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INTERIOR DESIGN



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INTERIOR DESIGN

*10 Clever Concrete  
Patio Ideas So You Can  
Entertain All Year Long*

*When the Office Starts to  
Look Like Home*

*These 5 It Sofas Are  
Taking Over Instagram*

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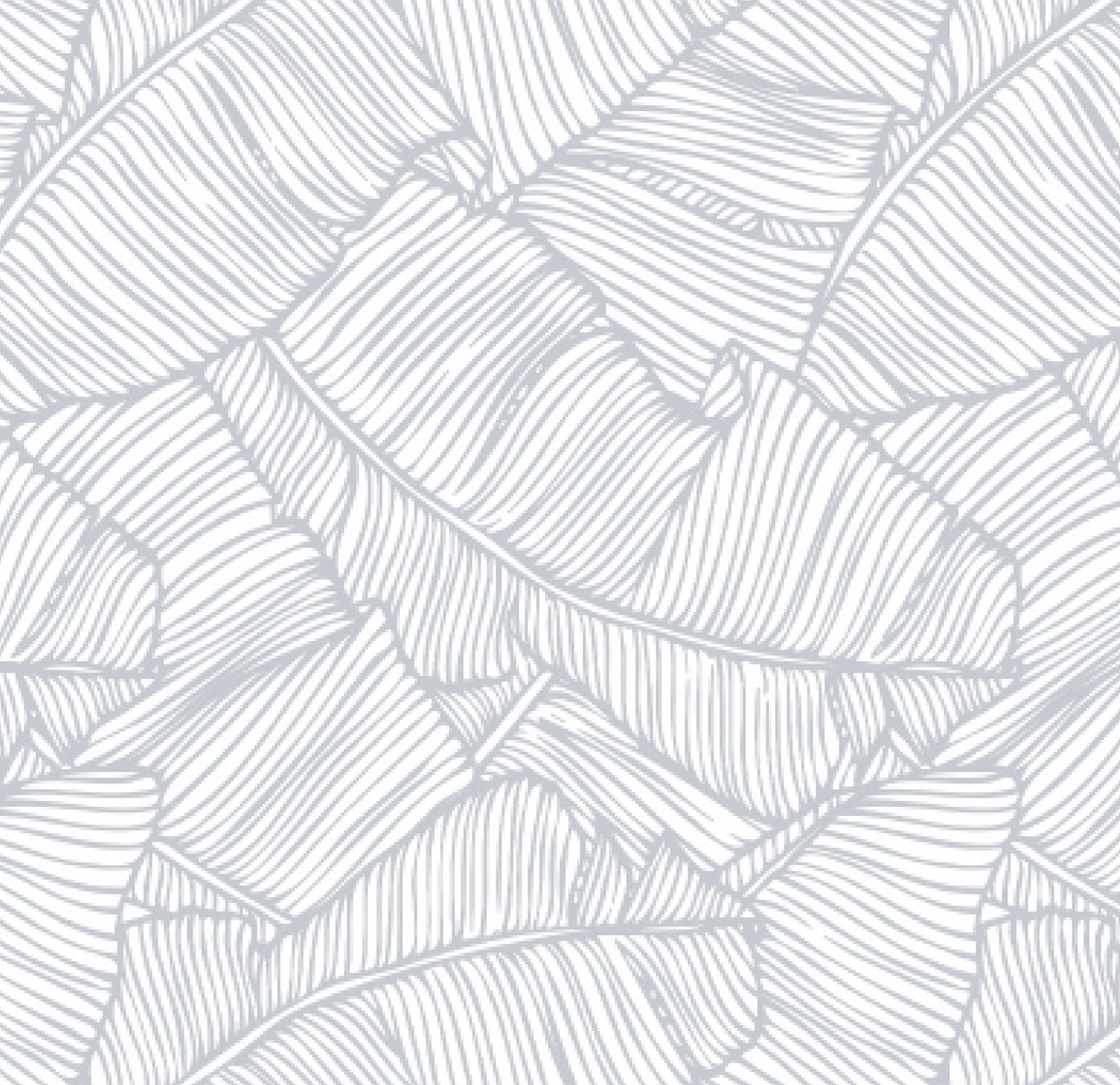


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**WHAT'S  
INSIDE?**

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# 10 Clever Concrete Patio Ideas So You Can Entertain All Year Long





With outdoor living rooms becoming the space du jour, classy concrete patio ideas are a must for a timeless look in any backyard. The beauty of a concrete patio is that it's low-maintenance and creates a visual break in a sea of landscaping ideas. "Decorative patios are a relatively inexpensive way to increase the value of your home while creating a living space that can be enjoyed by family and friends," says Todd Stewart, president and co-chairman of Sam the Concrete Man. "There are thousands of different stamp patterns and color options available to choose from. Pick a combination that will match well with your home and landscaping."

