

# AUSTIN HOME and

*Spring Special Edition 2019*

# LIFESTYLE

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# CHANGE IS COMING IN HOME DESIGN

By Jennifer Jones

*Home design experts are experiencing a shift in what we've seen for the past few years. We chatted with Registered Interior Designers, Stephanie Villavicencio and Amanda Ayala-Taylor from Bella Villa Design Studio to discuss what trends are changing in the industry.*

"Regardless of style, most of our clients are moving toward a cleaner look," says Villavicencio. "There are fewer items in the rooms, and we're adding in deeper colors through artwork, wallpaper, accessories, appliances and tile."

While Farmhouse will remain a theme through 2019, we're seeing more of an interest in natural elements regardless of style. Textural walls, such as grasscloth, are in. Wallpaper is also still big, but with larger, bolder patterns. It can be used in a full room or as a fun focal point on an accent wall or ceiling. "Modern florals are popular right now. There's also a desire for geometric patterns and organic designs with softer lines. Since modern wallpapers are made to be strippable, they are easier to replace if you want to paint or change to a different pattern in the future."

"Nature-inspired design (also called Biophilic design) is in. We're basing design on natural elements, bringing the

outdoors inside. I read an article recently that talked about how nature is good for women, but really it's beneficial for everyone. It restores your health. The design trend is incorporating more plants, wood, and wicker providing a calming feeling with more organic and softer lines and the ability to connect the interior to the exterior through large, sliding glass doors that open to create one large, uninterrupted space."

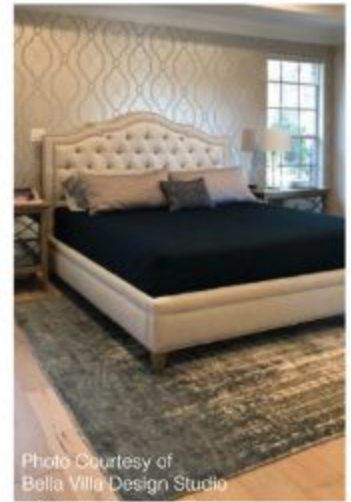


Photo Courtesy of Bella Villa Design Studio

Glass and steel windows and doors with minimal framework and minimal lines are being used more. "We had a client use a thin steel frame with floor-to-ceiling glass to divide their wine room from the dining room. It created a frame for the wine room and allowed it to be on display while dividing it from the common space. It's a great way to separate a space without completely closing it off."

## KITCHENS

"Instead of the all-white kitchens we've seen for a while, people are starting to add darker colors back in whether it's through paint, cabinets or other items like hardware and appliances," says Villavicencio. "We're seeing darker, moodier colors mixed in with the white. White isn't totally going away, but we're seeing the use of natural elements such as a little bit of wood and natural materials in the lighting and accessories. Blacks, dark blues and deep greens are all making a comeback. There is a natural instinct to want to break up all of the white with color or some sort of contrast."



Photo Courtesy of Bella Villa Design Studio



Kitchen appliances are adding in color. "Big Chill has a classic series we love. They have a matte black refrigerator, stove and hood with mixed metals thrown in. We're seeing gold or honey bronze used more. Faucets and fixtures are also coming out with black options: matte black, black steel or black nickel."



CLASSIC LINE, MATTE BLACK  
Photo Courtesy of Big Chill



VORNADO PENDANT, dweLED  
Photo Courtesy of WAC Lighting

## LIGHTING

Open geometric shapes are popular. Vendors are coming out with a lot of fixtures and integrated lights that are LED, opening up new possibilities with organic shapes and ways to light a room, including temperature and color. "Natural textures like wicker, bigger pendant lights and light-weight concrete are being used to create interesting lighting options."



GRID FAUCET, MATTE BLACK  
Photo Courtesy of KALLISTA

## BATHROOMS

"Wood is making a comeback. People are adding in floating wood cabinets or straight slab doors of stained wood.

"Larger tiles in general (not just for the bathroom) are easier to clean. Our clients want slabs of material so there are few or no grout lines. You can get that big piece of onyx or marble feeling without it being broken up."

Linear drains are also popular. If you use a patterned tile, you can continue the pattern without having to break it up around a big circle drain. This type of minimalist design with sleek lines also extends to the faucets.



Photo Courtesy of  
Bella Villa Design Studio

## TECHNOLOGY

Technology still plays a big role in design. Whether it's smart home controls for your lighting or pool, motorized window shades, touch faucets, smart refrigerators or even controlling your A/C or sprinklers from your phone, people are incorporating it into their homes. "People like the ability to control things when they're not at home so they can make it look like they are home."

If you're ready for a change of scenery in your home and looking for inspiration to take your design to the next level, the designers at Bella Villa can help you integrate your own personal style into the latest home design trends.