

Natural elements of light-toned woods, driftwood lamps, linen upholstery, shells and a color palette of sand and ocean blue give this home a relaxed, chic vibe. Design by Marc-Michaels Interior Design.



# DESIGN OF THE TIMES

Love the look of 2015's most stylish homes? When it comes to creating cutting-edge rooms that look great and live beautifully, savvy decorators use a number of statement-making design elements. We have 12 of them for your viewing pleasure.

**BY BRAD MEE**

**T**he quest for stylish spaces and a beautiful home can be a maddening mission. While the goal is pretty simple—to create inviting, comfortable rooms with pops of personality and lots of livability—getting there isn't always half the fun. What should you choose, what should you lose? Fortunately, we're here to get you started. On the following pages, we present 12 of today's most high-impact and hard-working design elements, each with the power to make any space spectacular.

## 11 NATURE

Remember two things: 1) There's no hotter decorating trend today than blurring the lines between indoors and out. 2) Adding natural elements to rooms of any style fosters this trend and makes a space look and feel more comfortable. "Your home should feel like an extension of the outdoor beauty you are surrounded with," says Rachel Jones, interior detailing specialist with Marc-Michaels Interior Design in Boca. Think water, fire, earth, metal and wood, she suggests. Stage a sparkling geode on a table, hang a bronze pendant, choose an exotic wood table or clad a feature wall in natural stone. These are just a few of the countless ways to add organic textures and nature's authenticity to a room.

ED BUTERA | BTI DESIGNS, INC.



A grid of molding creates modern paneling that updates a previously flat wall. Design by Gregg Hodson.



SCOT ZIMMERMAN

## [2] MOLDING TREATMENTS

When flat walls look boring and bare, today's sharp designers often employ molding to create architectural interest. Simple molding applications are being used to create the illusion of dimensional paneling and 3-D treatments that transform even the most nondescript surfaces into fabulous feature walls.

## [3] FREESTANDING TUBS

When it comes to making a big splash in today's bathrooms, freestanding tubs are replacing the bulky whirlpools and ordinary drop-ins of yesterday—and transforming boring bathrooms into style-soaked sanctuaries. “They’re like sculptures and perform like art,” says designer Kristin Rocke, who uses them as shapely focal points in her clients’ bathrooms. While freestanding tubs are on trend today, they are not trendy. “They will always be a classic addition,” Rocke says.

## [4] DESIGNER RUGS

Today's rugs are treasured for their ability to protect floors and perform as art underfoot. Vivid colors, eye-catching patterns, customized shapes and sizes, and the finest wools and silks combine to create statement-making pieces that anchor rooms in bold style. There's no better tool than a rug for delineating living zones in an open space or to define the border of a sitting area. “They ground your furniture grouping and create a layer of texture and softness needed in contrast against the stone and wood floors,” says designer Shannon Coyman with Marc-Michaels Interior Design.

A shapely freestanding tub by MTI performs like a functional sculpture in a modern bathroom.

IMAGE COURTESY OF MTI



Designer Kristin Rocke used a custom Paul Smith rug to infuse a Delray Beach hallway with color and bold pattern.

WILLIAM WALDRON





“Designing with white reduces everything to pure form.”  
—Toby Zack, Toby Zack Designs

Designer Toby Zack paired light stone with white walls, furnishings and fabrics to accentuate this home's bold linear architecture.



Eye-catching accessories and tufted chairs covered in a Pindler & Pindler fabric add pops of emerald green to a freshly styled family room created by The Design House Interior Design.

## 5 | WHITE WALLS

For those who frown on it as a high-style color option, white couldn't be less imaginative. But as today's pros know, white not only expands our spaces visually, it also captures Florida's light brilliantly. Along the way, it exaggerates form and texture that flourish in the absence of color. “Designing with white reduces everything to pure form,” says interior designer Toby Zack, an expert at creating brilliant, white-on-white spaces. Though stunning when used alone, white also pairs perfectly with all colors. It creates a dramatic statement when matched with dark hues, tames bold colors and enhances subtle tones of softer shades. The trick is selecting the perfect white for your room. “People think white is white, but there are countless shades,” Zack explains.

## 6 | SATURATED COLOR

These days, we can't get enough color into our homes—and in 2015, the more saturated, the better. Whether it's dished out in small doses with accents and accessories or served in heaping helpings on walls and large furnishings, color is being used to transform the blandest rooms into flavorful feasts for the eyes. This year's hot hues include rich sapphire and cobalt, deep ruby, emerald, olive and lively shades of green.

## ON TREND: JEWEL TONES



JADE GREEN  
2037-20  
BENJAMIN  
MOORE



RECTORY RED  
217  
FARROW &  
BALL



FRANK BLUE  
6967  
SHERWIN-  
WILLIAMS



CROWNING  
650D-7  
BEHR





SCOT ZIMMERMAN

Designer Anne-Marie Barton created a collection of elegant custom pillows to help unify the natural tones and organic textures of this modern family room.

## [ 7 ] CUSTOM PILLOWS

Everybody knows that adding pillows to a room can lead to an instant makeover and update; their forms, patterns and pops of color add on-the-spot personality. But don't settle for dime-a-dozen pillows. These days, custom selections are all the rage. Though more expensive than off-the-shelf options, they provide endless choices in quality fabrics, dimensions, inserts and trims. This allows the homeowner to create a collection of art-like pieces that make a personalized statement suited specifically to a space. Because they can help unify a decor with recurring colors—or make even a so-so chair or sofa look ultra chic—their impact more than makes up for the increased investment.

