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# Livingetc

FRESH  
LOOKS  
NEW  
RULES

TRAILBLAZING  
FURNITURE  
TRENDS  
HALLWAYS AND  
STAIRCASES TAKE  
CENTRE STAGE  
THE BEST IN  
OUTDOOR STYLE



# The new wave

It's proving to be an exciting year in furniture design. From shapes to textures to materials, these are the trends to watch – and the makers to follow – to stay ahead of the curve

**FEATURE** Ellen Finch

**F**urniture trends are always interesting to track because, like trends in colours and materials, they say something about the way we want to live in our homes. You can tell a lot from the shapes, sizes and silhouettes that are *en vogue* – whether popular pieces are cossetting and comfortable or formal and rigid says plenty about the mood their owners want to create through their use.

With that in mind, this deep dive into the now and the next in furniture tells us that we're feeling playful, restless, a little brave – but that underneath it all, we still want to feel supported by our furniture pieces. 'The predominant mood in furniture design right now leans towards softness – both in form and materiality,' says designer Greg Natale. 'Curves are a defining feature, appearing in everything from plush, sculptural seating to fluid, organic silhouettes in accessories and decor. There's a strong mid-century modern influence, but it's being reinterpreted with a contemporary sensibility – think rounded edges, tactile finishes and an emphasis on comfort.'

The playful aspect comes in through our new penchant for postmodernism – see over the page for more on that – and the bolder, surrealist-inspired pieces we've seen filter down from high design to high street. Unusual shapes are accentuated through materials – from chrome to lacquer to coloured glass – but you'll find familiar favourites like natural stone and bouclé continuing to be popular. And of course, with the rise of marquetry, there's never been a more exciting time to be a woodworker – we've noticed interesting things coming out of one part of the UK in particular, more of which on page 20. Read on to discover the materials, textures, shapes and makers to invest in and watch now – this is an exhilarating time in furniture design indeed.

**PHOTOGRAPH** ANSON SMART: ARTISTRY COFFEE TABLE IN MINK, SUPPLIED BY ZUSTER. PYRE 2 PENDANT BY LOST PROFILE, SUPPLIED BY EST LIGHTING



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### THE MATERIAL: GLASS

From Miniforms' coloured side tables to SkLO's hand-blown frosted designs, glass is having its moment in the sun thanks to makers' renewed appreciation of its versatility – and the eagerness of interior designers to weave glossy textures into their schemes (see also: lacquered finishes). With its chunky crystal top and hand-polished tubular bronze base, the Corca table from Irish brand Orior embodies this trend for us. Corca side table, price on request, Orior

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### THE SHAPE: POSTMODERN TABLES

Sculptural tables inspired by 1980s postmodernism are coming through in designs with interesting, out-there bases and legs. It's a design reference that interior designer Greg Natale has drawn on for his own projects and furniture design. 'We often introduce playful postmodern elements – whether in furniture, lighting or even rugs – to bring contrast and personality to organic, contemporary homes,' he says. 'It's about striking a balance: pairing these statement pieces with softer, more natural materials ensures the space remains inviting and cohesive while still feeling curated and eclectic. Despite how soft and organic interiors are at the moment, maximalism is on the rise, and these postmodern elements definitely feel maximalist.' (From top) OBJECT No. 01 Altar console, price on request, Agnes Studio. Barrow table in Burnt Oak, price on request, Mary Ratcliffe Studio. Vito coffee table, £1,995, Soho Home ➤



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