Plus, it's more than just a concrete slab. When situated near a pool deck or under a pergola, it truly becomes an outdoor living haven. Connect it to the rest of your backyard with walkways for a lounging retreat. Homeowners can also use the patio as a setup for an outdoor kitchen or an enclave for a gazebo. Those seeking a private nook on an existing patio can play up hardscape design or add a fire pit for coziness by making the space into a sunken outdoor living room.

Concrete patio designs span textures too—from flagstone pavers to decorative concrete. When it comes to landscaping, step up your game by planting shrubbery just outside your pavers. For a DIY approach to patio space, you can remodel your existing patio with new outdoor furniture or even stencil on the surface to cut back on the concrete patio cost.



## CONTEMPORARY CONCRETE PATIO

Pergolas are popular for outdoor living, but they're often made of wood. To make a patio project more contemporary, use powder-coated steel with a gloss finish, recommends Christopher Grubb, president of Beverly Hills-based Arch-Interiors Design Group.



## CONTRASTING TONES

With concrete patios, Grubb says people often feel limited to a solid color. Painting a stripe in a contrasting tone can awaken a blah concrete patio surface. “[Stripes] can be thin or wide and for extra creativity even a herringbone or woven pattern,” he says.



## COLORFUL FURNITURE

The gray hue of a concrete patio makes it the perfect backdrop for colorful outdoor furniture. Look to weather-resistant roping to define the conversation area of this outdoor living room. Grubb recommends pieces from Brazilian company Tidelli.





## TRAVERTINE PAVERS

“With an excellent installer, your existing concrete may be able to have tile or stone installed over it for a new look,” says Grubb, who transformed a formerly bland concrete patio to match the client’s taste using an overlay of travertine pavers.

## OUTDOOR TURF

“For patios that make the outdoor living space mostly solid concrete, outdoor turf has become higher-end with blends of browns you would see in grass in nature,” says Grubb, who favors turf and binding the edges to make an area rug that’s easy to maintain.







## GLASS RAILINGS

If you're trying to separate your patio from an adjacent area, Grubb says the glass and railings allow for separation without making the yard feel smaller. Etched glass is a sleek design idea, especially when used to separate something equally transparent, like a pool.

## CHOOSE CONCRETE TO CATER TO THE SEASONS

"Concrete is the most basic of materials and out of any patio material," says David Charette, cofounder of Britto Charette in Miami. This cost-effective material may not have the romance of crushed gravel, aesthetically speaking, but it is highly functional in areas that require yard maintenance, say falling leaves or snow. "You wouldn't want to shovel gravel in the winter," he adds.







A warm tone of concrete with earthy accents complements the surrounding natural environment and creates a serene space. “Concrete is typically associated with cool tones, but a warmer tone of concrete allows you to bring in a more organic feeling by seamlessly blending the outdoors with the coziness of your home,” says Leslie Murphy, founder and creative director at Murphy Maude Interiors in Memphis. Natural earth tones, such as dark wood on the furniture and ceilings as well as greenery on the table, further evoke the organic feeling.

## OPT FOR A NATURAL PALETTE

## CONSIDER PAIRING WITH ALTERNATIVE MATERIALS

When the patio is concrete, having a contrast to this simplistic material works well. “This can be accomplished by using organic yet textural material such as split-faced stone or complimenting concrete with another natural material such as rolled steel,” Ownby says.





## SHAPE YOUR CONCRETE

A concrete patio does not have to be all concrete. Mark Cutler, cofounder of CutlerSchulze, in Los Angeles, worked with landscape designer Joni Janecki to create concrete pads that echoed the shape of oak leaves. “Not only does it break up the hardscape, but it also encourages creative play in the garden,” he says.





# WHEN THE OFFICE STARTS TO LOOK LIKE HOME

“People worldwide have become accustomed to working in their homes, and that is, moving forward, probably the type of environment people will really enjoy working in.”





