

Eco-friendly interior design: WHAT'S TRENDING?

Homeowners are now moving away from bulky wooden furniture in favour of sleek and space-efficient minimalist pieces. People are becoming equally conscious of not overcrowding rooms with excessive décor.

Step into a modern Bangladeshi home, and you will see a thoughtful balance between heritage and innovation. In recent years, homeowners have redefined how they design their living spaces — turning away from traditional heavy wooden furniture and elaborate patterns to embracing furniture that focuses on minimalism. What is driving this change? What are the key trends shaping the interiors?

MINIMALISM AND MULTIFUNCTIONALITY

Once perceived as primarily a

Western design philosophy, minimalism, along with Scandinavian and Nordic interior designs, has firmly taken root in Bangladesh, influencing the way homes are designed.

Anmul Paul Dhruva, associate designer at VRL Studio, highlights this shift, stating, "I would say, currently, minimalist and contemporary designs are the most preferred trends. I have seen many of my clients showing interest in Nordic or Scandinavian styles, which are mostly characterised by simplicity, functionality, and natural elements."

Known for its light colour palette, natural materials, and uncluttered spaces, Scandinavian design is gradually becoming popular among homeowners, as it generates an illusion of spaciousness, even in small apartments.

Homeowners are now moving away from bulky wooden furniture in favour of sleek and space-efficient minimalist pieces. People are becoming equally conscious of not overcrowding rooms with excessive décor — instead, they prefer statement pieces that are both functional and visually pleasing.

Another important reason minimalism, in particular, is thriving in Bangladesh is because of the practical need for space optimisation. Due to high real estate prices and a growing number of people living in apartments, homeowners favour multi-functional furniture and smart storage solutions.

In support of multi-functional and minimalist furniture, Arifa Malik Bristy, CEO of the architectural firm, Irenderer, says, "I always advise clients



to think before buying. You see, with urbanisation, land value is on the rise. So, my clients tend to go for a minimal design approach that would make the interior look spacious. Multifunctional furniture helps achieve this goal."

She adds, "Also, minimalist furniture is easy to clean. Everyone is pretty busy with work these days — therefore, easy-to-clean, and space-saving furniture is favourable for all."

A few examples of multifunctional furniture include storage ottomans, extendable dining tables, portable wardrobe closets, and foldable work desks. Most homeowners prefer sleek and minimalist designs with built-in storage solutions, which ensures spaces remain organised without looking cramped.

NEUTRAL AND EARTHY COLOUR PALETTES DOMINATE

Gone are the days when bold and striking colours dominated the

walls of most living spaces —now homeowners are gravitating towards neutral and earthy tones. What does this shift reflect? A growing preference for calm and elegant interiors that create a soothing environment amidst the chaos.

Dhruva observes that maximum residential spaces now favour neutral palettes: "I have noticed that most homeowners like to select neutral colours for their living spaces. I think this is good practice, as neutral colours are gentle on the eyes, and easily create a restful environment, giving off a homely vibe."

Versatility can be considered one of the primary reasons for this preference, as neutral colours like beige, white, taupe, grey, and off-white function as a perfect backdrop for any interior style. This allows homeowners to experiment with furniture, textures, and even accent pieces without worrying about clashing colours.

Beyond neutrals, earthy tones such as terracotta, muted greens, warm browns, and clay-inspired shades are equally becoming popular among homeowners. According to Dhruva, many homeowners like terracotta colours — perhaps because of the deep-rooted influence of our culture and association with clay.

Not only do earthy tones bring a touch of tradition into modern homes, but also help us establish a connection with nature. Moreover, these colours may help maintain a natural and organic ambience indoors, as urban spaces are increasingly becoming denser with diminishing greenery.

Textured paints and matte finishes in earthy tones are being widely used to create accent walls in living rooms and bedrooms. These walls add depth, character, and warmth to the space without overwhelming the overall décor.

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