

New England HOME

Celebrating Fine Design, Architecture, and Building

Designs That Delight

The best of
New England living,
from the city to
the shore



TRENDS AND TASTEMAKERS

| EDITED BY KYLE HOEPNER |



1. Architect Andrew Sidford combines traditional timber frame construction with distinctly contemporary notes.
2. Steel and frosted glass add character to a bath by designer Paula Daher.
3. Built-in pet feeding stations, such as this one by designer Mark Haddad, are increasingly popular.



When asked, creative professionals will almost always insist that their work is intended to be timeless. Yet students of art and architectural history invariably speak of style periods such as Baroque, or Impressionist, or Georgian, or Arts and Crafts. Clearly, some ebb and flow of common fashions does take place over time, even if each individual artist or architect is creating with an eye toward the long term.

Each year we poll the men and women of New England's residential design and building community to find out just which of those visual ebbs and flows are happening here and now. The results for 2018—a combination of tendencies noted by our own staff as well as insights gleaned from the hardworking folk out in the trenches—are laid out for you here.



Architectural Style and Structure

Timber frame or visible post and beam construction

TRENDING: 36% ↗ | 46% → | 18% ↘

"This look is not going anywhere. It lends itself to all styles: modern, rustic, and everything in between."

—Taniya Nayak, *Taniya Nayak Design*

Visible beams added in rooms where they aren't structural

TRENDING: 42% ↗ | 25% → | 33% ↘

"Real timber framing will never go out of style. The applied use of timbers, however, is getting to be a bit overused and tired." —Catherine Truman, *Catherine Truman Architects*

"Sometimes a room just needs that little extra touch (authentic or not) to bring a level of 'authenticity' to it." —Taniya Nayak

Rough or reclaimed plank ceilings, walls, and/or floors

TRENDING: 47% ↗ | 29% → | 24% ↘

"I love reclaimed wood, but I like to combine it with more refined surfaces. When you mix different textures, you create a more interesting space."

—Honey Collins, *Honey Collins Interiors*

Strapwork or other architectural ornament on ceilings

TRENDING: 45% ↗ | 33% → | 22% ↘

"As the late Stephen Hawking said, 'Don't forget to look up.' Ceilings are design opportunities ready for detailed strapwork, glossy lacquer, or paper."

—Heather Vaughan, *Heather Vaughan Design*

Steel-and-glass (or bronze-and-glass) windows and doors

TRENDING: 73% ↗ | 27% → | 0% ↘

"Steel and glass are still trending for use in windows and doors and also, of late, in shower surrounds."

—Heather Vaughan

"These don't necessarily replace all windows and doors, but are used as accents." —Kalah Talancy and Kevin ten Brinke, *KT2 Design Group*

NanaWalls and other "disappearing" window walls

TRENDING: 79% ↗ | 21% → | 0% ↘

"People are consistently drawn toward window products that blur the lines between inside and out."

—Katie Flynn

"These aren't terribly practical in New England, where we have winter and then mosquitoes."

—Catherine Truman

Geometric "fire ribbon" fireplaces, such as those made by Spark Modern Fires and similar companies

TRENDING: 50% ↗ | 36% → | 14% ↘

"These have—thankfully!—taken the place of many gas 'fake' fireplaces." —Christopher Hall, *Christopher Hall Architect*

Banquettes and other built-in seating

TRENDING: 29% ↗ | 53% → | 18% ↘

"Banquettes are so family-friendly and convivial, what's not to love?" —Heather Vaughan

"Smaller living spaces mean more custom-fitted seating and storage." —Michael Ferzoco, *Eleven Interiors*

3-D tile

TRENDING: 60% ↗ | 13% → | 27% ↘

"Dimensional surfaces are creating interest in a broad spectrum of materials." —Andrew Sidford, *Andrew Sidford Architects*

"With changing technology, tile is available in so many different colors and styles, both in 3-D and flat. And tile is also customizable, which is a nice option."

—Taniya Nayak

Horizontal shiplap wall paneling

TRENDING: 40% ↗ | 47% → | 13% ↘

"It has been so overused on some TV shows that I don't even call it shiplap when talking with my clients. But it's still a great New England look."

—Janine Dowling, *Janine Dowling Design*

Herringbone wood or tile floors

TRENDING: 56% ↗ | 31% → | 13% ↘

"It's a standard option in tile motifs now."