## PART OFFICE

Bearman and Rosenfield's vision for the Vox/Epic headquarters is part of a larger pandemic-induced trend in which the boundaries between our homes and white-collar workplaces have become increasingly blurrier. In nearby Venice, for example, local design studio Part Office recently converted two condominium buildings into 12 live/work lofts meant to house small startups. "We really did push the residential boundary [of the interiors] pretty far, to the point that we had some pushback from the marketing team," says Part Office cofounder Kristin Korven. Each unit consists of a lower "residential" floor with several adjustable common spaces including a compact kitchen, as well as an upper "working" loft that's more reminiscent of traditional conference rooms, and a roof deck.

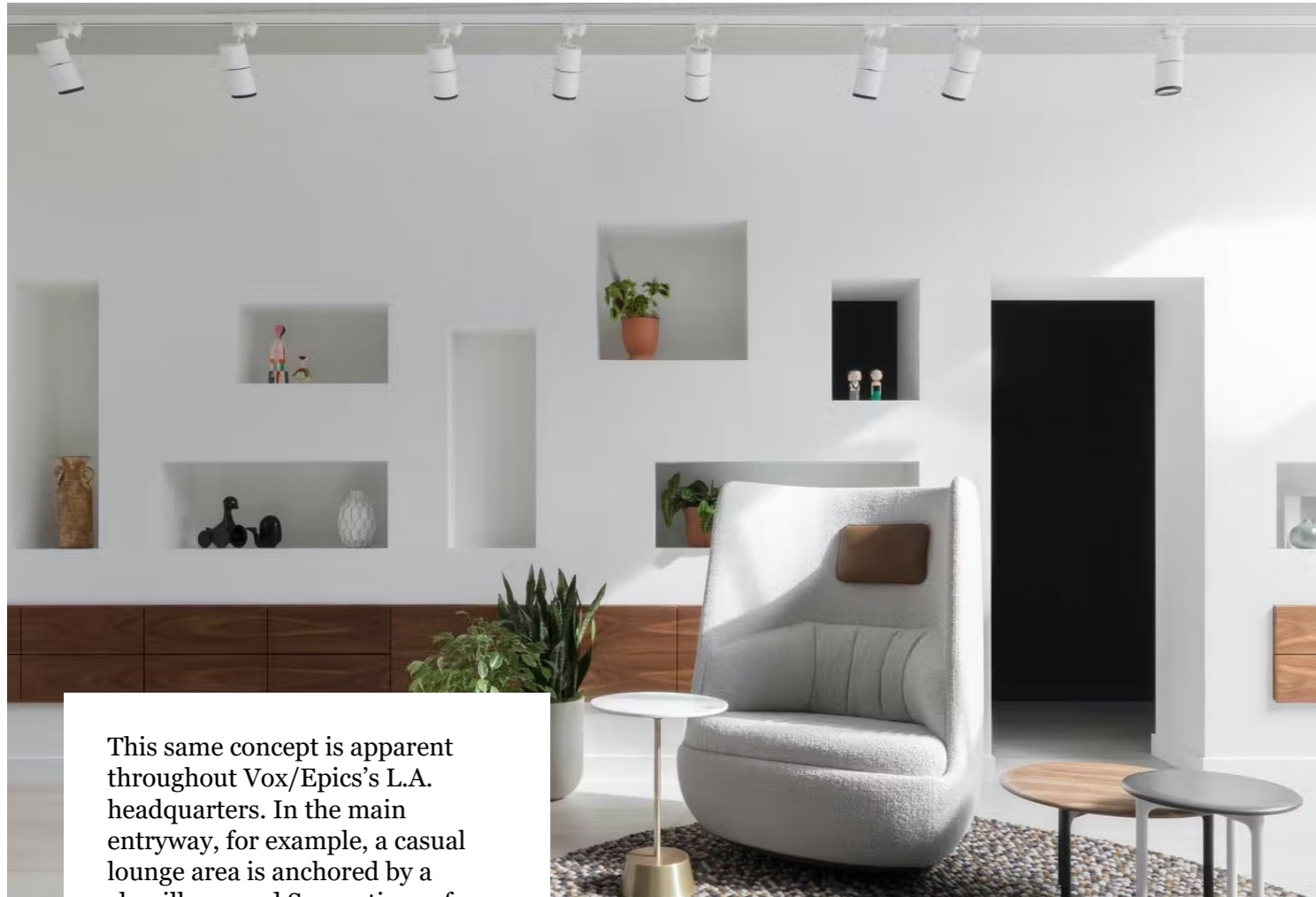


The firm's goal was to approach the project through a more residential lens, "much in response to how the past few years shifted our ideas of what an office should feel like," which, Korven says, is a trend she's seen more of frequently—and not just in office design. "Even currently, as we design residences for people who are still working at home, the clients don't want us designing home offices for them," she says.

