

# THE

HOMES & ESTATES



NORTHEAST COLLECTION | SPRING 2015



## WHAT'S IN & OUT

Interior design trends for 2015

## MAKING WAVES

Luxury materials for your pool space

## A NEW GENERATION OF HOTEL

Marvel of modern amenities

## FORCE OF NATURE

Principal designer shares techniques









INTERIOR DESIGN

# What's In&Out

Boston-based interior designer Paula Daher selects four trends that are defining 2015.

If you're searching for a fresh look at home, trends can be an excellent source of inspiration. Are tropic motifs in? Is heavy drapery out? Should you say goodbye to your dark wood cabinetry? We put questions like these to Paula Daher, principal of Daher Designs in Boston, who has spent the last two decades infusing her clients' homes with serenity and elegance, from classically styled townhouses in uptown Boston to breezy waterfront retreats in Maine and tropical oases in Florida. She delivers four standout trends that are making a splash in her marketplace.



PHOTO CREDIT: DAHER INTERIOR DESIGN

"THE CITY OFFERS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A VERY DYNAMIC URBAN LIFESTYLE."

#### 1. LESS IS MORE

"One of the strongest trends I've seen is a movement of young families and empty nesters from suburbia to the city," she says. "The city offers an opportunity for a very dynamic urban lifestyle, and as people move into these homes, they desire the whole experience."

Daher notes that in northeastern cities in the U.S., high rises and urban townhomes are very popular. The architecture in these homes lends itself to tall, vaulted ceilings with narrower spaces. Every inch matters in situations like these, where each square foot can cost upwards of \$1,300.

"Part of this trend of moving into these smaller spaces is that our clients feel good about lowering their carbon footprint," Daher says. "They are kicking away the stuffiness of the suburban lifestyle and entertaining a more contemporary aspect in their furnishings."

After moving from suburbia to a city home, clients will often realize that their existing home furnishings don't translate to an urban lifestyle. The scale of the old home versus the new home is completely different, notes Daher, so old furnishings tend to feel large and disproportionate in the new space.

#### 2. LIGHTER HUES

While blacks and deep sea blues are the colors of the moment, Daher says that "things are getting lighter" in hues in her world. Matte pastels are being mixed with cool shades of gray, giving rooms a touch of romance. Darker woods are being replaced by lighter, fresher honey-toned woods and oiled oaks.

"Cabinetry is so interesting in that the industry has started mixing lots of materials together: cabinets made of carved oak, with a paper-backed wall covering, or leather embedded into the wood grain," she says.

#### 3. MINIMALIST WINDOW TREATMENTS

Daher works on many seacoast projects, where clients do not want heavy drapery blocking their view and natural light source. Instead, they're opting for pared-down curtains with unembellished fabrics like linens and alpaca wool, which has a cashmere feel. These window treatments still manage to bring in light in without looking dated.

"They are just very simple panels that frame a view," says Daher. "We are also doing a lot with motorization in the interior design industry—everyone wants motorized shades, especially if you are on the ocean where the sun can be very harsh. Motorization can help preserve furniture, and it also offers privacy for clients in the city."

#### 4. MARSALA

Marsala, a robust and earthy wine red once popular in the '70s and '80s, is seeing a resurgence in the industry since its nomination as Pantone's 2015 Color of the Year.

"You saw Marsala paired with teals back in the early days of its popularity," recalls Daher. "Today we are seeing the reinvention of the hue everywhere, from rust all the way to aubergine. It's such a neutral, natural color, and the trend sees it mixed with gray fabrics—gray is a color that's been very important in the design industry as well as the home furnishings industry. It's amazing how you can apply these colors to create diverse spaces."

No matter what trend you decide to incorporate into your home this year, Daher emphasizes that it's the tiny details that give your home personality. Decorate with great attention to detail, love and the guidance of a thoughtful designer, and you can make any house your home.