

# What's TRENDING?

## EXPERTS DISCUSS CURRENT TRENDS

IN HOME DESIGN *By Cindy Brzostowski*

What's "in" today isn't necessarily what was "in" yesterday, and that certainly holds true for interior design. There was a time when wood paneling and wall-to-wall shag carpets were all the rage. Today? Not so much. We asked some local experts to share their thoughts on home design and construction choices that are particularly popular at the moment.

## OUR PANEL OF EXPERTS



**Stephanie Lindsey**, principal designer at Etch Design Group  
[etchinteriordesign.com](http://etchinteriordesign.com)



**Dave Hernandez**, managing partner of ROOST Custom Homes  
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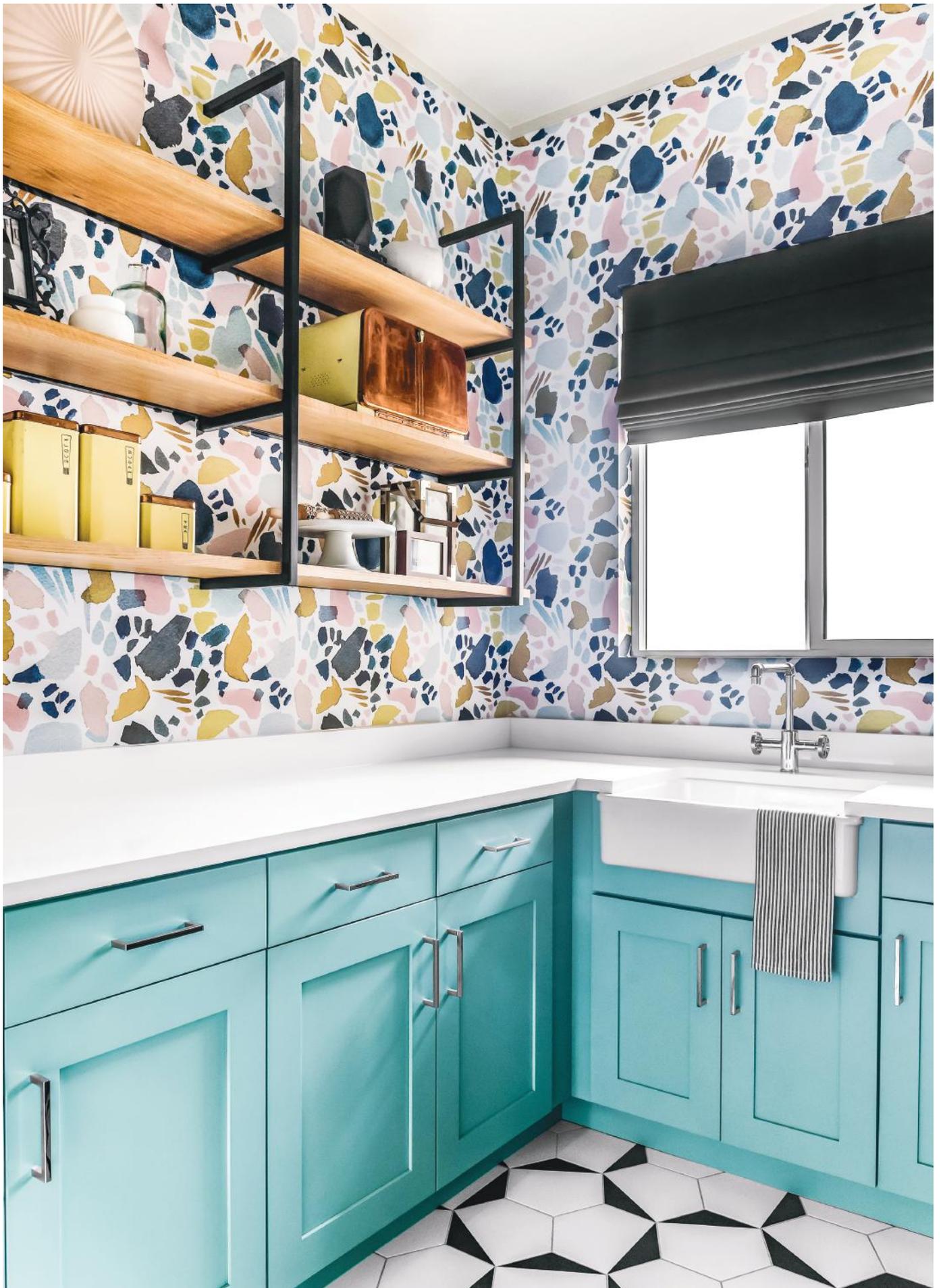