## SKB ARCHITECTS

A new study from Gusto, a company that provides cloud-based payroll, benefits, and human resource management software, found that for all types of workers on its platform, the number one factor in accepting or declining a job offer is flexibility—namely, the ability to work from home some or all of the time. "Work shouldn't feel like a drudgery and has many faces," says Shannon Gaffney, founding partner at SkB Architects, which spearheaded the design of the Seattle office and showroom for objekts, a boutique furniture and accessories procurement firm. Located in the Belltown neighborhood, the office is what the firm describes as "hospitality forward," with amenities such as a bar, kitchen, library, and several multifunctional meeting rooms and "entertainment" areas.





This same concept is apparent throughout Vox/Epics's L.A. headquarters. In the main entryway, for example, a casual lounge area is anchored by a chenille curved Serpentine sofa—which Rosenfield bought sight unseen on Etsy—that reminds of a '90s-inspired couch your design-minded friend might have in their apartment. Another gathering space in the office café is framed by vintage reddish-orange Maralunga sofas and a brown leather lounge chair. "There's also a purple airport bench and the green of the plants; together they create this whole color story," Rosenfield says.

Such emphasis on colors and materials is part of another emerging design trend involving a shift toward tactile environments. "The implication is to create places that have soul and craft and are not sleek, slick, or machined," Gaffney says. "Human touch is important and evocative; we joke that if the client starts petting a material, the meeting is a success."

## SKB ARCHITECTS



## VOX MEDIA & EPIC OFFICES

Meanwhile, at the Vox/Epic office, there's an added element of escapism: The two private booths where employees can take meetings and phone calls feature forest and underwater motifs (respectively), with themed wallpaper and decorative items such as a lamp shaped like a shell.

It's easy to dismiss this residential-inspired aesthetic as the more sophisticated (or timely) version of the ridiculous era of Silicon Valley office "playrooms," which skeptics could argue had similar motives: to keep employees in the workplace. Whether we can really design offices that people want to come back to despite the shift to WFH culture remains unanswered. But after more than two years of using our living spaces as work environments, it's only natural to be accustomed to the physical comfort of couches and armchairs—and the lack of eerie, artificial overhead lights!—while also yearning for a reprieve from our everyday personal surroundings.





Every season, there seems to be that one item everyone on your social media feeds owns. Maybe it's that tiny Prada handbag, or (as in the case of this ELLE Decor editor) Crocs?

# THESE 5 IT SOFAS ARE TAKING OVER INSTAGRAM

As far as interior design is concerned, however, the most viral items are of the sofa variety—puffy, vintage Italian ones, to be precise. Perhaps it's our collective obsession with all-things 1970s right now. Perhaps it's the comfort their amorphous contours have provided in a pandemic year. Regardless, these five designs have emerged as the It sofas that everyone seems to (or at least aspires to) own.





**PUMPKIN,  
BY PIERRE  
PAULIN FOR  
LIGNE ROSET**

This piece does in fact credit its shape to the eponymous gourd. Designed exclusively for the Elysée Palace during the Georges Pompidou presidency, the sofa lends itself to total comfort with a “protective” shell. It’s no wonder the masses, including French designer Fleur Delesalle, have been sinking back into its inviting shape.

**CAMALEONDA,  
BY MARIO BELLINI  
FOR B&B ITALIA**

Originally designed in 1970, this modular sofa has been an icon in the Italian design world for more than 50 years. B&B Italia reintroduced Camaleonda last year with new colorways and modular options, further shoring up this design icon’s status as a contemporary classic, and trust us: Every Scandinavian influencer on your feed agrees. Designer Jessie Schuster recently customized her Camaleonda in beige fabric (in part to make it pooch-friendly) for her SoHo loft.





