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Designer Glen Peloso says grey has replaced beiges as a neutral colour.



LINDA LEATHERDALE  
**DESIGN SENSE**

## What's new in new year? A look at emerging design trends

**I**t's a brand new year. A brand new decade.

And with the dawning of 2010, the recessionary subprime slump seems a faint memory, as real estate is again rockin' and rollin' its way to new records. A key sign is the bidding war on my street in desirable Bronte Harbour, where a renovated home just listed for \$699,000 was sold within days for \$720,000 after multiple offers.

"Linda, we just don't have enough listings," said Rob Pearson, a rep with the Pace Group at Re/Max Aboutowne Realty Corp. "Also, the kitchen was a real selling feature."

Design professionals, including experts with the Re/Max Fit to Sell and Fit to Buy programs, will hammer home that smart redesign pro-

jects can add equity and transform a property into that "I've got to have it" showpiece.

Designers of new home model suites have used staging and smart design ideas for years to attract buyers and nail the sale.

So, with 2010 now here, what new design trends are emerging? We all know fads come and go – like the splashes of bright orange and green flower power during the psychedelic days of the 1960s, which made a short-lived resurgence a few years ago.

Then there's the stark '50s look, with its simplistic lines and retro-styled furniture, complimented by the odd shag carpet, concrete-grey hues, a splash of bright colour, plus pieces of nouveau art. Totally popular, especially in the chic high-rise condo spans-

es, has been dark brown leather. So, is there such a thing as a timeless redesign?

Top Toronto designer Kimberley Seldon of Kimberley Seldon Design Group says it's been a long time coming, but "excitement is brewing once again for traditional design."

Seldon ([www.kimberleyseldon.com](http://www.kimberleyseldon.com)) says she is seeing more colour, more pattern and a return to some ornamentation which is more prevalent in traditional furnishings and décor.

"Timelessness is a quality that can only be anticipated, never verified in the moment," she explains. "But certainly, there are iconic pieces of furniture, classic patterns and inherently smart design principles that never fail to please."

She also says traditional does not mean avoiding colour. "If you

thrive in wild colour, then use it in your home. In most cases, using a bold colour as an accent provides clients with a sufficient taste for the exciting element."

As for fads, Seldon points out that, by their nature, they're transient. "They inject energy and vitality into spaces, but they cannot be relied upon to provide lasting interests. I think of fads or trends as the tip of the food pyramid. While we rely mostly on healthy foods at the bottom of the pyramid, we do add 'fun foods' in moderation to our diets and those represent just the tip of the pyramid."

Seldon recommends that homeowners never allot more than 5 to 10% of their renovation budget to fads.

Glen Peloso, principal designer of Glen Peloso Interiors, Inc., who's

been designing spaces for commercial, corporate and residential clients for more than 15 years, says 2010 has ushered in a renewed interest in mid-century design. That means the '50s and '60s are in vogue again, but with some tweaking.

"The elements of the '50s and '60s are back in terms of shape and feel," but "some of the elements of colour and style have been updated."

Peloso says gone are the dark woods, which have been replaced by medium-toned brown woods. High-gloss finishes continue to be the "in" thing.

When it comes to colour, grey has replaced the beiges as the neutral colour, and purples and greens dominate the palette with blues, reds and oranges thrown into the mix, according to Peloso.

## New Year Preview



Texture is also a new trend, with three-dimensional fabrics and wall coverings making a comeback. "Making use of more of our sensual palette (sight and touch), you will find fabrics with nubs as used to be apparent on the '60s davenport your parents used to have," he points out.

Other design trends include the use of crystals in lighting and furnishing. "Buttons on soft seating done with a crystal or glass" are popular, says Peloso. "Also the use of the venetian mirror finishes in side tables, dressers, etc., are often paired with chrome finishes."

Something new, yet still in its infancy, is a trend for "personalized" details. "These are found in wall decals and tattoos for furnishings that you select and apply on your own," Peloso says, noting the advent of the personalized phone ring has spilled over into the home furnishing market.

As for furnishings, he sees modern furniture with very sleek lines, simple shapes and high-gloss finishes as being the trendsetters for 2010.

Peloso recommends choosing good-quality pieces that will last a long time and can be reupholstered to suit changing tastes. However, he cautions that you should be careful in choosing what will last. "Very low-slung sofas, for instance, will eventually be an issue when they are simply too low for you to get out of when you grow older."

So, does Peloso believe in timeless redesign?

"Absolutely. Classic pieces from the turn of the century will never go out as they are appreciated as antiques."

Peloso points to great furniture design houses, like Corbusier and Eames, which have produced pieces that seem to fit any décor. "The only rule in eclectic furnished spaces is to ensure that pieces are at least two time periods apart so it doesn't feel as though one piece is perfect and the other we could afford to replace."

As for fads, Peloso says there are no rules: "You can go wild if you like."

But he cautions about the ecological price. "When the fad is over you will want to send it all to the landfill and re-buy following the current fad." His advice is to select pieces that will work for the longer term, with accents that offer the excitement of being trendy, without either the expense or environmental impact.

Like designer Seldon, Peloso says go colour wild. "After all, it's your space to make it what you want." But he advises you to use "wild" colours sparingly and only as accents.

"Colour has an emotional impact on people and the ideal situation is to use it as an accent to create drama and interest so that you are able to live with it for a longer period of time."

And here's an interesting point regarding colour: Light.

Peloso points out Toronto does not have the same quality or intensity of light, as let's say Miami, and therefore very bright colours do not work as well. "As a general rule, the intensity of sunlight should be the equivalent to the intensity of colour choice."

Overall, he advises those who plan a redesign to use neutral colours for hard surfaces, like flooring, countertops and cabinets, which are expensive to replace, and to use trends for accents, like pillows, accent lighting, bed linens and towels, which are inexpensive to replace.

And on a final note: Ottawa's Home Renovation Tax Credit, which can offer tax savings of up to \$1,350 for renovation projects worth up to \$10,000, is set to expire at the end of this month. In order to qualify, all materials must be purchased by the deadline date, and all labour must be completed.



This weekend the Interior Design Show is being held at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. If you're in the market for a renovation or redesign, don't miss out. (For more info, see Pages 22 and 23.)

Cambria, which manufactures superior natural quartz surfaces, including countertops and flooring, with 64 innovative colours to choose from, is at Booth 734. Timeless beauty Cheryl Tiegs, North American's original supermodel and Cambria spokesperson, attend-



Kimberley Seldon says traditional design is making a comeback.



ed the opening festivities; and rock legend Ronnie Hawkins (who has Cambria in his Stony Lake home) will be at the Cambria booth on Saturday.

I'll be there Sunday. See you at the show.

— Linda Leatherdale, former Money Editor of the Toronto Sun and a sought-after financial expert, is a regular contributor to Homes Extra. She is also vice-president, marketing and business development for Cambria ([www.cambriacanada.com](http://www.cambriacanada.com)).