



Caesarstone's Agate countertop adds drama to any kitchen



Metallics are popular in 2014, combining copper, pewter, old gold, silver and nickel

# Hello, 2014!

*Old, new, recycled, revamped – we reveal this year's interior design trends*

*Words by Nicky Manson Photographs by David Muirhead and Associates, Vanessa Lewis, Laurie Owen Interiors, JOI-Design, Ruslin Interior Architects, Plascon*



Plascon's Mayor Green wall colour from the Second Nature Collection is a top choice for 2014

The year 2014 has arrived, complete with brightly coloured, beautifully wrapped boxes and bags filled to the brim with fresh ideas and trends. It's not different for the world of interior design: 2014 had barely had a chance to say hello before bloggers, decor gurus, fashionistas and colour experts were regaling us with the design trends of today.

Some you may have heard of, some have been revamped and others are hot off the press. Whatever they are, we think this year renovating, updating or completely revamping your residential or commercial space is going to be very exciting.

*Elle Décor* was one of the first websites to embrace the new trends of 2014, revealing a number of hot ideas, including palm prints. Fronds and ferns are moving off the fashion racks and into the home, so expect fun and striking designs in artwork, wallpaper and fabrics.

Bejewelled kitchens are also hot this year, as your cooking space takes on an edgier look than its homely yesteryear cousin. Think elaborate custom cabinetry painted in rich gemstone colours, gleaming brass and chrome, unique lighting fixtures and dramatic countertops, such as Caesarstone's Agate surface.

Honey-toned woods are making a comeback – especially walnut, oak and cherry – and you will see them appearing in furniture collections such as Ralph Lauren Home.

Hairy is back too, thanks to hide rugs jumping off the floor and onto sofas and chairs, and there is a further blurring of lines between indoor and outdoor living. This is something already quite popular in South Africa because of our weather, but instead of us moving outdoors, nature is now moving inside in the form of interior gardens, vertical walls and the ever-popular atrium.

David Muirhead of David Muirhead and Associates, a design studio specialising in residential interior/architectural design, predicts a few exciting trends too. "I think that one of the biggest upcoming trends is the use of quality rather than quantity within interiors," he says. "Because of the mass production of the modern world, we yearn for original pieces that we have found or have been handmade. These special pieces will give our modern world edge and interest. So recycle, reuse and reinvent! Look at old items with new eyes and create something special – classic items juxtaposed with modern items and old treasures placed in a new space."

Local is also lekker. "There will be an increase in creativity and innovation within Africa as a continent as we strive to compete in the world economy," says Muirhead. "It's a time to *celebrate* local products."

Other trends that will soon be weaving their way into the home and office spaces include the use of glass, the clever utilisation of space and the creative use of colour.

## Colour

Metallics are ultra-hot – especially copper, in both polished and raw tones. Laurie Owen of Laurie Owen Interiors expands on this by including combinations of khaki and old gold, pewter and stone, and nickel and tan in her creations, which include private homes and a number of game lodges.

It's true that colour trends and combinations come and go but what can be said of 2014 is that colour still remains a powerful element in home decor.

*Harper's Bazaar* magazine identified a number of trends on the spring 2014 runways, including the use of black and white in sharp geometric shapes that took the simple colour combination to new levels. This look can make a strong impression at home.

Predictions from leading colour experts and interior designers of this year's palette include ocean tones – "an ode to vitality and to life that is also considered soothing, restful and calm," says colour consultant Bonnie Krims. It reveals a lovely palette of green and blues.

Check out Plascon's Second Nature collection, influenced by rain forests and jungles, and experiment with Mayor Green. Dulux's colour of the year is teal, a lovely sea hue that we expect to see a lot of.

Blues are definitely in and include turquoise and navy – perfect for striking walls and upholstery. Plascon's Inner Space range reflects space and the galaxy, for example in its moody Nautilus shade.

The experts at JOI-Design agree. The Germany-based creatives, who specialise in hospitality design, have been studying colour trends for years and have recently published a third book, *Colours For Hotels*. "One of the shades we expect to grow in popularity in 2014 is blue," they say. "It's a bit more of a challenge



Plascon's Nautilus from the Inner Space range is beautifully moody



JOI-Design used this year's popular sunny colour palette for the Steigenberger spa in Heringsdorf, Germany