**SESANN,  
BY GIANFRANCO  
FRATTINI FOR  
TACCHINI**

Originally designed by Gianfranco Frattini in 1970 and reissued in 2015, the Sesann sofa flies under the radar. With its tubular metal frame and bulging cushions, this is the real cool-kid sofa to have.



**TOGO,  
BY LIGNE ROSET**

For over 40 years, the Togo sofa line has been a design go-to, but we've been seeing it everywhere lately. It's even been showing up in unexpected textiles, like in a blue Scalamandre floral, as seen here in a recent Heidi Caillier project. Made for lounging, the slouchy shape is simultaneously casual and pulled together, making it perfect for that "effortless" aesthetic we all wish to achieve.





**SOFA LE BAMBOLE '07,  
BY MARIO BELLINI FOR  
B&B ITALIA**

Clearly, Bellini knows how to design a timeless and covetable sofa.

The primary appeal of the Le Bambole (the 1979 winner of the prestigious Compasso d'Oro industrial design award), is the apparent lack of a support structure. The soft blending of form and fabric is what makes this throwback icon still relevant these many years later.



# INTERIOR DESIGN TRENDS 2022: SUSTAINABILITY, BIOPHILIA AND THE COLOURS OF THE YEAR

As far as our homes go, lighting has seen a real step-change in terms of perception: once functional, practical, necessary and not really that exciting, it can now be dramatic, dynamic, delightful and the total highlight of a room. So too has our approach to our homes shifted.

For very obvious reasons we won't dwell on, we've spent a LOT more time in them and we appreciate our homes more than ever. We are also expecting more of them than ever. Yes they have to be functional and practical but they can also enhance our moods and induce joy. We're not asking much...

What will the next 12 months bring? No one can know for sure but, sadly, it's looking likely we'll once again be spending far more time at home than we bargained for. Which means knowing what's on the horizon in interior design trends is now as key as scouring the runways for the must have SS22 looks.





**SUSTAINABILITY**

Brands are paying ever more attention to the materials used in their designs so that customers can shop mindfully without compromising on quality. Cox & Cox has crafted its Loft bed from reclaimed timbers = good for the planet, and the added plus of a unique bed for each customer.



Rockett St George, on a mission to supply affordable, closed-loop, sustainable furniture, has partnered with Sussex craftsman Jani Lemut to create its first UK-made collection of this type. The Sustainable Sideboard Cabinet, for example, uses recycled coffee grounds to create the grout for its marquetry. “The highlight of this collection is the challenge of designing beautiful furniture with materials that are at our disposal,” explains Lemut. “It’s massively exciting that we can reuse what has been thrown away.”

**BIOPHILIA**

Biophilia is a term coined by the Harvard naturalist Dr. Edward O. Wilson to describe what he saw as humanity’s “innate tendency to focus on life and lifelike processes”, and to be drawn toward nature, to feel an affinity for it, a love, a craving even.



Pinterest can always be relied on to alert us to a home trend that’s on the rise and biophilia is one of its top trends for 2022; we are collectively searching for everything from biophilic office and bedroom designs to staircase gardens and floral ceilings. “You’ve seen house plants,” declares the Pinterest team. “Now meet living rooms. Millennials are turning to plant-first design solutions this year to increase their connection to nature and enhance their well being.”



## CURVES

We've lost our appetite for sharp angles and hard edges; we want cosy, cocooning expanses of upholstery, pleasingly curvaceous mirrors and circular, oval or oblong tables. We're searching in our droves for curved sofas, walls, bars and kitchen island ideas, and even round pool decking, according to Pinterest.



In 2022, “people will invest in home décor such as curved sofas, curved bar designs and curved kitchen islands. Boomers, Gen X and millennials are driving searches behind this well-rounded home trend.” If you think you could tire of this trend, steer clear of absolute commitment by adding accents that merely nod to it – artwork, geometric rugs, like this one from Made, or one statement chair, a la Soho Home.



## STATEMENT LIGHTING

The experts are all in agreement: lighting really matters. Long gone are the days when it was simply a practical necessity, and often a late addition. Jiin Kim-Inoue from Finchatton explains that “spending more time at home has given people a reason to change the focal point in a room.

Lighting is often underestimated in its significance within the home but displaying beautifully curated lighting pieces that reflect your personality can add richness to your environment. The best areas to apply this approach is in dining areas and kitchens where entertaining takes place and guests can admire.”



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