

PANOPLY PLANNER

Panoply Interior Design & Consulting
Goodbye Winter, Hello Spring!

ASK THE DESIGNER

We answer the questions
that everyone is asking.

Tips For
Your Home
Child and pet proofing
your fabrics.

TREND UPDATE

We've Got The
Hottest Forecasts
For 2010!

KITCHENS TODAY

Find out how to
surpass the Jones'
in 2010!



PANOPLY

It is the beginning of a new year and a new beginning for your living spaces. The design world is running rampant with clever and stylish ideas that, while innovative, could mean taking some risks. While not all trends are meant to last or to be followed, some have real staying power. In this segment of Trend Update we would like to share with you the trends Panoply and the rest of the design world foresee while giving a little insight as to which are a must-do or a please-don't.

Let's dive right in with the basis of all good design, color. The pool reference is intentional due to the hottest color for 2010 being Turquoise. Not to be confused with the 08/09 frenzy for Peacock, Turquoise is definitely a classic. Whether it is on a Tiffany's gift box or on almost everything with a Martha Stewart logo attached, Turquoise is inherently variable. Turquoise is a naturally occurring stone which means the source itself is varied. If you choose to add Turquoise to your home's decor, and we think you should, be sure to look for a shade somewhere between a light robin's egg blue and a medium azure blue. If you can't tell if a color is bluer or greener, then you have probably found a shade of Turquoise. We like Sherwin Williams Aloe and Composed. Try it inside your pantry or on the back of a built-in book case for a little pizzazz. Read on for which other colors will best complement your new found accent.

Running a little farther along my color tangent, I am happy to impart upon you that the latest and greatest neutral is gray. Not so fast, don't disagree just yet. Gray has gotten a bad rap over the years for feeling institutional and

TREND UPDATE

dreary. But let's be honest, who isn't a little tired of builder's beige and twenty-shades-of-tan color schemes? Just about the only colors that don't work with Gray are shades of brown (which includes tan by the way). A deep smoky Gray will make colors pop while a soft misty version will calm colors that would otherwise be too bright. Gray matched with pink, purple, yellow, orange, turquoise...any of the above, will provide amazing results. Add in a few touches of black, brighten things back up with white and what you have left is a feast for the eyes. Two shades of Gray that we find fabulous are Sherwin Williams Useful Gray (warm) and Dovetail (cool). Use darker Grays sparingly on an accent wall or around your fireplace and lighter Grays in brightly lit rooms like a south facing guest room. If you need help selecting your new palette, call Panoply today to set up an appointment for a color consultation. We can make your design dreams a reality.

For a quick sweep of what else is in store for 2010, look no further than your living room furniture. We hear tell that this year you will find sofas and other large upholstery pieces available in some of the hot color hues previously mentioned. It seems the forecast calls for vibrant body fabrics paired with neutral pillows (rather than last decade's norm of neutral pieces with poppy pillows). The furniture pieces

themselves will be more classic and traditional which, if you recall past trend updates, is considered transitional when paired with contemporary fabrics and colors. While we think this is a fantastic concept, in reality, it isn't quite practical. Large upholstery pieces including sofas, loveseats and arm chairs are, for most people, investment pieces. Few can afford to buy a new sofa every two years when once-hot-trends become decor lepers'. But say you fall in love with a \$4000 apple green velvet sofa like I myself did at this past falls furniture market. We suggest taking this trend slowly and not by the seat of your pants. If you would like to shake things up a bit start first with a cocktail ottoman or a small arm chair. A little color goes a long way, especially when it is a brighter hue. Be sure to add coordinating pillow and drapery fabrics to your space so that your new trendy piece doesn't look out of place.

Last year wallpaper came back in a big way and this year seems to be following suit in that department but with a little twist. Anyone can have wallpaper on their walls, but have you ever considered putting it on your ceiling? Pay close attention to home magazines over the coming months. You will be sure to find at least a powder room and possibly even a master bedroom with wallpapered ceilings. This trend isn't for the faint of heart so be sure to choose a pattern that you don't mind falling asleep and waking up to everyday. If you would like to see an example of this treatment before you commit to it, just stop by the Panoply showroom. Our employee bathroom boasts an artfully papered ceiling. Remember that Panoply offers many products and services to meet your needs.

TIPS FOR YOUR HOME

Did you know that there is a way to have fine home furnishings with elegant fabrics and have children at the same time? Well maybe not in every case but in your kitchen there is a way. The fabrics on your barstools and breakfast chairs always take a beating due to hungry, growing children; or pets for that matter. No one likes to see their hard earned money going out the window or in the trash. There is a solution. Panoply, on top of selecting and coordinating fabrics for your home, can have fabrics laminated. Some of you just had a flash back of a 1960's sofa wrapped like a cold cut in plastic slip covers. It is a new day with new technologies and this method is nothing like your Aunt Mabel's parlor.

