

## CONTEMPORARY DESIGN: MAKING THE TRANSITION



by Christy Scanlon, president, Masterpiece Design Group

All designs by Masterpiece Design Group

Photography by Studio KW

*One of our most often asked questions is, “How can I transform my home into a contemporary space without the expense of a complete remodel, extensive renovation, or buying all-new furniture?”*

Let's first explain what “contemporary” style is... by definition, it is “existing, occurring or living at the same time; belonging to the same time.” So, in terms of design, it refers to what is popular right now and what is of-the-moment.

Contemporary design can be eclectic, and is not necessarily something designed three months ago, but more so, ever-changing, and borrowing pieces from different eras or periods to create a fresh blend of “style roots.”

Lisa Mulholland, director of design at Masterpiece Design Group, further offers these points, hallmarks of contemporary design, which can be applied to your own home:

- ➔ Place strong emphasis on line and form, with abundant open space with natural light.
- ➔ Opt for clutter-free living, where every piece has to count.
- ➔ Remember, less is more.
- ➔ Select smooth profiles, rather than ornamentations.
- ➔ Have fun! Contemporary is a fluid blend of design styles, tolerating a bit of rule breaking.

With the following examples, we hope to inspire you to achieve contemporary style in your own home.

# DESIGN*dilemma*

## DINING ROOM DESIGN FEATURES:

Stacked trio of modern/expressive art, instead of one under-scale or singular piece

Cluster light fixtures, or double fixtures, replacing a typical single fixture

Adding modern chairs, for a forward-looking style, works even with a more traditional table



## KITCHEN DESIGN FEATURES:

Oversize, bold island lighting modernizes any kitchen

Cabinets with a simple shaker or slab-front profile adds immediate updated appeal

Sleek quartz or Caesarstone counters are rapidly replacing demand of granite

## MASTER BEDROOM DESIGN FEATURES:

Break up suites of matching furniture; introduce a sleek, upholstered wing-back bed (even works with the most traditional settings)

Dimensional wall décor offers an updated substitute to typical framed-under-glass pieces

Graphic wallpaper applied to an unexpected place (here, the ceiling) creates a “wow” factor

Replace ceiling fans with a bold ceiling fixture or unique chandelier



## BATH DESIGN FEATURES:

A frameless shower instantly creates openness, for a spa-like bath

Oversize, rectified-edge tile floors can replace small tile floors for a seamless-appearing, sleek look

Think about a bath area as an extension of your living space... and not as a secondary location; apply the same principles of contemporary design – nominal accessories, graphic or expressive art, and minimally-patterned finishes



## LIVING AREA DESIGN FEATURES:

Upholstered pieces in solid fabrics (rather than patterned), opting for textures like brushed velvets, mohair, linen or cozy chenille

Implement a few sleek or simple-lined occasional tables (even in a traditional setting)

Throw pillow patterns should be kept to a minimum – opt for graphic embroidery, shearling, embossed velvets and the like

When it comes to decorations, in lieu of multiple, small accessories, opt for one or two statement pieces

Airy, sheer window treatments, instead of heavy or busy patterns, maximize window openings and natural light



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