## [ 8 ] MIXED METALS

Who says you have to decide between cool nickel, bright gold, warm copper or deep bronze? In 2015, metallic finishes are mixing it up in chic homes of all styles. It's a risky practice, but the results can be stunning. A smartly curated combination of metals in fixtures, fabrics or furnishings adds dimension and creative zeal. To prevent a hodgepodge look, most design pros select a dominant metal first and then layer it with a secondary metallic finish. Trend alert: Today's showiest metal is gold, but copper is gaining in popularity.

## [ 9 ] MIRRORS

Take a close look at today's most compelling rooms, and you're likely to discover a mirror in the decor. Why? As the pros know, there is no easier, more effective and more affordable way to add depth, light and a dose of drama to a room. They can hang like art, draw light into dark spaces, expand views and double the visual impact of anything displayed in front of them. What's more, mirrors enhance all styles, from traditional to contemporary, so they can elevate the look of most any home.

A smartly edited mix of warm-toned metallic accessories adorns a brass-plated, leather-topped console by Bernhardt.



COURTESY OF BERNHARDT



WILLIAM WALDRON

Designer Kristin Rocke created a collection of convex mirrors to add light and dimension to an under-stair alcove in a Delray Beach residence.

## UPON REFLECTION

Shapely mirrors make magic in rooms of all sizes and styles



Puzzle mirror, \$1,950, Jonathan Adler, [jonathanadler.com](http://jonathanadler.com)



Honeycomb ring mirror, \$248, Anthropologie, Boca Raton



Root wall mirror, \$499, Crate & Barrel, Boca Raton



White sunburst mirror, \$279, Ethan Allen, Boca Raton



## Meet the Experts

The following interior design companies created the spaces seen throughout this feature.

### Marc-Michaels Interior Design

850 E. Palmetto Park Road,  
Boca Raton  
561/362-7037  
marc-michaels.com  
Designers: Jeff Strasser, Shannon  
Coyman, Samantha Lipman, Kathryn  
Dunagan and Rachel Jones

### Susan Lachance Interior Design

1001 Clint Moore Road, Suite 100,  
Boca Raton  
561/241-3800  
susanlachance.com

### Brown's Interior Design

4501 N. Federal Highway, Boca Raton  
561/368-2703  
brownsinteriors.com  
Designer: Patty Hubbel

### Toby Zack Designs

3316 Griffin Road, Fort Lauderdale  
954/967-8629  
tobyzackdesigns.com

### K. Roche Design

801/274-2720  
krockedesign.com  
Designer: Kristin Roche

### AMB Design

801/272-8620  
annemariebarton.com  
Designer: Anne-Marie Barton

### The Design House Interior Design

801/787-9771  
tdhid.com  
Designers: Susan Thompson and  
Bennett Lee

### Gregg Hodson Design

801/532-4665  
gregghodsondesign.com

In Delray Beach, designer Susan Lachance suspended a stunning chandelier above a Swaim dining table. The sparkling fixture's large scale ideally suits the room's spaciousness.



ROBERT BRANTLEY

## 10 | CHANDELIER

Chandeliers are today's jewelry of choice for Florida interiors. Look beyond foyers, and you'll see these high-flyers have become regulars in surprising spots including kitchens, powder rooms, patios and even laundry rooms. More than a source of overall lighting, many chandeliers perform as accents, bringing just a bit of bling and beauty to a space. Some go it solo and others perform in groups as striking focal points or subtle decorative accents. Making the right decisions regarding style and placement is critical—a carefully selected, thoughtfully installed showstopper of a chandelier can be the crown jewel of any room.

## 11 | SECTIONALS

No, you haven't entered a time machine to 1980. Sectionals are enjoying a newfound stature as the choice for high-style, high-occupancy seating in today's more ambitious living rooms. Sleek, modern shapes and endless configurations have helped to elevate the once-ubiquitous rumpus room regular into one of the most stylish and functional pieces of furniture in the home. "Sectionals are scaled more proportionately to a variety of differently sized rooms and add a sophisticated look," designer Patty Hubbel says. And they're not just for big rooms. A sectional set in the corner of a small room can provide more seating while using less space than multiple chairs and loveseats that often end up floating in the room.

## 12 | EDITED SPACE

Call it under-decorating, de-cluttering or simply purging: Editing your decor is today's most straightforward approach to giving it today's hottest look. We're not talking about barren white rooms devoid of personality, but rather inviting, compelling spaces—from traditional to cutting-edge contemporary—that lack clutter and messy distractions. To create this look, savvy designers clear surfaces, integrate customized storage, leave many walls blank and unify collectibles into collections. Large accessories and art replace scattered knickknacks and pictures, and an edited palette of colors and materials recurs throughout the interior to unify it. 15

With a strong appreciation for negative space, designer Toby Zack carefully orchestrated this living room's limited accessories and streamlined furnishings.



"Sectionals are scaled more proportionately to a variety of differently sized rooms and add a sophisticated look."

— Patty Hubbel, Brown's Interior Design

A shapely modern sectional provides abundant seating and style for the sitting area of a Boca Raton home. Designed by Brown's Interior Design.



ED BUTERA, IBI DESIGNS, INC.



DAN FORER