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HOMEOWNER'S UPDATE

The Latest Home Trends

The hottest style in home decor is your own style, and this year has opened the door to whatever your imagination can create. Trends are moving toward highly personal spaces that deliver joy to the household. So go ahead — bring your visions to life without constraints. If you need a little inspiration, try these charming ideas.

Matte finishes and subtle textures create a nice balance to a bold design with vibrant colors. There are many ways to add subdued texture to home design, and they all boil down to what you can see and touch. Visual elements like fluted wooden wall slats can elevate the visual appeal of your space. Tactile furnishings, like the soft leather of a chair or the intricate wood grain of a coffee table, leave a lasting feeling of comfort.

Oversized elements are a unique way to add visual drama to interior design. Consider using a stone slab as a kitchen island or backsplash that extends to the ceiling, or make your space feel bigger with large floor tiles and less grout. Oversized light fixtures with sculptural, colorful and sparkling features can add artistry and functionality to your space, while big novelty pieces bring playfulness to home decor that can make you feel like you're a kid again.

One-of-a-kind home design fits perfectly because it's all about you. Sentimental pieces incorporated throughout your home can serve as little sparks of pride, humor or happiness. Unique decor trends also support sustainability as you hunt for that perfect vintage painting, retro lamp or antique dresser.

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Small Patio, Big Impact

With a few transformative touches, you can maximize the potential of a small patio. Thoughtfully selected decor can turn an outdoor nook into a retreat for cozy gatherings, making your space a personal haven that's big on style.

No space for a large dinner party? A fanciful bistro table set is ideal for afternoon tea or a meal for

two. If you have room for a lounge seat, make it count with a hanging egg chair or a farmhouse-chic rocking chair.

An outdoor rug can make a tight space feel more inviting. On cooler nights, a small fire pit offers a perfect end to your day. When not in use, it can serve a dual purpose as a coffee table. Incorporate vibrant colors, flowing fabrics and plush cushions for maximum style and comfort.

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Spring Household Tasks

Take advantage of the warmer, longer days of spring to tackle your home maintenance to-do list. These tips will help ensure your space is in prime condition before summer really heats up.

Assess and repair any damage to your home's exterior caused by windy weather, and consider having your home repainted to boost curb appeal. For a quick update, painting your front door in a new color makes a significant impact.

Check wooden decks, trim or other structures for warping or discoloration. It may be time to stain or reseal.

Take a look at concrete and other hardscapes and patch any cracks to prevent further damage.

Replace exterior hardware, such as doorknobs, hinges and house numbers, that have been damaged or dulled with age.

Clean and arrange deck or patio furniture, replacing pieces that are worn.

Have your HVAC system professionally serviced so it's cooling efficiently before temperatures begin to rise.

Shop spring sales for household items like storage bins, gardening supplies or new appliances.

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Fast and Easy Fixes for Light Fixtures

Don't let outdated light fixtures hanging overhead dim your happiness. Here are a few simple cosmetic updates that can bring them new life, according to *LifeHacker.com*.

Brighten up shabby fixtures with **spray paint** made specifically for the material you're painting — most likely metal or plastic. Mask off anything you don't want to be painted and apply thin, even coats.

Give fixtures a sense of grandeur with a **ceiling medallion**. Mounted above the fixture, it can be painted to match your ceiling or trim.

Change out **glass shades or globes** for a quick fix. Measure the diameter of the glass opening around the bulb to determine the correct size.

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Tangy Key Lime Pie

Crust

1½ cups graham cracker crumbs
5 Tbsp. sugar
6 Tbsp. melted butter

Pie Filling

3 cups sweetened condensed milk
½ cup sour cream
½ cup fresh lime juice
¼ cup fresh lemon juice
1 Tbsp. grated lime zest
Lime slices
Whipped cream



for 7 minutes. Chill for 1 hour.



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