



Asian Zen



Art Deco



Scandinavian

Shop with confidence in your design style

JEANETTE GASKILL
For the News-Leader

Welcome to the home stretch of our three-part series in helping you define your interior design style. When you know what your style is, you are able to shop with confidence and also express what you are looking for making the search more fun and easier.

Rustic interior design style

When looking at rustic interior design, it can be defined with a few basic signs. There will always be natural materials, industrial touches and farmhouse charm all around.

The rustic design style was originally born from inspirations of the Romantic movement. It focuses on the simplicity and effortless beauty of nature. For rustic interiors, it's common to see living room design ideas focused around a central statement fireplace. The use of wood is softened by adding cowhides and sheepskin to create a cozy feeling. Fabrics don't have loud patterns, and texture is everything. Unexpected additions like an industrial pendant light add to the sophistication of what we know as rustic interior design.

Industrial interior design style

While one may argue that industrial interior design is trendy, it does have a past. When western European factories closed down at the end of the second industrial revolution, it left many large vacant buildings behind. Population increase caused people to start converting industrial areas into residential neighborhoods.

The industrial interior design style loves the art of exposed pipes and beams. Materials like brick and concrete are a great way to give the space a lot of character. You won't hear the words "soft" or "intimate" used when describing this unique interior design style. Its masculine tendencies are tamed with the use of ample texture. Moreover, oversized artwork and cozy textiles are perfect additions. Furniture is often raw or unfinished and paired with antiques.

French country interior design style

Similar to many other interior design styles, French country interior design is a sophisticated blend of a few different style favorites. Shabby chic, farmhouse and traditional all play a role in this design style. It starts with timeless antique furniture pieces. For example, a Louis XVI chair updated with a modern print. Likewise, juxtapositions are found everywhere in this blended femi-



Gaskill

nine-neutral design style.

To achieve an authentic French country design style, natural materials like stone, wood and wrought iron are commonly used. Exposed beams, distressed finishes and raw textures add character to the space, showcasing the beauty of imperfections. Additionally, soft, muted colors dominate the palette, with shades of beige, cream, sage green and lavender, creating a serene and inviting atmosphere.

Whether it's the gentle patina of weathered furniture or the flickering glow of candlelight, French country interiors have a magical way of evoking a sense of nostalgia and serenity. It's a design style that captures the essence of a romantic countryside retreat, inviting you to immerse yourself in the welcoming atmosphere.

Scandinavian interior design style

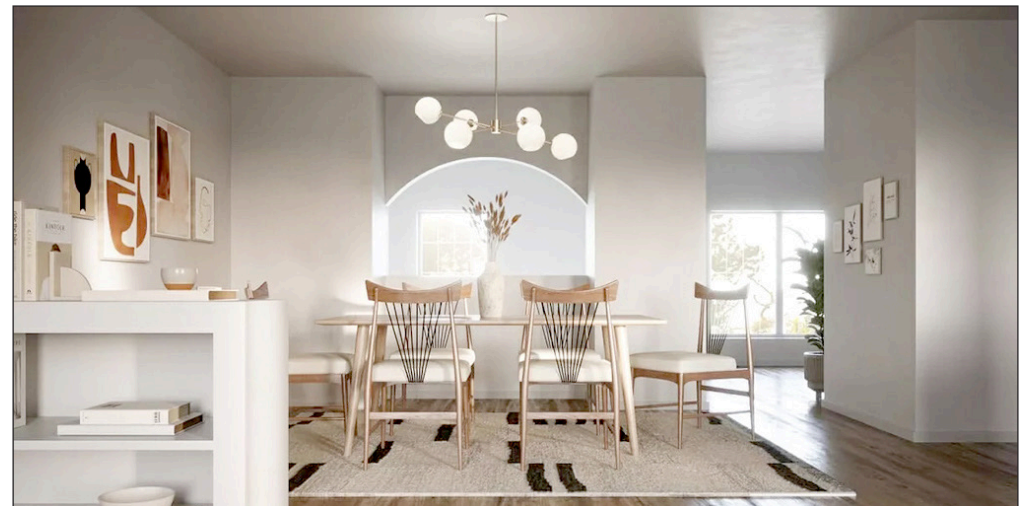
Scandinavian design is one of the easier interior design types to recognize. Think light, airy and organic. Woods are almost always an ashy color in Scandinavian interiors. Nordic spaces give off a relaxing and inviting vibe. Key features include white walls, large mirrors and cozy textiles. Furthermore, no Scandinavian space is complete without using the Danish concept of hygge. Layered fabrics, glass furniture, clean lines and textures certainly create the perfect cozy look.