—Janine Dowling

"We are seeing herringbone furniture as well."

—Diana James, *Living Swell*

Dog-washing stations

TRENDING: 59% ↗ | 35% → | 6% ↘

"A beautiful and practical way to keep the furry family member looking and smelling great. And at a beach, lake, or mountain house, it's also good for human feet." —Janine Dowling



Built-in pet feeding stations

TRENDING: 63% ↗ | 37% → | 0% ↘

Colors, Finishes, and Details

Painted wood paneling or cabinetry (as opposed to stained and/or varnished wood)

TRENDING: 67% ↗ | 27% → | 6% ↘

"Translucent color-washed stains add a wonderful dimension to cabinets as well." —Tiffany LeBlanc

"The standard-issue mahogany study is on the decline." —Christopher Hall

Raw, cerused, or satin/matte wood finishes on paneling or cabinetry

TRENDING: 46% ↗ | 40% → | 14% ↘

"Rift-sawn white oak is everywhere, sometimes bleached, sometimes cerused, sometimes textured. Also very light, almost bare walnut." —Eric Adams, *Adams + Beasley Associates*

"Cerused cabinetry is not new, but we have been exploring more colors and levels of distressing to get the cerused look—heavy and light washes as well as more vibrant colors and varying fills." —Meaghan Moynahan, *Venegas and Company*

Trellis-patterned wallpapers

TRENDING: 25% ↗ | 17% → | 58% ↘

"Trellis-patterned wallcovering reminds me of every DIY design show from ten years ago. And I should know, because that was me!" —Taniya Nayak

Asian-inspired mural wallpapers

TRENDING: 42% ↗ | 42% → | 16% ↘

"A staple for a higher-end decorative look. We used to rely on Stark, Gracie, Fromental, and de Gournay, but

Interior designer Tiffany LeBlanc deployed a number of trending elements in this Wellesley, Massachusetts, living room, including a contemporary, glass-enclosed fireplace and a facing of stone slabs with assertive character.

↗ = Growing
→ = Holding steady
↘ = Declining

TRENDS AND TASTEMAKERS

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1. Fashionable purple tones abound in this living room by designer Heather Vaughan.
2. Mural-like Beyond wallcovering, a recent introduction from Phillip Jeffries.
3. Hand-blocked fabrics, such as Pasha from Peter Fasano, Ltd., can be ordered in an almost infinite range of colors.

this year Phillip Jeffries introduced new versions.” —Janine Dowling

“We have also worked with clients to take individual panels and frame them as artwork, for a more subtle overall effect.” —Kalah Talancy and Kevin ten Brinke

Wallpapers with overscale floral or botanical motifs

TRENDING: 31% ↗ | 38% → | 31% ↘

“Large-scale patterns and bold colors are being sought after, and are typically the catalyst for the entire room design.” —Mark Haddad, *Interiory Design Co.*

Grasscloth

TRENDING: 46% ↗ | 39% → | 15% ↘

“I’m seeing a trend toward various textured grasses, bamboo, and vinyl papers that mimic organic materials, as well as all kinds of color.” —Diana James

Gloss finishes on walls and ceilings

TRENDING: 79% ↗ | 7% → | 14% ↘

“Decorators love this, plasterers hate it.” —Christopher Hall

“I’m noticing lots of rooms that have high-gloss cabinetry built into high-gloss walls, in a dominant color.” —Eric Adams

Matte finishes on walls and ceilings

TRENDING: 47% ↗ | 40% → | 13% ↘

“In New England, matte finishes—especially Farrow & Ball and milk paint—are classic. That chalky, dusty finish gives a new-old feel on interior walls.” —Janine Dowling

Brass and other gold-colored accents and fittings (ditto for bronze)

TRENDING: 56% ↗ | 41% → | 3% ↘

“We are adding brass detailing everywhere: on drawer and door rails, wrapped face frames, base details, as decorative hardware, and so on.” —Meaghan Moynahan

“Satin brass only, which has depth and luster without looking cheap.” —Janine Dowling

Colors: gray

TRENDING: 19% ↗ | 56% → | 25% ↘

“Gray is still a go-to safe choice for many of our clients, but many now steer toward either more adventurous (brighter colors) or more understated (whites and natural woods).” —Katie Flynn

“We’re definitely shifting toward taupe and warm gray rather than cold and dark gray in walls and casework.” —Eric Adams

