

The future really is orange

INTERIORS

Are you getting bored of grey? Brighter shades are staging a comeback, says Anna Temkin

Furniture fairs tend to be the most reliable indicators of the trends that are about to emerge in home interiors, as well as those that are still going strong. Clerkenwell Design Week (CDW) is no exception. The annual fair in east London is held in a part of the city that has a long tradition of creativity, one that dates back to the Industrial Revolution, when Clerkenwell became a hub for craftsmen, printmakers, clockmakers and jewellers. Many still regard it as London's leading design district. As this year's fair draws to a close, we round up the dominant themes and what you can expect to see filtering into homes this year.

Orange and terracotta

According to Eporta, an online platform that designers and architects use to source furniture, lighting and accessories, orange has been the "fastest-rising colour" over the past three months in terms of searches and sales on its website. Bea Addis, the head of community at the company, says that the trend for burnt orange — a deep, almost smoky shade — is particularly pronounced and encompasses



Hand & Eye's terracotta lampshades, from £215

terracotta. The popularity of these hues is an extension of designers' obsession with botanicals last year, Addis says. Orange and terracotta are tones that feel very earthy and natural."

It was a noticeable theme among the accessories and lighting at CDW, where Hand & Eye Studio, a London-based lighting company, exhibited a range of terracotta lamps, including the Fuji pendant lamp and Rigatoni cluster lamps.

"Another driving force of this trend is the shift towards maximalism," Addis says. "People are moving away from neutral tones. There is no appetite for beige and taupe. It's about lots of unabashed, clashing colour pairings." Don't be surprised to see orange and

red or orange and pink in the same scheme.

Tactile textiles

Designers are playing with prints and materials that focus more on our sense of touch. Timorous Beasties, a Scottish textile design company, has teamed up with Brintons, a carpet manufacturer, to create the Craigend Collection, which debuted at CDW. Alistair McAuley and Paul Simmons, the founders of Timorous Beasties, say that their inspiration comes from what they see under their feet, taking cues from natural carpets such as sand dunes, moss, stone and water.

"We also thought about how carpet can be dramatic in transitional spaces such as

lobbies, corridors and grand dining rooms. We considered how the functional aspects and minimal aesthetic can work in more personal spaces such as bedrooms, while keeping the link between the dramatic and the serene.”

Arte, a brand known for its ornate wallcoverings, was among the exhibitors. Its new collections have been inspired by everything from animals to exotic trinkets. Its Takara wallcoverings are made of materials such as suede, paper weave and embroidered chinoiserie.

Svensson, a Scandinavian textiles company, launched its latest spring collection, which incorporates patterned velvet. According to Susan White, the marketing director at Hillarys, an interiors company, velvet remains on trend. “Touch-me textiles add comfort and softness to sofas, curtains, rugs and cushions. Fringing is also a big trend in fashion collections and is transitioning into homeware, reflecting the maximalist mood.”

Cosmic lighting

Look out for pendant lights inspired by the cosmos. Several ranges showcased at CDW resembled constellations. Graypants, a Seattle-based design company, has partnered with Pad Home, a UK distributor, to introduce a Chrona lighting range inspired by celestial shapes, while Marc Wood Studio, a lighting specialist, presented its Pleated Crystal collection of pendant



Arte's Takara Spirit wallcovering

shades. Brokis, a Czech lighting company, has produced an exquisite selection of handblown glass lighting, and cosmic inspiration was also evident in new ranges by Bert Frank, a British luxury lighting brand.

Addis says that the ethereal theme is big news and there are signs of “general aesthetic interest in mythical design”; she predicts that moon-shaped pieces of furniture and mystical patterns, such as tarot card symbols, will become evident in homeware collections.

Sustainability still reigns

There is no indication that the design world's focus on sustainability is waning. The “s” word was at the core of this year's fair. The TDO Architecture practice, was commissioned to create



Work Series desk and chairs from Another Country

sculptures made from polystyrene. Max Fraser, the creative director of CDW, says: “Polystyrene is considered one of the ‘bad’ materials as it can't be recycled through regular municipal recycling schemes. However, if it's sent back to the manufacturer it is 100 per cent recyclable.”

Loll Designs, which makes outdoor furniture from 100 per cent recycled plastic, mostly from discarded milk bottles, displayed some of its most popular pieces, including its classic lounge chairs and its new Fresh Air collection. Kährs, a flooring company, launched its sustainable, ultra matt, wood flooring designs.

Sleek workspaces

Another Country, a British craft furniture brand, has expanded its Work Series of desks and office accessories, to “bridge the gap between communal co-working spaces and the traditional office environment”. The designs — along with those of Sellex and Moventi, which create products for modern workspaces — offer inspiration for home offices. Think discreet slots for lamps and devices, and attractive walnut finishes. ■