

What's on in Exeter? Full event guide inside

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Refresh your rooms

Spring is the perfect time to spruce up your home. Read on for the hottest new interiors trends



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Earthborn paints (available at Duo Interiors, Magdalen Road, Exeter) are kinder to the environment and your health, and they've just launched an expanded colour range



These System Six Kitchens 'Broad Oak' doors painted in 'Alabaster' are so spring

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Spring has officially sprung, a host of golden daffodils have burst forth and it's time to throw open your curtains and release those battened-down hatches.

Now's the perfect time to spruce up your home interiors by introducing some of this spring's hottest trends. And whether you're minted or skinted, you can still transform your abode with a little imagination and some expert advice.

For the latter, we've asked some top local experts for their thoughts on hot spring 2013 interiors trends.

Bang on trend

Bringing the outside inside is a huge trend for spring 2013. "Bring the natural world into your home with retro plant-inspired patterns such as Rapture and Wrights hand-printed fabric and wallpaper printed here in the UK," says Sarah Woodford of Woodford Architecture + Interiors of Ashburton (www.woodfordarchitecture.com; 01364 654888). "Their designs come in a variety of this spring's key colours. Taking inspirations from the British countryside, Clarke & Clarke's new collection showcases foxgloves, cowslips and wild ferns in embroidered and printed linens in the season's favourite colours."

Similarly, Maycott by design house Sanderson is a fab new range of prints and wallpapers with a fresh floral theme, bringing the essence of the English garden into the home, drawing inspiration from flowers, woodlands and hedgerows, accompanied by a range of complementary simple ticking stripes and plains in co-ordinating colours.

'Global chic' is another key trend for this spring, with a nod to styles from around the world. "Pierre Frey, the daring French fabric house, has a vibrant collection named Nomad which embraces the 'ethnic chic' vibe beautifully," says Sarah from Woodford Architecture + Interiors, "warm rich pinks jostle with oranges and taupes."

Scandinavian style also echoes the natural look, which is key this season, says Matthew Robinson from JAM Interiors Group in Exmouth (www.jaminteriorsgroup.com; tel: 01395 222525). "The Scandinavian style takes inspiration from nature with untreated or white-washed wood as the focal point," he explains. "People are investing in quality, buying fewer pieces and valuing the highest levels of craftsmanship. This

shows a different attitude to the years of plenty, with a desire to furnish homes with items that will last.”

Vintage and retro are still the new ‘new’ – the ‘nostalgia’ trend continues, intensified by the recession, harking back to simpler times. Matthew Robinson from JAM Interiors Group has pinpointed “a shift towards the glamour of the 50s with sumptuous silks and velvets.”

“Retro-styled furniture continues to be popular and works equally well in classic and contemporary homes,” says Sarah from Woodford Architecture + Interiors. “We’ve long been fans of the Hans Wenger Wishbone Chair which now comes in a wide range of beautiful bright spring colours, vibrantly showcasing the retro trend.”

Claire Johnson from Violet & Grey in Honiton (www.violetandgreyinteriors.co.uk; tel: 01404 45151) agrees. “Vintage is as popular as ever, with mixed collections of odd vintage china accessories, pastels, painted furniture and delicate florals.

“This look allows people to search out their own meaningful collection of objects on their travels and not be a slave to the homogeneous high street chain.”

Colour me ‘now’

“Pantone’s 2013 ‘Colour of the Year’ is the striking emerald shade of green,” says Exeter-based tile manufacturer Original Style (www.originalstyle.com; 01392

473004). “To create a dazzling focal point in your interiors, check out our dazzling Byzantium Treasure from the Mosaics collection. To really make a statement, create an on-trend feature wall or panel. For a more subtle look, use these mosaics as a horizontal or vertical border.”

“Colour is back!,” says Claire Johnson of Violet & Grey. “I love this season’s bright colours, they mark a strong move away



Shine on with iridescent White Lady tiles from Original Style’s Mosaics collection



Sanderson’s ‘50s Miro range (available at Drapes 2 in Exeter) is so retro, yet so ‘now’

from bland. Bold, solid brights after a cold wet winter are an instant way to refresh and revive interior spaces. Use colourful mismatched cushions to instantly lift a room and use bold statement walls alongside pale, clean lines.”

“This spring, chalky pastels remain on trend, but are given a whole new spin by mixing them up with punchy splashes of neon pink or orange and copper or gold tones,” says Katey Korzenietz of Home Restyler based near Exeter (www.homerestyler.co.uk; 07799 712338). “Shoot through this some dark colours, choose Farrow & Ball Down Pipe grey, intense violet or navy and you’ve got a fresh look.

“Yellow has been given the thumbs up, and can be found marrying up beautifully with greys, teals and, of course, whites.

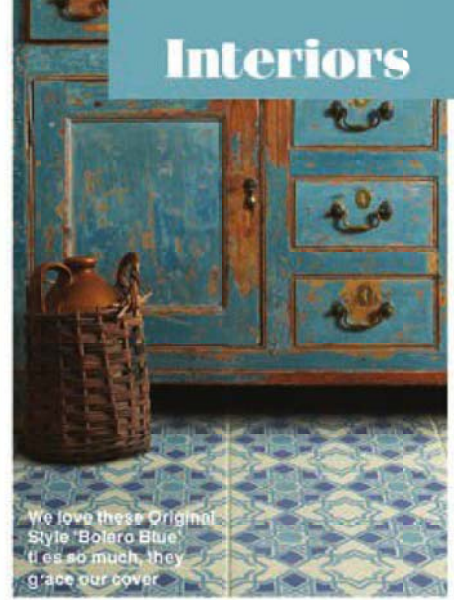
“The look is all about building on colour. Treat your rooms like pieces of artwork. Layer and keep on layering, adding different textures for depth and interest. Harmonise this colour palette with pale, neutral flooring, chalky whites, warm greys, natural woods and some polished, reflective materials.”



