

# WAKE UP YOUR ROOM



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Design trends in pattern and colour come and go. The good news is that you can still get an of-the-moment look without making a big commitment. Just sweat the small stuff

Infusing your home with a hot style motif or colour trend presents a challenge: How do you achieve a look that is relevant without regretting the makeover when the next great design direction is revealed? The trick is to experiment with colour and pattern in

small doses, and to embrace trend-focused elements in creative, low-investment ways. That way, you can easily change up your accents again when the next new hue or pattern catches your fancy.



## THE LOOK:

When introducing a trendy colour or shape to a room, keep the main elements of the space classically restrained and cast them in light, neutral colours. This draws the eye to areas of excitement and gives you the flexibility to change the room's personality when the trend recedes.



You don't need a gallon of paint to make a bold statement. Instead, **TARGET A SMALL ARCHITECTURAL DETAIL**, like the reclaimed brackets supporting this DIY desk. Then create a colour motif in the surrounding vignette by layering in accessories in matching tones.



For an inexpensive way to add colour, pattern and interest to your walls, **SCOUT FOR ART IN UNEXPECTED PLACES**. An overscale vintage pull-down map like this one, hung with its original roller mechanism intact, ties in nicely to the room's bright new colour scheme and provides a big-impact solution for less than \$150.



When choosing textiles, **OPT FOR PATTERN**. This way, you can incorporate a trendy hue among other, more classic colours. Another trick is repetition: By repeating the same fabric (French toile here) in the chair and the curtains, the trendy polka-dot effect is subtle yet pulled together.

**SOURCES** Paint colours: walls and ceiling: Cotton SR15 (P5226-14), trim: Snowfall SR29 (P5223-14D), Sarah Richardson Designer Palette for Para Paints ([www.sarahpaint.com](http://www.sarahpaint.com)). Fabric on pair of bed pillows, Katherine Ireland, Y & Co. ([www.ycocarpet.com](http://www.ycocarpet.com)). Polka-dot fabric on drapes, desk chair, bed accent pillow, ball fringe, Designer Fabrics ([www.designerfabrics.ca](http://www.designerfabrics.ca)). Carpet, Alexanian Carpet & Flooring ([www.alexanian.com](http://www.alexanian.com)). Queen headboard, desk chair, Elegant Garage Sale ([www.elegantgaragesale.com](http://www.elegantgaragesale.com)). Eastlake-style dresser, AH Wilkens Auctioneers ([www.ahwilkens.com](http://www.ahwilkens.com)). Pink corbels used as desk base, The Door Store ([www.thedoorstore.ca](http://www.thedoorstore.ca)). Spraying of bedside tables and dresser, Benjamin Furniture Refinishing (416-745-2559). Glass bubble lamps, teal bud vase, Chair Table Lamp ([www.chairtablelamp.blogspot.com](http://www.chairtablelamp.blogspot.com)). Custom oval lampshades, Lampshades Unlimited ([www.lampshadesunlimited.com](http://www.lampshadesunlimited.com)). Pink beaded pouf, Augustina Boutiques Ltd. ([www.augustinaboutiques.com](http://www.augustinaboutiques.com)). Mattress, boxspring, throw on bed, duvet, duvet cover, sleeping pillows, striped votive holders, white picture frames, IKEA ([www.ikea.com](http://www.ikea.com)). Quilt, Elte ([www.elte.com](http://www.elte.com)). Vintage map, red telephone, Queen West Antiques ([www.qwac.ca](http://www.qwac.ca)). Multicoloured glass vase, Crate & Barrel ([www.crateandbarrel.com](http://www.crateandbarrel.com)). Purple glass vase, plaid painted bowl, blue and green dish, ikat cup, multicoloured pot, purple glass dish, woven box, hardware on dresser and bedside tables, Anthropologie ([www.anthropologie.com](http://www.anthropologie.com)). Round painted folk art, Art History ([www.arthistorytoronto.blogspot.com](http://www.arthistorytoronto.blogspot.com)). Gold trunk, Save More Sports ([www.savemoresportstore.ca](http://www.savemoresportstore.ca)). Sheet set, Urban Barn ([www.urbanbarn.com](http://www.urbanbarn.com)). Orange desk lamp, Artemide ([www.artemide.ca](http://www.artemide.ca)).

