


NEW HOMES & CONDOS


Transitional style is a popular blend of both modern and traditional tastes.



The Bergere is a classic French style of chair featuring an upholstered back and wooden armrests.

A design feed dictionary



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THE DESIGN FEED

With back-to-school time upon us, I thought a fun lesson in design terminology was in order — and since it's funny getting an English lesson from a French designer, I thought this first edition of my Design Feed Dictionary should include some truly French terms.

But don't worry, I also included helpful tips, so you can use these words not only in a sentence, but in your home too.

1. Transitional

Transitional style is a popular blend of both modern and traditional tastes—it often involves using contemporary finishes on traditional shapes, for classic looks that avoid going too minimal or too ornate. It can also use contrasting modern and traditional furnishings side by side, but a lot of this becomes eclectic instead.

Try this: Transitional style is especially popular for kitchens. Add your own culinary personality by introducing timeless glassware and cutlery patterns and displaying them on modernist open shelves. Mix

in antiqued bronze (faucets or cabinet handles) to contrast sleek stone and stainless steel, and your kitchen will feel crisp but approachable.

2. Patina

Patina technically refers to a change in finish (typically metal) that develops with age, such as the green film that forms on some bronze. However, it can also mean any sort of wear and tear that adds beautifully imperfect character to a piece, such as nicks and dents in antique wooden furniture.

Try This: Browse shops like Addison's Inc. for vintage furnishings with a story, and add clean contemporary hardware to give them a fresh look (such as adding new handles and a sleek sinktop to an old cabinet to create a charming new vanity).

3. Bergere

This classic French style of chair can be defined as having an upholstered back and armrests with exposed wood framing. It may or may not have wings (side panels on the backrest), and usually has elegant

curves, but not always — so it actually includes a wide range of seat styles!

Try This: A Louis XIV style chair, upholstered in a colourful, contemporary fabric, perfectly mixes old-world with new-world. Select a deep brown stain or silvery paint finish for the wood to accentuate the graceful lines.

4. Etagere

An etagere, like a bergere, is French in origin, but couldn't be more different: it's essentially a glam bookcase, but typically with no back or sides (just decorative poles forming the supports/legs) to display art and objects from all angles.

Try This: Add one as shelving in front of a beautiful wall-paper or brick to add light storage without boxing the room in. Alternately, use one or two together as a room divider in an open concept to define a reading nook or wall off the bed.

5. Settee

A settee can be considered any variation on a wide upholstered seat with a back. However, designers usually consider them to be different from a sofa by being very upright — often with a tall back — and not too deep, making them a perfect fit for narrow spaces or anywhere focused on conversation (instead of lounging).

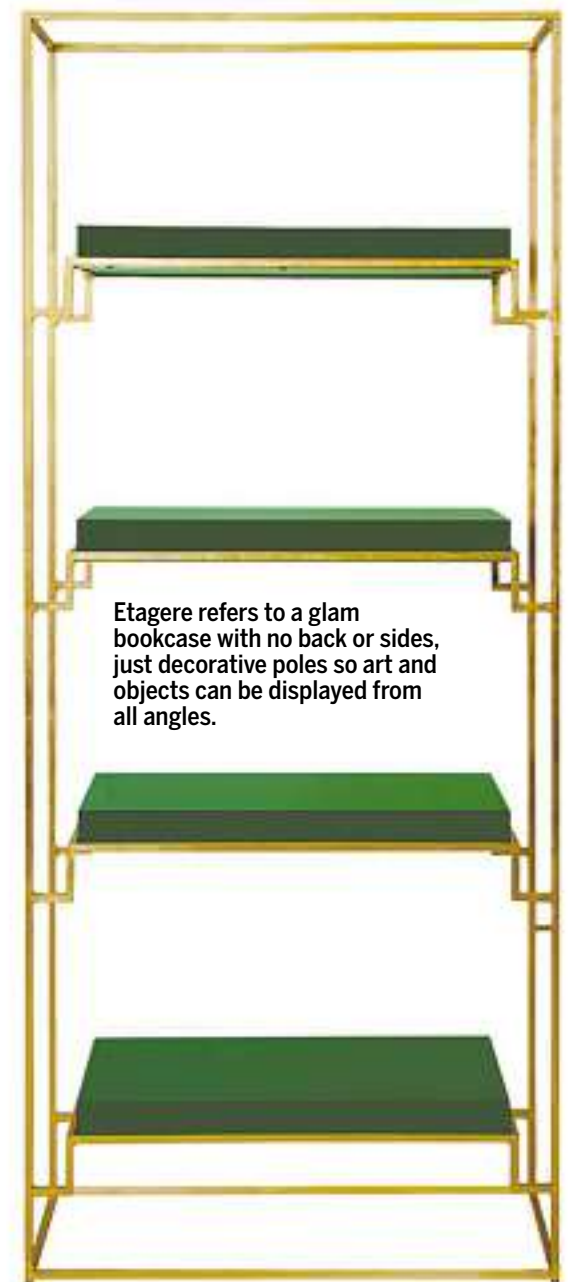
Try This: A settee makes an excellent replacement for a

banquette or bench at a dining table, creating the feeling of a private booth in your own home. Choose one without arms for ease of getting in and out, and mix it with austere shaker chairs for perfect transitional appeal.

— *Got your own design dilemma? Find me on Twitter and Instagram at @yanicsimard, and visit tidg.ca/interiors for more inspiration!*

QUICK BITES

1. Mix traditional silhouettes with modern materials for transitional kitchen style.
2. Contrast the patina'd finish of vintage furniture with modern new hardware.
3. A bergere chair in colourful fabric adds timeless style anywhere.
4. Create a gallery glam display with an airy etagere (or use one as a room divider).
5. Replace two dining chairs with a settee for upscale informal meals in your own VIP booth.



Etagere refers to a glam bookcase with no back or sides, just decorative poles so art and objects can be displayed from all angles.