Clarke & Clarke’s ‘Wild Garden’ collection (available from Drapes 2 in Exeter) beautifully illustrates the ‘outside in’ trend



Original Style's 'Sisal' range adds texture and global exotism to a wall



We love these Original Style 'Bolero Blue' tiles so much, they grace our cover

"Indigo is tipped to be the most dominant colour on the scene for 2013," says Sarah from Woodford Architecture + Interiors. "We love the richness and elegance of this shade and its sophisticated feel. A palette of pastels and brights is in vogue, think saturated hues in lush spring greens, coral pinks and indigo blues tempered with delicate greys and smokey blues."

Spring is all about "subtler tones of coral, ochre, grass green, verdigris and aubergine," says Matthew of JAM Interiors Group. "Especially noticeable is the pairing of ochre with grey to create a smart, masculine look."

Last year was all about ivory kitchens, say System Six Kitchens of Marsh Barton, Exeter (www.systemsixkitchens.co.uk; tel: 01392 255150), but this spring the paint colour Alabaster reigns supreme. Bright and airy, it's so 'spring', warmer than ivory, and teamed with System Six Kitchens' door style Broad Oak it'll bring the heart of your home bang up to date.

Pattern-al instincts

"Pattern is destined to make a comeback this year," says Original Style. "Bold, daring patterns on crisp white backgrounds are planned to be a big hit."

"The trend is for different clashing materials as opposed to a matching design scheme, and anything goes! For a really bold statement, look to create a feature wall detailing patterned wall tiles, or for a more subtle approach add a melange of patterned tiles to a splashback area behind the kitchen or bathroom sink such as The Tapestry Collection from our Odyssey range."

As well as birds, echoing the 'outside/inside' garden theme, it's all about "graphic shapes, chevrons, stripes and repeating patterns", says Eatey Korzenietz of Home Restyler.

"Geometric patterns with a retro feel have made a major comeback," agrees Claire Johnson from Violet & Grey. "Wallpapers and fabrics from Misspint: reflect this trend."

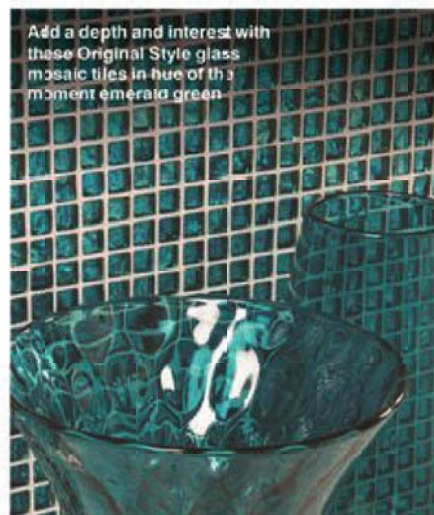
Matthew from JAM Interiors Group agrees, citing "strong geometric patterns in softer pastel colourings" as so 'now'.

"For a look you can love for years to come," says Sarah from Woodford Architecture + Interiors, "upholster a chair in the timeless herringbone wool fabrics available in a variety of neutrals by the stylish and fabulously British Teasel England, then accessorise with bright velvet cushions, for a country look with a touch of glamour."

'Touch-me' textures

"Natural finishes with a rustic or distressed look are proving to be very popular this year," says Original Style. "Advancements in ink jet technology have led us to create wall and floor tiles mimicking wood, bamboo, slate, stone and even concrete designs, such as Sisal from the Tileworks collection."

Katey from Home Restyler agrees. "Fake it – pretend you've got what you've not. If you like the utility washroom tiles, stripped wooden plank or vintage painted tiles look, there's a wallpaper out



Add a depth and interest with these Original Style glass mosaic tiles in hue of this moment emerald green

there for you. The Faux Bois look (or 'fake wood') has been used in everything from furniture to fabric and crockery to carpet. It's all about faking it, and boy is it cheaper than the real deal."

It's time to shine, with iridescence and polished materials as key trends. "This season also sees the trend for surfaces with added shimmer, perfect for adding a new dimension to any room," says Original Style. "Shimmer reflects light and can add depth to smaller interiors giving the impression of a larger area." A great example of this is White Lady from Original Style's Mosaics collection.

"Rich, luxurious materials such as brass and marble are having a resurgence," says Claire from Violet & Grey.

"You can choose any texture or material you like as long as there is plenty of it!" says Matthew from JAM Interiors Group. "A variety of textures and materials will bring interest to your interior, so be brave. Create a layering effect by adding texture everywhere, but make sure you choose similar hues to harmonise the look. Use textured wallpapers to contrast against the variety of textures in your soft furnishings. Our moodboards show natural linens with velvets next to silks and metallics."

"We're being asked less and less for the Minimalist interiors of yesteryear, and clients are embracing a more aesthetically-interesting style by mixing textures and materials. Position high-gloss lacquered units against matt walls and honed stone floors and soften the look with your favourite accessories."

"Add individuality by shopping around or placing family heirlooms next to the latest must-have pieces. Choose a high-end designer piece in a classic style that will outlive fashion trends and bring it up to date by selecting contemporary colours and textures in your accessories." ■