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## House of style

In Paris for Maison + Objet, one of the world's most influential interior design shows, Amy Verner names the standouts, from a sly new spin on matryoshka dolls to the year's (surprising) hottest hue



From left to right: 20 Hangers by Alice Rosignoli for Ligne Roset; Grillage chair by François Azambourg for Ligne Roset; AAA by Erwan Boulloud; Urchin Pouf by Christien Meindertsma for Thomas Eyck; The Money Box by Lorenzo Petrantoni for Seletti.

### 1. Sea-to-sky blue

Pinky orange honeysuckle may have been anointed Pantone's much-ballyhooed colour of the year for 2012, but it seems the rest of the design world has another favourite: turquoise. (at least if the wash of blues at Maison + Objet is to be believed). Unquestionably, multiple variations on turquoise – from morning-sky misty to Caribbean Sea intense – dominated upholstery, home accessories and even wall coverings. Most notably, French furniture company Ligne Roset featured a selection of its iconic seating produced in various

soft blues. Turquoise also married nicely with neutrals at Roche Bobois. Denmark's Normann Copenhagen showed tableware in deep teal. Honeysuckle, should we send out a search party?

### 2. Tubular textures

Some looked like exaggerated squeezes of toothpaste; others evoked David Hockney's painterly depiction of timber. Mostly, exaggeratingly large twisting ropes or tubes stood out as a design element that originated from a practical purpose – although it was also used solely for decorative

texture. Thomas Eyck, a "design publisher" from the Netherlands, showed poufs crafted from large cords of knitted wool. Vitamin, a start-up line from London, is now moving into production on suspended lamps wrapped in colourful monkey's-fist knots.

### 3. Safes

Thank the continuing economic anxiety – or the desire for an under-the-mattress banking alternative. Whatever the case, storage options for loose change and valuables are expanding beyond conventional safes and piggy banks. Like a damaged

shipping crate dipped in gold, the Millionaire safe by Portuguese company Boca do Lobo is presumably meant to be ironic. Less so – but no less dramatic – is the steel-framed chest by French furniture designer Erwan Boulloud that has been burned and stained to menacing effect and sculpted as if buckling from the weight of an antique safe nesting on top. For loose change, Italian design studio Seletti offered the Money Box, a new bulb-shaped porcelain bank daintily decorated with Victorian-style illustrations.

### 4. Natural-born crystals

Maison + Objet's Designer of the Year, Japan's Tokujin Yoshioka, has worked and collaborated with crème de la crème brands such as Hermès, Swarovski, Issey Miyake and Kartell. But for this installation, he has grown crystals and transformed them into haunting natural sculptures. These include a crystallized "sofa." Still immersed in its murky blue aquarium, it looks like a less inviting version of furniture you'd find at an ice

hotel. A rose by Lalique, barely discernible under a coat of crystals, would make an edgy (literally) centerpiece.

### 5. Three more individual highlights (in no particular order)

20 Hangers by Italy's Alice Rosignoli for Ligne Roset: Make use of all of them, or better yet, use just one for an in situ sartorial vignette. This suspended hanging system could well become a fixture of high-end boutique hotels. Bougies Russes Candle Holders: Just when you thought you'd seen every possible interpretation of the matryoshka doll, Stephan Lanez (for promising new French manufacturer By Marcel) designed six frosted bell-jar candle holders that stack inside one another when not in use. The Faint table by Patricia Urquiola for Italian manufacturer Glas: Here, an already sleek piece benefits from a clever trompe l'oeil; one side finished in white gradually fades to transparent glass – like freeze framing a magic trick.