Colors: pink

TRENDING: 62% ↗ | 38% → | 0% ↘

“It is all about the tone. No one wants to live in a bubble-gum-colored room, but there is nothing prettier than a subtle pink.” —Honey Collins

Colors: purple

TRENDING: 50% ↗ | 30% → | 20% ↘

“I think purple has a public relations issue. Designers use it, but they prefer to call it plum, violet, amethyst... anything but purple.” —Heather Vaughan

Colors: citrus green

TRENDING: 38% ↗ | 24% → | 38% ↘

“Clients seem to be less enthused by the acidic greens. Instead, we are seeing a shift to blue-greens and gray-greens in furniture, textiles, and paints.” —Nikki Dalrymple, *Acquire*

Colors: cobalt blue

TRENDING: 55% ↗ | 45% → | 0% ↘

“It’s a saturated color that most people feel comfortable with, and it pairs well with almost everything.” —Heather Vaughan

Colors: black

TRENDING: 72% ↗ | 14% → | 14% ↘

“Black is classic. Black is timeless. It will never go out of style. Wallcover your whole room in black. I dare you.” —Taniya Nayak

“Black exterior trim has become popular.” —Christopher Hall

Furniture, Fabrics, and Rugs

Channel-tufted upholstery

TRENDING: 55% ↗ | 45% → | 0% ↘

“I see this as a desire for more detailing and a less Scandinavian look.” —Monica Mancuso, *Casa Design Group*

Velvet upholstery

TRENDING: 55% ↗ | 27% → | 18% ↘

“There will always be a place for velvet in New England. Velvet pieces really invite you in and are warm and welcoming.” —Kalah Talancy and Kevin ten Brinke

Midcentury furniture (vintage, or new designs inspired by the earlier style)

TRENDING: 58% ↗ | 34% → | 8% ↘

“I see fewer all-midcentury rooms and more a mix of different vintage and new furnishings. Plus, more luxe details (tufting, nailheads, etc.) on furniture.” —Eric Adams

Art Deco furniture (vintage, or new designs inspired by the earlier style)

TRENDING: 64% ↗ | 9% → | 27% ↘

“I believe that the torch is passing from midcentury to Art Deco as the next big influence on home decor in general.” —Diana James

Sectionals and modular sofas

TRENDING: 42% ↗ | 50% → | 8% ↘

“This trend has been with us since we opened up the family room to the kitchen. Sectionals work well for clients who love to share space together.” —Janine Dowling

Rattan and outdoor furniture used inside

TRENDING: 50% ↗ | 30% → | 20% ↘

“We aren’t talking about Grandma’s wicker chair anymore. These are a great way to add texture and a mix of materials to the interior palette.” —Janine Dowling



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“We get lots of requests for outdoor furniture used indoors, specifically hanging chairs or swings: seating with movement.” —Monica Mancuso

Antiques

TRENDING: 50% ↗ | 25% → | 25% ↘

“A home isn’t complete without a few pieces that have a history to them.” —Kalah Talancy and Kevin ten Brinke

Industrial-style furniture

TRENDING: 27% ↗ | 18% → | 55% ↘

“Industrial came in with a vengeance, due to its obtainable price point. Unfortunately, with a quick rise we typically experience a pretty quick decline.” —Taniya Nayak

“I have seen a number of Brooklyn furniture makers creating a refined industrial look, like Palo Samko or Wüd Furniture.” —Janine Dowling

Animal-print fabrics

TRENDING: 38% ↗ | 62% → | 0% ↘

“I tend to always have one animal fabric in each of my projects. There is a fluidity to them that you can’t achieve with any other fabric.” —Honey Collins

4. and 5. These two rooms by designer Michael Ferzoco are distinctly of the moment, with touches such as velvet upholstery, botanical wallcovering, and brass accents.
6. Channel upholstery is also much in favor these days. This Saint Cloud sofa from Burton James combines it with an Art Deco-influenced silhouette.

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3

1. A coastal pool installation by ZEN Associates deploys wooden decking in a diagonal pattern.
2. Designer Nikki Dalrymple suggests disguising TVs behind movable art.
3. The Kohler Connect system allows you to interface with all of your bathroom amenities remotely.
4. Custom cabinetry from Venegas and Company, including fashion-forward options like recessed pulls, metal edging, cerused wood, and stone panels.
5. Brizo's Litze faucet comes in ultra-stylish black with gold knurled accents.