Another notable aspect of Scandinavian design is the attention to detail and craftsmanship. The furniture and decor often feature clean lines, minimalist forms and functional designs. Quality craftsmanship is highly valued, and pieces are often built to last, combining both aesthetics and functionality.

Scandinavian interiors also prioritize open spaces, allowing for a sense of flow and a feeling of freedom within the environment. Furthermore, Scandinavian design embraces a concept called lagom, which embodies the idea of finding balance and moderation. It emphasizes the importance of creating a harmonious living environment that is not excessive or overly extravagant. This philosophy extends to the choice of furniture, decor and even the arrangement of objects in the space.

Mediterranean interior design style

Next, we look at another culturally rich interior design style, Mediterranean design. This



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

French country

decorating style started in countries north of the Mediterranean Sea. Spain, Greece and Italy are still the main source of inspiration today.

In like fashion to the typical architecture of those countries, it's common to find arches, columns and interior balconies in Mediterranean homes. Furniture for this design style also reveals rich wood tones with ornate features.

One distinct feature of this style is the use of vibrant and earthy colors. The color palette often includes shades of terracotta, ochre, deep blues and sandy neutrals, reflecting the hues of the Mediterranean landscape. These colors create a sense of warmth and a connection to the natural surroundings.

In addition to arches and columns, another architectural element commonly found in Mediterranean interiors is the use of decorative tiles and mosaics. Intricately patterned ceramic or terracotta tiles can be seen on floors, walls and even staircases, adding a touch of traditional charm and visual interest.

Art Deco interior design style

This iconic early 20th century design style originated in France and then made its way to the U.S. from the 1910s to the 1940s. The industrial revolution heavily inspired the Art Deco design style, so metal was a popular material of choice during this time.

It's easy to identify pieces from the Art Deco style because it typically has pointed edges and jagged corners. Oversized furniture was common from armchairs to sofas.

Today, our favorite place to go for Art Deco design inspiration has to be Florida. Miami Beach is a great place to see the art deco interior design style embraced. In addition to metal, glass was another prominent material used in Art Deco interiors. Mirrored surfaces and glass accents added a sense of elegance and reflected the era's fascination with modernity and technology. Elaborate glass chandeliers and light fixtures became popular focal points in Art Deco spaces.

One distinguishing feature of Art Deco interiors is the use of exotic and luxurious materials. Lacquered finishes, exotic woods and materials like shagreen or animal prints were commonly incorporated into furniture and decor. The style embraced a sense of opulence, using rich colors such as deep blues, golds and silvers. These sumptuous hues and the use of plush textiles like velvet and silk contribute to the lavish atmosphere of Art Deco interiors.

Asian Zen interior design style

Ever heard of feng shui? You can bet you'll find that philosophy utilized in our last pick for types of house décor styles. Asian Zen interiors are originally rooted from contemporary design. They focus on sleek lines, interesting shapes and a relaxing atmosphere. As a result, references to nature are essential in creating the ultimate Zen space.

Asian interiors are often asymmetrical and use circles more often than squares. Curtain walls or door panels are common to separate a larger space and give a sense of privacy. The color palette is drawn strictly from nature in order to keep the serene and calm vibes.

I hope that you enjoyed the exploration of the top 21 styles in interior design. If you still find that defining your style is giving you problems, an experienced interior designer can help you. Create a vision board and pull pictures out of magazines that have items you like and that speak to you. The old adage stand true, a picture can tell you a thousand words.

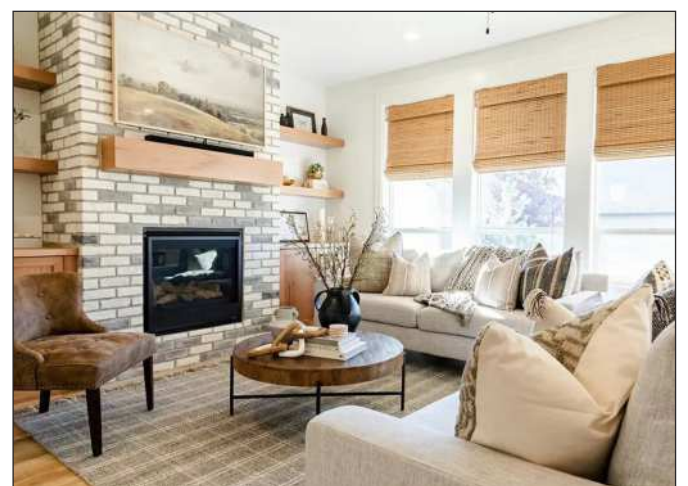
Jeanette Gaskill is the lead designer for Coastal Cottage of Amelia, where she has worked for the past six years. She loves being able to work hand-in-hand with her customers to design the spaces they dream of. Gaskill knows that interior design is very personal so she considers it an honor to be invited into her customer's homes. As part of the process, she takes time to get to know her customer's personality and tastes, which is always reflected in the final result — she can make magic.