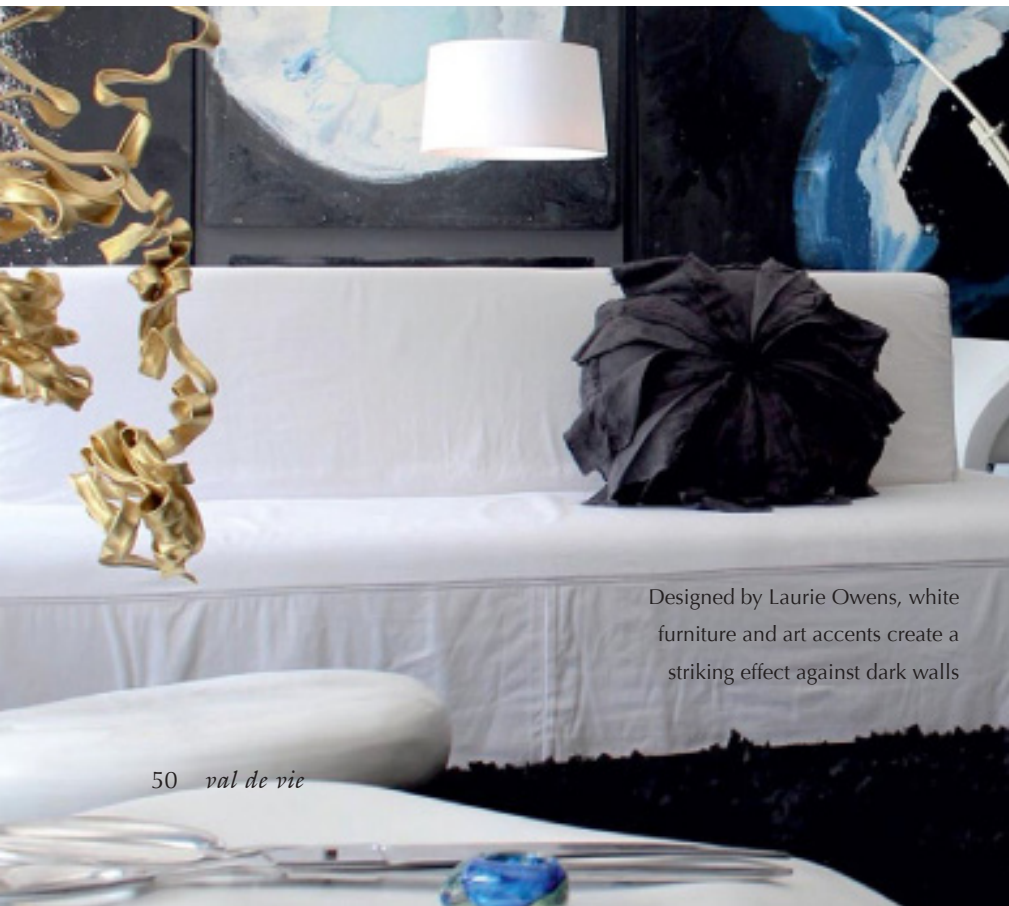
to create interiors with cooler spectrums, although these tones are well suited to certain scenarios."

They also forecast the resurgence of yellow tones. "It's been quite a while since they've shown up in interiors but these shades have been popping up in the fashion industry, which often acts as a catalyst for residential and commercial design trends. We recently used golden hues in the Heringsdorf's Steigenberger spa and sauna to simulate the sensation of basking in warm sunlight."

Echoing this is Pantone's new palette for 2014, Solar Energy, which includes vibrant yellows and oranges inspired by the power of the sun and our eco-conscious mentality.

Plum is being called "the new black" – you can expect to see more of it in technological accessories such as cellphones. It's similar to Muirhead's favourite colour of the year – Pantone's colour of 2014, Radiant Orchid. But the AphroChic Blog's Jeanine Hays says it's all about ushering in the glamour. "Dark, moody walls in black will form the perfect backdrop for the metallic accessories that we're all loving right now."

The all-white monochromatic scheme is still a favourite but this year it's reinvented with touches of soft grey, seen in the Modern Tranquillity palette by Benjamin Moore. And the floral is still popular. "These fabrics are everywhere in fashion and decor. Mix them with other graphic patterns for a modern look," says Quintessence blogger Stacey Bewkes.



Designed by Laurie Owens, white furniture and art accents create a striking effect against dark walls



Even furniture is turning to colour, bringing in pops of brightness in ranges of chairs and tables. The Magis Traffic armchair, which is available at Crema Design, is a good example.

### Walls and glass

Belinda Gillies of Ruslin Interior Architects reveals some big trends in the office environment, including modifying the humble wall. Expect more modern textures. "Woven walls and 3D walls are also big, and being done by Graffiti," she says. Glass is taking on an even more important role, especially since it provides an illusion of open spaces.

Printing on glass will be popular too, allowing glass partitions to be used as interior dividing walls. Added benefits will include soundproofing and providing privacy.



Pops of colour in furniture can light up a space – as seen in this Magis Traffic armchair by Konstantin Grcic



### Space

Space planning and design tend to go hand in hand. For corporate spaces, Gillies believes that designers need to spend more time on space planning by conducting proper interviews with the relevant people – not just management. Job functions are different and each person's space should adjust to his or her function.

Space design in the home can be equally challenging. "Designing to use space cleverly requires a completely different mind-set," says Owen. "One needs to accommodate the needs of the whole family and the individuals, and still allow for the each room to look luxuriously spacious." She suggests retractable storage units in the ceiling. "With a touch of a button you can have access to a beautiful shoe closet with built-in mirrors and lighting."



Muirhead suggests being inspired by European living. Here you often find the lounge and dining room combined into one due to limited space, with a classic antique dining table in front of a sofa flanked by two dining chairs, which can double as occasional chairs. "Celebrate the less-is-more aesthetic but still retain personal items that give your home a personality," he says.

### Indoor gardens

"Atria were common 30 years ago and today's vertical gardens – an awesome find – are built on the old atria," says Ruslin. "Even in homes with no gardens outside, vertical is the way to go."

Owen agrees. "These I love, especially if they combine water, mist sprays and mood lighting for the evenings," she says. "It's all about how interior space can change the way we feel, lower the heart rate, soothe us and take us to another head-space."

David Muirhead and Associates: [Davidmuirhead.com](http://Davidmuirhead.com)

Laurie Owen Interiors: [Laurieoweninteriors.co.za](http://Laurieoweninteriors.co.za)

Ruslin Interior Architects: [Ruslin.co.za](http://Ruslin.co.za)

JOI-Design: [Joi-design.com](http://Joi-design.com)

THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP Painted glass walls conceptualised by Ruslin Interior Architects allow for light, open work areas as well as privacy for conferences; a vertical garden brings the outside in; woven walls are a great talking point, providing texture and interest

OPPOSITE TOP David Muirhead uses hot plum shades in dining-room furniture