- ↗ = Growing
- = Holding steady
- ↘ = Declining

Sunbrella and other easy-care fabrics

TRENDING: 86% ↗ | 7% → | 7% ↘

"This is more than a trend, it's a revolution! Performance fabrics are changing the way we design. The pattern options—and, most important, the hand of the fabric—are improving every season." —Heather Vaughan

Hand-blocked fabrics

TRENDING: 56% ↗ | 44% → | 0% ↘

"Peter Fasano and Galbraith & Paul are just two of the amazing companies being so creative with their fabric expression. I love that I can customize a color palette and know that the fabric is being made just for my client." —Janine Dowling

Sisal or seagrass floorcoverings

TRENDING: 31% ↗ | 61% → | 8% ↘

"Sisal is like a great pair of khaki pants: it goes with everything." —Honey Collins

Landscapes and Outdoor Living

Pools with simple, narrow edges, embedded in grass

TRENDING: 67% ↗ | 11% → | 22% ↘

Pools with wood decking instead of paved surrounds

TRENDING: 76% ↗ | 12% → | 12% ↘

Fire pits

TRENDING: 73% ↗ | 18% → | 9% ↘

"Built-in exterior fireplaces with chimneys are more popular lately." —Eric Adams

Outdoor kitchens

TRENDING: 75% ↗ | 17% → | 8% ↘

Outdoor electronics: TVs, speakers, automated lighting, or other features

TRENDING: 79% ↗ | 17% → | 4% ↘

"Outdoor entertaining weather in New England is so short that when people are outside they want it to be fantastic in every way, especially with kitchens, music, and video screens." —Brad Smith, *Audio Video Design*

Low-maintenance landscapes

TRENDING: 66% ↗ | 17% → | 17% ↘

"'Low-maintenance' is a relative term. Elements such as flower beds, lighting, fountains, garden furniture, walls, and fences all need upkeep. Irrigation and underdrainage systems also require routine work, but are needed to keep plantings looking their best." —Tom Ryan, *Ryan Associates Landscape Architecture & Planning*

Landscapes that use primarily native plant species

TRENDING: 91% ↗ | 9% → | 0% ↘

Lighting and Home Technology

"Branch and globe" chandeliers

TRENDING: 75% ↗ | 17% → | 8% ↘

"Suspended ball" pendants

TRENDING: 43% ↗ | 36% → | 21% ↘

"Stick" chandeliers

TRENDING: 84% ↗ | 8% → | 8% ↘

Industrial light fixtures

TRENDING: 33% ↗ | 20% → | 47% ↘

"Fixture designers like Katy Skelton and Menu are not just looking to older factory-style lighting for inspiration, they are using new colors and materials in creative ways." —Janine Dowling

"What I've seen is a trend toward rooms with multiple fixtures that create a dynamic response to ever-changing lighting needs over the course of a day." —Hansy Better Barraza, *Studio Luz Architects*

Hidden televisions

TRENDING: 62% ↗ | 15% → | 23% ↘

"Who wants to see a TV when it's off? There are so many products now that turn TVs into art and mirrors." —Brad Smith

"I think people are no longer trying to hide TVs all the time. They're so thin now that they're cooler looking than they used to be." —Catherine Truman

Wi-Fi-enabled appliances and voice-enabled technology

TRENDING: 95% ↗ | 5% → | 0% ↘

Kitchens and Baths

Farmhouse kitchens

TRENDING: 16% ↗ | 52% → | 32% ↘

"Farmhouse sinks and face-frame Shaker cabinets are still very popular." —Eric Adams

Quartzite countertops

TRENDING: 60% ↗ | 25% → | 6% ↘

"Quartzite is a staple material for us, not only as a countertop, but for backsplashes as well." —Meaghan Moynahan

Strongly veined stone (such as Illusion Blue quartzite, Verde Bamboo granite, or Calacatta Viola marble)

TRENDING: 54% ↗ | 15% → | 31% ↘

"I think the trend for strongly veined stone is declining for kitchen applications, but growing exponentially in bathroom designs. It's a great way to add a lot of interest and drama, especially to a small space." —Nikki Dalrymple