When you have fabric laminated it is no longer susceptible to spills, drips and drops. The end result is a matte finish (recommended) that feels almost slick when you touch it but does not shine. Your fabrics will be preserved with their original luster and be cleanable. This treatment reminds me of an outdoor checkered tablecloth without the stiffness. Sitting on or sliding off of this fabric treatment will not cause you to have to say "excuse me" either. Lamination gives you all the durability of plastic without the sight and sound of plastic. If you are interested in laminating the fabrics for your kitchen upholstery, call today to find out more.

Indoor/outdoor fabrics have come a long way since their inception as well. On many occasions we have used these fabrics for applications beyond patio furniture. Many styles, patterns, textures and colors are available and some may even surprise you. These fabrics are water repellent, machine washable and, because they are meant for the out of doors, mold resistant. We carry many different lines of these fabrics which provide an array of choices. Scotchguarding is another great way to protect your fabric from spills and stains. Our sources can simply scotch guard fabric for you if that is all you wish.

ASK THE DESIGNER

Get expert advice from the pros!

Q. I have two small windows on either side of my fireplace that I am not quite sure how to address. There is not much space on either side of my windows and I am unsure if I should do valances, full length panels or how full the treatments should be. My ceilings are also quite tall at ten feet high. Can you offer any advice as to what would be the best course of action?

Jillian in Fayetteville, GA

A. Your budget will always dictate what kind of treatments will be the most economical but in your case there is a rather affordable solution. When confronted with a narrow but tall wall with a window flanked fireplace, we find that the look with the best bang for your buck is an asymmetrical one.

An asymmetrical treatment on windows 36" or smaller will provide you with functionality as well as pleasing aesthetics. Not all window treatments function and those types of draperies are called stationary, meaning that they do not move or pull closed for privacy. Stationary treatments allow you to achieve a look without paying the price of function. The difference between the two comes down to how many yards of fabric you use. Fabric usually come in a standard 54" width. A stationary treatment requires between one width to one and a half widths per panel while functioning treatments usually need at least a double width per panel.

In your situation Jillian, since your windows are narrow, you will be able to use a one and a half width panel on each window and still have function. A tie back bracket on opposing sides of your windows will allow you to have a soft, stylish look while the draperies are pulled back and provide privacy when let down. However, with tall walls, achieving balance on this wall will be best addressed if your treatments are from floor to ceiling. This effect will add yardage to your cost but prevent a cut off, stumpy look.

Panoply designers welcome the opportunity to come out to your home and help you with your window treatment needs. Thank you for your question and please let us know if we can help you achieve a lasting look in your home.

KITCHENS TODAY

Some of our readers may be surprised to learn that in addition to fabrics and furnishings, Panoply is also experienced in kitchen and bath design. Taking on such a project can be over whelming at best. The designers at Panoply are always here to provide complete kitchen design from layout and cabinet design to full finish selections. We are also here to review your choices and make sure everything I turns out beautifully. That being said, there have been a few changes in kitchen design over the recent years. Whether you prefer modern, contemporary, traditional or transitional styles you may be surprised to learn that a slightly more traditional kitchen can be less expensive and have a bigger return on investment in the future. Don't get me wrong, a high styled traditional kitchen with ornate wood work and custom additions won't come cheap. However, for the most part, a kitchen does not have to possess an abundance of those things to get you the results you are after.

To an outside observer, a contemporary kitchen with simple door fronts and sleek hardware may appear to be less costly. The truth is that the majority of door styles readily available have some sort of raised panel effect, which commonly initiates a traditional feeling. If traditional is the last word that anyone would use to describe you, don't fret. The overall feel of a kitchen really lies in the finishes you choose. No matter what your style we suggest choosing a raised panel door for your cabinets. In doing so, when you are ready to sell your home, the buyer need only swap out the hardware, backsplash or counter tops to make it their own. Any of the aforementioned tasks will be small peanuts compared to a full reno. Red lacquered laminate cabinets with a chrome backsplash and concrete counter tops may be a hard sell.

If you prefer contemporary then choose a dark walnut or a comparable wood tone for your cabinets. Solid counter tops with little to no pattern will aid in a crisp clean look. Brushed nickel pulls on drawers and doors, rather than knobs, will complete the look.

If you do prefer a traditional look, think about using a different finish on your base cabinets from your upper cabinets. If you have an island, try only changing the finish on its base and leave your surrounding cabinets the same. If this is the route you choose, consider having a different color counter top on the island than the surrounding cabinets. For example: white upper and lower cabinets topped with a solid black countertop and the island in a deep walnut topped with a solid white countertop. To take it a step further, tone down the whiteness of your surrounding cabinets by adding a brown or gray glaze over top for an aged look that coordinates with the islands base. This look can go either traditional or contemporary. The hardware and backsplash you choose will define it more as one style or another. The more you mix and match finishes, counter tops, tile and hardware the more you will see your kitchen develop a personality.