Mediterranean



Industrial



Rustic

Scenes at the Social Security Administration

When it comes to people-watching pastimes, there is no shortage of locales in which to partake. A federal agency like the Social Security Administration in Jacksonville would not typically make any art-of-observation bucket list. However, after recently spending a morning in the administration's lobby, I just might dub it a can't-miss onlooking destination for eclectic antics.

In my continued pursuit of updating my post-divorce surname, an expedition to the Social Security office was inevitable. Of course, there was much about the experience that I could have done without. The journey into the far-away land known as Jacksonville is inconvenient. The fact that one cannot update their moniker online is annoying. Likewise, devoting an inordinate amount of time to the pursuit of said name change has been vexing.

Armed with a binder of documents, a Ziploc bag of goldfish crackers, my favorite fuchsia pen and a crossword omnibus, I was equipped for any surprises that Social Security had in store. Although the binder's contents and pen did come in handy, the additional weapons in my arsenal were relegated to my tote for the duration. Alas,



THE CURIOUS COLUMNIST

Jennifer Silverman

my germaphobe tendencies prevented me from enjoying my goldfish, and I was far too distracted by the comings and goings to recall the historical facts which my crossword puzzles required.

Overall, the experience was, shall we say, odd. Although the sparsely populated parking lot indicated a short wait, the overflowing lobby confirmed the contrary. There is neither a front desk, nor a receptionist, and check-in entails a techy kiosk which delivers queries that are far less self-explanatory than one would expect.

Although a human security guard was at hand, he appeared rather surly and, for the most part, did not respond to either verbal nor non-verbal communication.

After taking a seat in the back row to ensure maximum people-watching prospects, I took in the scene. Folks of various ages were battling monsters familiar to all of us like boredom and

impatience. One gentleman, clad in a concert tee, exited the building in regular intervals to gently hit random cars in the parking lot with sticks. He then nonchalantly returned to his seat as though hitting cars with sticks is totally normal. A lady wearing a striking shade of emerald from head to toe passed the time by sneaking hits of her vape pen, filling the room with a potent cannabis aroma. Another visitor, sporting a Halloween-themed tee tucked into a tea-length denim skirt, let out a booming, unencumbered cough just about every 4.3 minutes.

In addition to the fascinating fashion choices, the surly security guard was perhaps the most entertaining. He coached several people on how to use the automatic bathroom doors, reprimanded many visitors for answering their phones (a big administration no-no) and intervened during attempted line cuts, escorting rule-breakers back to their seats.

According to a Google search, the average person spends a whopping five years waiting in lines over a lifetime. I am not thrilled with the idea of squandering so much time in line, but I suppose it's better than the chaos that would

erupt in a world sans lines. I was fortunate to be in and out of the Social Security office in about two hours, in addition to the two-hour round-trip commute. (The actual interaction with a desk agent took maybe three minutes.)

So, should you happen to find yourself in the lobby of Jacksonville's Social Security Administration offices, a word or two to the wise: It turns out that they accept appointments, which was news to me. If you value time over people-watching opportunities, definitely make one. If the thought of witnessing a fella living his best life while hitting cars with sticks sounds like fun, leave it up to chance. Who knows what priceless people-watching scenes will await you. Most importantly, do not under any circumstances defy the security guard. Trust me — it won't be pretty.

Jennifer Silverman, the Curious Columnist, has served as a celebrity wardrobe stylist for hundreds of TV personalities and professional athletes. A few of her favorite projects include the Olympic Games, the Oscars and Inside Edition. Silverman and her Westie, Petunia, relocated from Manhattan to Amelia Island in 2019. Silverman may be reached at fashionmousenyc@gmail.com.