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Crisp copper



trends AND transformations

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PHOTOS BY BRANDON BARRE

For an interior designer, life is all about looking for big inspirations. They can be found in any place, at any time of day, and can come from the grandest spaces or the smallest details. My recent travels to design destinations such as Paris, New York, London, Miami and Vancouver exposed me to many beautiful spaces. I'm always looking for ways to take what I discover and translate it for my clients.



I never worry too much about following trends – I love to study them, but then translate the ideas into timeless statements. However, very often in design, one perfect new piece is all you need to completely change and update the look of a space. So, to help get you feeling as inspired for 2014 as I am, here's my list of 10 room-transforming ideas you'll be sure to fall in love with this year.

1 CRISP COPPER

After years of cool silver hues ruling the metal market, warm tones are returning to reclaim the throne. The must-have metal of the moment, however, isn't classic gold, but copper in all forms: bronze, brass and the inviting reds of pure copper itself. A few copper accents (or one bold light fixture) adds immense depth to a colour palette despite functioning as a neutral. GET THE LOOK [Marvel at the handmade brass lights from Pavilion](#), or try the sparkling [Crystal Bulb](#) available through [Klaus Nienkamper](#) (available with an elegant copper pendant cord, or as a stand-alone cut crystal bulb you can use to add sparkle to an existing fixture).

2 PERFECT PERFORATIONS

Perforated metal, especially in warm tones, will be popular this year, popping up in fashion and jewellery and now interior design. Applied to classic furnishing forms, the combination creates a sense of airy glamour that can completely revitalize a dull office nook or foyer. GET THE LOOK [Order a custom parsons console from Kelly Wearstler's LA studio directly](#), or look to [Zara Home](#) for other perforated accents.

3 ANTIQUED MIRROR

Grand mirrors have long been used to open spaces visually, but aren't always a true feature themselves. The recent renewed love for aged finishes in design has led to the rise of antique (or antique-d) mirrors, with grey tints and imperfections adding character that steals even more attention than what's being reflected.

GET THE LOOK [Order the Arteriors Annabelle standing screen from boutiques such as L'Atelier](#), or visit [Zilli Home](#) to see their current stock of wall-hung pieces.

4 WARM WOOD

A total transformation doesn't have to be expensive. Sometimes, using a few copies of one deceptively simple object can create the biggest impact. Let this ageless material of wood become a focal point, adding an inviting cabin atmosphere to your space.

GET THE LOOK [Beaver Canoe's wooden stools at Target](#) (affordable even in multiples). Use several clustered together to form a coffee table, and break them apart when a few extra guests arrive.

3 Antiqued mirror



2 Perfect perforations



4 Warm wood



BUG LIFE

For the keen trend followers, insect prints of all kinds are a quirky 2014 motif. Go gentle with a colourful butterfly print, or let a bug or beetle keep you company.



Drinking glasses from Avenue Road.



"Monarch Fire" rug from Avenue Road.



Christian Lacroix butterfly print pillow from Bentley Flanders.

5 Woven wonders



5 WOVEN WONDERS

Weaving of string, cord and even straw, popular in worldly safari-inspired looks, is showing up in modern forms lately. Try this material for an oversized pendant lamp to add rich texture in a simple but eye-catching silhouette.

GET THE LOOK [Bailey Pendant \(above\)](#) from [Made Goods](#), available at [L'Atelier](#).

6 ELECTRIFYING LIGHTS

When looking for ways to add a new layer of lighting to a space, why not consider letting light itself be the artwork? Vintage style signage, hung in contrast to luxe furnishings (or leaning against a wall), gives a lounge or den a cosmopolitan air, a conversation-starting objet d'art, and a whole new glow.

GET THE LOOK [Ask boutiques such as Love the Design](#) about their latest finds, or simply have a sign maker create a piece to your exact whims.

7 MASCULINE CHARACTER

Although designers often use tricks and techniques to make rooms appear larger and lighter, sometimes spaces cry out for rich, comforting materials such as dark woods and warm leathers, in rugged forms. Mix a masculine classic such as a Mid-Century Modern lounge chair into your living room, den or even bedroom for instant *Mad Men* appeal – the look is trendy, but timeless.

GET THE LOOK [Browse vintage shops like Decorum \(in person or online at 1stdibs.com\)](#). The sumptuous, leather, vintage Mies chairs adds a perfect anchor of gentlemanly heritage to any space.

COLOUR CONFIDENCE

For 2014, more and more people are embracing colour in a big way. Expect to see eclectic mixes of bright hues, dark, moody walls and especially painted doors. For an instant makeover, leave your trim as is and paint just the door itself (or a few) to give any room a new architectural feature. Here's my 2014 key colour forecast with paints from Benjamin Moore:



8 DRAMATIC PLASTIC

Although moulded plastic in interior design has been a staple since the 1960s, lately it's seen a huge resurgence, especially when colourful or transparent, and mixed with more traditional materials (such as wood or stone) for playful contrast. Try switching to airy plastic chairs in your dining room, for a whole new eclectic vibe.

GET THE LOOK Kartell's Masters chair (a combination of three classic chair silhouettes) in this years must-have shade of sage green, available through online stores like allmodern.com. Add clear plastic shelves or accessories for an even trendier punch of colour.

9 BOLD SEAMS

For decades, a battle has raged between two schools of seating thought: comfortable vs. stylish. Many cool new seats are achieving the best of both worlds, featuring tight, angular seams to create a modern silhouette while still giving you somewhere to truly relax.

GET THE LOOK The La Mise sofa from [Italinteriors](http://Italinteriors.com), in a trendy but classic royal blue, can add a pop of colour to subdued spaces or act as a near-neutral in an already eclectic mix.

10 ARCHITECTURAL TOUCHES

Any trip to Paris will leave you awed by the grand mouldings, lavish libraries and rich heritage details that dress the famous city, but I found hotel La Maison Champs Elysees especially inspiring: their use of trompe l'oeil papers to enrich more architecturally minimal rooms is chic, clever and memorable.

GET THE LOOK Give a room instant classical detail with [Regal Wallcoverings Chateau Panel wallpaper](http://RegalWallcoverings.com), or create a library from thin air with papers from [Tracy Kendall \(tracykendall.com\)](http://TracyKendall.com).

For more ideas to keep you inspired throughout 2014, you can always read my [Keep Up With Yanic](http://KeepUpWithYanic.com) blog on tidg.ca, like me on Facebook or follow me @yanicsimard on Twitter.



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Yanic is the principal designer of Toronto Interior Design Group. Specializing in residential and commercial projects, Yanic often applies his signature high/low and old/new combination techniques in developing his unique designs. He has created designs for clients in Toronto, Montreal and Miami, and appears as a regular guest expert on Citytv's CityLine. Visit tidg.ca for more information. Follow: facebook.com/yanic.simard and twitter.com/yanicsimard