

SPRING *trends* 2013

by AMANDA EVANS | PHOTOGRAPHY by PAUL MELO



SPRING HAS OFFICIALLY SPRUNG MEANING SUMMER IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER! It's time to put the heavy blankets away, dust off the patio furniture and make a few small, but impactful changes around the house.

Whether you are in for a major overhaul or just a few tweaks, here are a few tips that can freshen up your home for spring.

BOLD FLORAL

Believe it or not, bold floral prints are quickly making their way back into our homes. A trend that developed from the fashion world, florals are popping up everywhere from graphic wallpaper to fabrics to art. The floral wallpaper pictured here adds a dose of glamour to this feminine bedroom in a way that is fresh and current.

A TREND THAT DEVELOPED FROM THE FASHION WORLD, FLORALS ARE POPPING UP EVERYWHERE FROM GRAPHIC WALLPAPER TO FABRICS TO ART.

POPS OF BRIGHT & BOLD COLOUR

This trend is popular year round, yet can take an even brighter approach in spring. Layering bright colours on white can be very vibrant and bring life to any room. Tone it down a little by mixing bright, saturated colours with other neutrals like grey and beige. A design philosophy I regularly practice is to get your investment pieces like your sofa, in a great neutral- be it cream, grey, beige, black and then add colours in elsewhere in the decor. It's a great way for commitment-phobes like me who like to switch up the accessory décor on a seasonal or annual basis.

BRASS & GOLD

Springtime is renovation time. A huge hit for 2013, brass has also made a comeback, especially in the hardware and fixture world. Brands like Kohler, Richelieu and Delta all have a brushed or polished brass finish for their faucets and fixtures. This is a great way to try something new and fresh when doing a kitchen or bathroom renovation. Keep the lines clean and style simple otherwise they may end up looking dated. Not renovating? Other ways you can incorporate brass or gold into your home is in the cabinet hardware, lamps, vases, picture frames and even textiles.

PAINTED STRIPES

Stripes painted horizontally on a wall are a great, inexpensive way to create a high impact look. If you don't want the commitment of wallpaper, painted stripes can add that graphic, fun factor into your home. Pick a wall in the entryway or the walls of the powder bath or a feature wall in a bedroom. I really like the look of a white or cream wall with a thin 2-3" grey stripe painted every 18"-20" horizontally from floor to ceiling. It's fresh, not too overwhelming and adds a little visual interest to the room. It's a great way to achieve a new look this spring.

GRASSCLOTH WALLPAPER

Grasscloth wallpaper is a beautiful choice for a wall covering. It's not too overpowering, adds texture and elegance to a room and can really complete the décor. Grasscloth paired



with crown mouldings and wainscoting is absolutely dreamy! It can be on the pricier side of wallpapers, yet is worth the investment. It won't look dated anytime soon and it's unlikely that you will grow tired of it as it doesn't scream for your attention in a room. It's understated elegance at its finest.

Besides incorporating new trends into your home, there are other ways you can freshen up for spring.

Consider the following:

- » Trade in heavy blankets for light throws. I put my faux fur throw away until next fall and replaced it with a lightweight cashmere blanket.
- » Add fresh flowers to your dining table! Try hydrangeas or pretty tulips.
- » Switch out dark throw pillows for white, bright and patterned pillows on your sofa and bed.
- » Fresh white fluffy towels will brighten a bathroom.
- » The best yet: Dust off the BBQ because patio season is around the corner!

Happy Spring!



AMANDA EVANS

Principal designer and head of Twenty One Two Designs Inc., Amanda develops each project by taking a multi-sensory approach to the space, and creates environments that are classic with a modern twist, inviting, inspiring and most of all, personal. Her ability to bring freshness and vibrancy while paying close attention to detail ensures that she achieves exceptional spaces tailored to the client's lifestyle. www.twentyonetwo.ca