

# Spring

The weather is warming up so let your design ideas begin to blossom, writes Robyn Willis



CURIO & CURIO

Now is the time to think about updating and refreshing your home for the warmer months. But before you worry about the possible damage to the credit card, spring 2011 will be building on trends from the cooler months, only with a little more light, space and colour – especially colour.

### Bright and light

National sales and merchandising manager for King Furniture Triana Odone says there is no one dominant colour this season. As long as it's bright, it fits the bill.

"There are lots of blues, aquas and teals working with beige," Triana says. "Khaki is coming back with yellow and limes."

Hot pinks such as fuchsia are also splashing out this season, usually as bursts of colour against beige or light grey furniture.

After years of minimalism and low-key colour palettes, Triana says it is time to have fun with colour.

"Inject one or two pieces in strong colour into the room," she says. "You could do that quite simply with a vase or a fruit bowl or a rug."

Triana says colour can be introduced in pure "blocks" or you can tap into the move towards global decorating and go with a tribal-style pattern such as ikat or Mexican Suzani.

### Going global

Print designer and decorator Clair Wayman from Curio & Curio in Melbourne says the global look can be carried through to the table with linen in bold patterns and Moroccan-style tableware.

This can cross over easily with locally produced hand-printed textiles from companies such as hers as well as Harvest Textiles and Ink & Spindle.

"Lots of new, hand screen-printed wares are popping up from small local studios," Clair says. "New print design businesses are producing colourful, bold print designs on cushions, table linen and plywood furniture."

Pattern continues to be strong and the bolder the better, with geometrics and botanics coming to the fore.



SUNNYLIFE

### Wall to wall

Stylist Denby Dowling says wallpaper is emerging from the bedroom and taking over the living room.

"Wallpaper is very current and people are using more of it in the living space and even in the bathroom as a feature," she says. "Patterns are getting bigger and more graphic and botanics are coming through as well."

If it seems risky, a feature wall in a bold wallpaper behind the bedhead is a great way to start and the kind of project you could knock over in a weekend.

### Natural touch

Offsetting all this bright colour and bold pattern is timber, particularly blonder woods such as birch, oak or bamboo, which are perfect for spring living.

Denby suggests adding it in smaller pieces such as tableware or something larger such as a side or dining table.

Head of furniture at Freedom Andrew Moricz says timber is moving outdoors this season, replacing the glass and aluminium dining suites.

However, matching table and chairs are not the go. Instead, mix up your seating arrangements with powdercoated metal chairs in bright colours with a couple of painted timber chairs thrown in.

The vintage look we've embraced in recent years is still current, he says, but feel free to play around with materials such as embroidered cushions, crocheted rugs, leather and stone.

With so many themes running through the season, it's possible to get confused but Andrew says it also offers plenty of flexibility to personalise your space.

"It is unusual to have so many genres running at the same time," he says. "We usually develop a theme around something like British Empire or Aegean summer but this is a first."

"We usually give customers (styling) cues in store for all directions in decorating and we fully co-ordinate room sets but this year more than ever, it is a little deconstructed."

In other words, enjoy spring. [williar@dailytelegraph.com.au](http://www.williar@dailytelegraph.com.au)



TABLE TONIC

## MUST HAVES



Tribal just got pretty with this Pink Dot Uzbek Ikat silk and cotton cushion cover (insert not included) \$59, from Blue Caravan.



Light timbers such as these mango wood storage pots, \$44.95 (tall) and \$49.95 (short), from SunnyLIFE are hot this season.



Order some colour on the side with the bright yellow Spindle side table \$149, from Freedom.



The botanic print on this Bongo ottoman \$275, from King Furniture, brings the garden indoors.

MORE INFORMATION  
 Blue Caravan [bluecaravan.net](http://bluecaravan.net)  
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 Freedom [freedom.com.au](http://freedom.com.au)  
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