

What's Hot Now: Defining Midcentury Design

Tara Wilke, McNabb & Risley Fine Furniture and Interior Design on Friday, July 22, 2011 at 12:00:00am

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One of the strongest trends of the last decade has been the re-emergence of classic design from the late 1940's to the early 1970's. Now categorized as midcentury design, I'm spotting this trend everywhere. It is influencing home furnishings, fashion and art; now there is even a 1950's Kate Spade I-phone cover.

Hallmarks of the trend are clean, sleek lines with an emphasis on form and function. Color palettes range from various shades of neutral to the vibrant colors popular in the mid '60's. I love to "pop" midcentury color schemes with bright, vintage colors used as accents in art and accessories. My favorite shades right now are tangerine, hot pink, turquoise and citrus yellow.

So, why is this trend so attractive? It is easily achieved at all price levels. The look is minimalist and doesn't require costly antiques, area rugs or art to make an amazing statement. Midcentury design is appreciated by people of all ages. Whether you are a young couple starting out or the most discriminating collector, there are aspects of this design trend you can easily integrate with your home's existing décor.



If you love the trend as much as I do, don't be afraid to invest in quality. Since you are using less furniture, it's important your key pieces make a strong visual statement. An exquisite example of midcentury design would be the XS cocktail table designed by the Keno Brothers. Who knew the twin brothers of the "*Antiques Roadshow*" fame would be so passionate about midcentury design?

The XS cocktail table is design perfection. The book-matched olive ash burl top is reminiscent of Andy Warhol's *Rorschach* series, making the tabletop a piece of art in itself. The hand cast X brass base is classic early '60's design. A piece like this would be a fabulous focal point in any style interior.

The beauty of midcentury design is that it spans nearly three decades, so there is a wealth of design inspiration to choose from. Because of the clean, simple lines, it's easy to mix with other style categories. The trend is stronger than ever; many industry experts believe the timeless appeal of the era is destined to be the antiques of our generation.

We invite you to visit McNabb & Risley to view the Keno Collection. To inspire you further, here are some great photos of midcentury designs. Remember, above all else, enjoy the design process!

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