens, multipurpose rooms, smart storage solutions and open layouts with subtle zoning gained popularity, allowing smooth transitions between work, leisure, and family time."

**Room for more** Individual spaces also saw distinct design directions. Sukriti Sharma, partner, Plüsch, elucidates, "Kitchens became bolder, with warm woods and matte finishes continuing to dominate. Bold stone counters and dados surfaced as statement elements, while compact islands, seamless cabinetry and mixed materials balanced function with clarity."

These trends reflected a transition to thoughtful living and design, where beauty, function and responsibility aligned seamlessly.



# Light it right: Festive edition

With shorter days and longer evenings setting in, it is an ideal time to let lighting take centre stage in your winter décor

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As winter nears, the focus naturally shifts indoors. The chill in the air makes us seek comfort in spaces that feel warm, welcoming, and relaxed. While heavy drapes, textured rugs, and soft throws help bring that cosy feeling, lighting is what truly ties everything together. It doesn't just brighten a room, it sets the mood, adds depth, and makes even the simplest spaces feel inviting.

Lighting has a way of transforming a home, especially during winter when daylight hours are shorter. The gentle glow of a table lamp or the golden hue from a pendant light can soften the atmosphere and turn cold corners into cosy retreats. "Lighting in the home is often thought of as purely functional, something that helps us navigate spaces or perform tasks. But these everyday fixtures can take on a new role, subtly transforming the mood and creating a sense of occasion," says Sajal Lamba, co-founder and director, Wriwer. "The key is to think beyond illumination and focus on the experience, how shadows, reflections, and pools of light guide movement, create intimacy, and evoke emotion. Even a simple functional lamp, when placed thoughtfully, can make a room feel inviting and alive," Lamba adds.

Creating the right atmosphere is all about layering light. A mix of ambient, task, and accent lighting helps make a space feel balanced and comfortable. Ceiling lights or wall sconces offer the main glow, while table and floor lamps bring in warmth at eye level. "We should view lighting as an integral part of the choreography of our daily lives at home. It should support activity but also enhance moments, subtly shaping interactions without overwhelming

them," Lamba notes.

Anubha Laroia Aneja, founder, HomAnAn, believes lighting has the power to set the tone of a home. "Lighting transcends its functional purpose and becomes the invisible thread that weaves together memory, mood, and magic. It's not merely about brightness; it's about creating an atmosphere," Aneja says. "Layered lighting adds dimension to

spaces: ambient lighting offers a welcoming canvas, task lighting provides focus where needed, and accent lighting brings drama and depth," Aneja adds.

During winter, softer light sources help counter the season's natural chill. Swap bright white bulbs for warmer tones like amber or soft yellow to make a room feel cosier. Place floor lamps near seating areas, add bedside lamps

for gentle evening light, or use wall sconces to highlight textured walls or artwork. Indoors, warm table lamps and flickering candles pair beautifully with modern chandeliers or wall sconces to create intimacy. Outdoors, balconies and terraces come alive with strings of fairy lights or lanterns, turning cold evenings into glowing get-togethers.

Modern lighting has also become more mindful. Sustainability and efficiency are now as important as aesthetics. LEDs, dimmable fixtures, and solar-powered lights are easy options for energy-conscious homes. The choice of tone can also shape mood, warm whites bring comfort, soft ambers create relaxation, and cool whites refresh and brighten darker corners.

By blending tradition with innovation and embracing sustainable choices, we allow light to become a storyteller, a soul, and a sanctuary. Let your lighting do more than illuminate, let it craft memory and embody the heart of your home. "Lighting for celebrations is about crafting atmosphere, evoking feeling, and making spaces feel alive. When treated as both a tool and an artwork, light becomes integral to the experience, shaping the ambiance, guiding attention, and leaving an impression long after the event ends," shares Vibhor Sogani, artist and designer, Sogani by Vibhor Sogani.

So, the right lighting not only enhances décor but also influences how we feel. It makes a home glow softly against the winter gloom, adding layers of warmth and calm. Whether it's a reading lamp in the corner, candles on a coffee table, or soft lights framing a hallway, each element contributes to an atmosphere of ease and connection. This winter, let your lighting set the tone, simple, soothing, and full of warmth.

## GLOW GUIDE

- **Layer the light:** Combine ambient, task, and accent lighting to add depth and warmth instead of relying on a single overhead source
- **Go warm:** Choose bulbs with soft yellow or amber tones to create a cosy, welcoming glow
- **Highlight corners:** Use floor or table lamps to brighten dark nooks and make small spaces feel inviting
- **Play with texture:** Pair lights with fabric shades, metallic finishes, or frosted glass for a softer, diffused effect
- **Add a glow outdoors:** String fairy lights or place lanterns on balconies and terraces for a gentle evening sparkle



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