



New Year, New You: Leading Chicago Interior Designer Michael Abrams Predicts Subtle Design Changes In 2020 Home Trends

The award-winning designer says space and client wants will dictate some of the changes in the New Year; but sees more dry finishings this year.

Luca Piacentini
12/18/2019

As Michael Abrams, a leading interior designer in Chicago, Illinois who has been featured in a number of renowned publications, including Luxe, Modern Luxury and Traditional Home, looks back on 2019 and into 2020, he sees moderate changes.

One of the most common trends he saw in 2019 was the use of blush-toned colors. “It seems that this shade of red is everywhere, as is satin brass plumbing fixtures and cabinet hardware,” he said. In 2020, Abrams said there won’t be as much red and that there are a few interior design trends that he is particularly excited about, many of which he is including in the design

of a large modern home in Atlanta, Georgia.

“We plan to utilize and maintain a very neutral color palette,” said Abrams, noting this is the move in 2020. “The clients have a large modern glass collection which we will display in numerous areas throughout the home, so the neutral tones will allow the focus to be on the unique artwork as opposed to the interior. These expansive walls of glass also allow the beautiful, tree-lined view to come in from the outside. As we design the space, we want to make sure that both the natural exterior and the sculptural glass collection take precedence.”

As for other trends that Abrams foresees for the new year, he expects to see more natural wood versus painted finishes in kitchen cabinetry. Also, he predicts that we will be seeing more dry finishes all around, whether it be with furnishings or furniture.

“There has been a move away from unnatural finishes to a demand for wood that has absolutely no-sheen,” he said.

Abrams, who was born in New York and raised in South Carolina, tempers urban style with a distinctive sense of tradition, growing his personal aesthetic through years of training and a background in architectural design. Abrams has taken his architecture training and incorporated it into his interior design practice, finding innovative ways to embrace a home’s structure and accent the best parts with timeless neutrals and clean-lined furnishings.

“I took an unusual path to interior design,” said Abrams. “My degree is in architecture and I worked in that industry for a while as an owner’s representative managing the process for several financial institutions. Twenty years ago, I decided to leave corporate America and follow my dream of starting my own residential design firm. It had always been my passion and I knew I needed to follow it.”

His background has helped him create a definitive look as well as maintain flexibility on design changes dictated by the client and the current design environment. Only time will tell what the big trends of 2020 will be, but designers like Abrams are making sure to ring in the New Year with exciting and innovative projects that test the norms of the industry and refresh their client’s space with the client’s input.