Waterfall ends or edges for counters and islands

TRENDING: 81% ↗ | 19% → | 0% ↘

"Especially in open spaces where kitchens are focal points of the overall design, it is nice to 'clean up' the

edges of counters and give islands, in particular, a more monumental appearance with waterfall edges." —Katie Flynn

Drawers, cabinet doors, and appliances covered in countertop material

TRENDING: 67% ↗ | 11% → | 22% ↘

"We have not only used stone as a drawer front, but as a faux farmhouse sink front and for doors wrapped in metal trim." —Meaghan Moynahan

Drawers and cabinets with built-in finger pulls (no visible hardware)

TRENDING: 85% ↗ | 15% → | 0% ↘

"Less is more!" —Catherine Truman

Stone-wall paneling in bathrooms

TRENDING: 50% ↗ | 33% → | 17% ↘

"Stone slabs have become a form of artwork in bathrooms. You can never go wrong with natural elements." —Tiffany LeBlanc

Matte black plumbing finishes

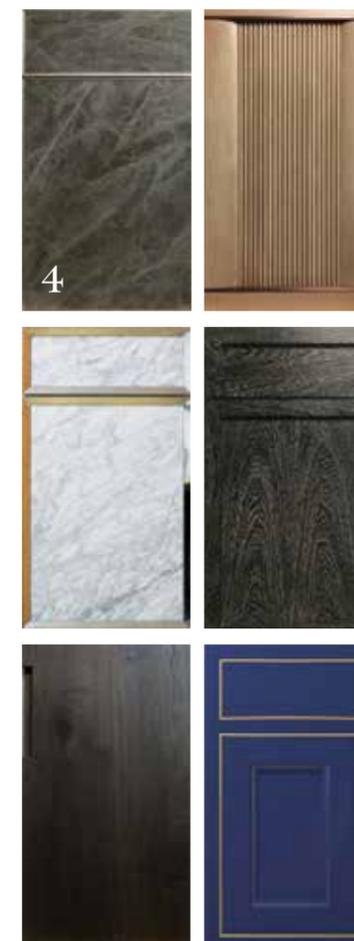
TRENDING: 75% ↗ | 17% → | 8% ↘

"Matte black plumbing is a huge trend currently, with the Grid by Kallista having won the best of KBIS 2018." —Heather Vaughan

Plastered or painted kitchen range hoods, with metal straps or wood edging

TRENDING: 25% ↗ | 63% → | 12% ↘

"Metal strapping is a nice way to individualize a stove hood and still coordinate with the rest of the kitchen." —Kalah Talancy and Kevin ten Brinke



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Special thanks to all the professionals who participated in this year's Trends & Tastemakers survey:

Eric Adams, Adams + Beasley Associates, Carlisle, Mass., adamsbeasley.com

Hansy Better Barraza, Studio Luz Architects, Boston, studioluz.net

Honey Collins, Honey Collins Interior Design, Essex, Mass., lwcinteriors.com

Nikki Dalrymple, Acquire, Boston, acquireboutique.com

Janine Dowling, Janine Dowling Design, Boston, janinedowling.com

Michael Ferzoco, Eleven Interiors, Boston, eleveninteriors.com

Katie Flynn, Hesel Flynn Architects, Arlington, Mass., heselflynn.com

Mark Haddad, Interiology Design Co., Watertown, Mass., interiology.com

Christopher Hall, Christopher Hall Architect, Boston, challarchitect.com

Diana James, Living Swell, Marblehead, Mass., livingswellmarblehead.com

Tiffany LeBlanc, LeBlanc Design Interiors, Boston, leblancdesign.com

Monica Mancuso, Casa Design Group, Boston, casadesigngroup.com

Meaghan Moynahan, Venegas and Company, Boston, venegasandcompany.com

Kalah Talancy and Kevin ten Brinke, KT2 Design Group, Sudbury, Mass., kt2designgroup.com

Taniya Nayak, Taniya Nayak Design, Milton, Mass., taniyanayak.com

Tom Ryan, Ryan Associates Landscape Architecture & Planning, Waltham, Mass., ryan-assoc.com

Andrew Sidford, Andrew Sidford Architects, Newburyport, Mass., asidfordarchitects.com

Brad Smith, Audio Video Design, Westwood, Mass., avdesigns.com

Catherine Truman, Catherine Truman Architects, Cambridge, Mass., truman-architects.com

Heather Vaughan, Heather Vaughan Design, Newton, Mass., heathervaughandesign.com/