**Audrey Scheck**, founder of Audrey Scheck Design  
[audreyscheckdesign.com](http://audreyscheckdesign.com)





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## Q: What are some of the hottest home design trends you're seeing these days?

**Scheck:** Mixing metals in bathrooms is becoming increasingly popular, and I love this trend because it allows homeowners and designers to be really creative when choosing plumbing hardware, cabinet hardware and wall accessories. The trend of not having everything match really opens the door when it comes time to source pieces for the bathroom.

**Lindsey:** Since the pandemic hit, homeowners are moving toward more private spaces in their homes to create time for individual productivity and increase emotional health. Although some pre-pandemic societal tendencies have returned, a good portion of commercial offices have chosen to maintain remote work, forcing homeowners to evaluate the open floor plan and how effective it is for their families with remote learning for children and working from home for parents.

**Hernandez:** With the significant increases in the costs of construction, clients and architects are becoming more efficient with their designs. We're seeing more houses in the 3,000 to 4,000 square-foot range rather than 5,000-plus as we had in the last few years. Also, alternative wall treatments tie into the "less white" trend—less white drywall. We're seeing a lot of wall and ceiling treatments, such as wallpaper, tile and wood ceilings and walls.

## Q: What's your favorite recent trend in home design—and why?

**Scheck:** I really love the trend of televisions that double as artwork. We use them in our clients' living rooms and bedrooms all the time as a way to trick the eye into thinking that there is artwork on the wall when it's actually a television. The Samsung Frame TV is our favorite as it allows you to customize the bezel that surrounds the TV.

**Lindsey:** We love that home design has become more colorful! We have seen more colorful choices instead of neutrals in accents, art and even wallpaper. It gives life to spaces and definitely personalizes each space.

**Hernandez:** I don't like that building prices are so high, but I do like that we're trending toward more compact homes. I would rather build a great 3,500-square-foot house than try to spread that same budget over 5,000 square feet. People have had to learn to adapt their environment to meet changing needs over the last couple of years. The guestroom that used to go unused 350 days a year is now a full-time home gym or office or classroom.

## Q: What's your advice for people following trends in home design?

**Scheck:** If you are hesitant about diving headfirst into a "trend," I always suggest starting small to test the waters. Try mixing metal finishes in your decor pieces instead of with your plumbing hardware. An example would be using a brass bowl to style a surface in your home and placing it next to a black metal picture frame. You could also start small by mixing patterns in your textiles instead of on your walls. To do this, simply choose pillows or throw blankets in varying patterns and blend them on the same bed or sofa.

**Lindsey:** Our advice is always to follow what you love. Some trends speak to you, and others don't. It's always helpful to have timeless elements in a design, but if you are really needing a change and want something that's trendy, just be aware that you may need to replace it sooner rather than later.

**Hernandez:** We always advise our clients to put their money behind the walls. Build a solid structure, install great systems and make sure the home is efficient. Use materials that will last, and use quality tradespeople to install them. Trends come and go. You don't know what the next trend will be, so choose the things that speak to you now. Changing out cabinet hardware or light fixtures in five or ten years will be a pretty easy and painless thing to do to freshen up your home.



