The Tennessean

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Fancy That:
O'More Show House spotlights design trends, inspires homeowners

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A designer show house is like a crystal ball forecasting future design trends in living color.

After touring the 6,000-square-foot O'More Alumni Show House in Franklin, which opened to the public on Friday, I see nothing but beauty and elegance trending in home decor. The restored home features a well-curated mix of traditional elements with a few modern touches thrown in.

I asked three designers, all part of the team of O'More graduates who worked to transform the historic home, what they forecast for home decor trends. From paint color to furniture, kitchen design and more, these professionals shared insider secrets for homeowners who want to update their existing home or are planning to build.

JoAnne Haynes, J. Haynes Interiors:

What is the overall theme that you feel design is heading toward?

The biggest trend is a return to pretty. Not frilly, but pretty. And we are paying greater attention to detail with accessories.

What style are we moving away from?

We have totally moved away from the Restoration Hardware style of all cream with pickled and bleached wood.

When it comes to choosing furniture, what should we look for so that the pieces will work for many years?

Upholstery is back. Plush pieces with lots of beautiful detailing such as cording and contrasting welting on a chair or sofa. The spare West Elm style is definitely on the way out.

What is an easy way for a homeowner to update an existing space?

We are seeing more color, less plain taupe throughout the house. We took our palette (for the O'More Alumni Show House) from the Sherwin Williams Historical Collection and the colors are beautiful. Blue, gray, even lilac.

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For years we have seen the trend of painting an entire house one color for flow. How do you add diverse color to the mix gracefully?

One way to navigate is to take a wall color in one room and put it on the ceiling in another. We did that in several spaces throughout the house and it is subtle, but it flows really well.

If someone is building a home, what trends do they need to be aware of?

Kitchens are all about the mix. We used painted cabinets with wooden cabinets. Soapstone mixed with marble. It doesn't need to feel matching or uniform.

Five words to describe the house?

A combination of old and new.

Dana Goodman, Dana Goodman Interiors:

What design element do you see that is unexpectedly on the horizon?

The gold elements in home decor. Interior design follows fashion, and gold is strong in both areas. I love a really beautiful antique gold and brass for fixtures and lighting. Oil-rubbed bronze and brushed satin are still out there. But if I were building a home right now, I would look at a soft gold.

For the young homeowner, what design trends work with their lifestyle?

First-time homeowners may be decorating with pieces they inherited. Blending those traditional pieces with one or two modern pieces makes it feel youthful. You may have an entire bedroom suite, but you might keep only one traditional four-poster bed and add modern side tables. We did the same thing throughout the house.

What challenges come with taking an old home and giving it new life?

In Franklin and Nashville, our community is comfortable mixing pieces of modern with traditional. An older home doesn't need to be a museum with only period pieces. Add a modern piece to keep things fresh. But traditional is definitely back in terms of design. It is just very family-friendly.

Five words to describe the house?

Transformed from ashes to beauty.

L. Jonathan Savage, Savage Interior Design:

What is the most overlooked element when it comes to decorating a home?

I think beautiful lighting is key. Invest in the best lighting you can and you will reap the rewards for years.

What direction are lighting and fixtures taking in design?

Much more classical and less ornate. It isn't overdone, so it will look elegant for a decade. And gold-tone light fixtures are back. There is not a bad fixture in the entire house, and I think it is one of the strongest elements in the house as well.

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You designed the entry hall, which is a really unusual shape. How does the homeowner who might struggle with an odd-shape room tackle the challenge?

When I walked into the entry hall I knew I wanted to work on that space. It is really long and narrow, so I immediately divided it into thirds. The far end draws you with great artwork, the middle section offers seating and the area closest to the door has a beautiful and functional foyer table. I think every foyer, no matter how small, needs some sort of foyer table.

Five words to describe the house?

Victorian classic architectural details and timeless.

IF YOU GO

What:
The second annual O'More Alumni Show House, presented by O'More College of Design and Traditional Home magazine. The circa 1904 Queen Anne Victorian Dozier Home has been restored with a team of two dozen interior designers, all O'More alumni.

Where:
1009 West Main St. in downtown Franklin

When:
The home is open for viewing 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays, with extended hours until 7 p.m. on Thursdays, through April 27.

Tickets:
$20, available at the door.

Details:
www.omoreshowhouse.com

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