

Casual Interiors

Definition

- Can be referred to as **Country** or **Transitional** interior design
- Fastest-growing décor choice following the decadence of the 1980s
- Perfect fit for today's high stress, fast pace lifestyle
- **Casual** interiors birthed the Lazy Boy chair, leather furniture, laminate wood flooring, mix and match fabrics, collectibles and much more.
- Tend to take on an ethnic cultural spin
- Feature various native prints and tapestries
- TEXTURE is the key to building comfort – soft fabric, rough wood, stone, brick etc.
- Often a “hodge podge” of furnishings – can take on an attic quality
- Very forgiving style of décor
- Perfect for busy household with children or pets but also works to tame the sterility of a downtown singles loft.

Today's Casual Trends

- In the past **Casual** interiors were flavoured with a great deal of American folklore – naïve animal icons, primary colours, pine antiques etc.
- Today there is a global sophistication to casual interiors – native influence comes from the four corners of the world.
- However 9/11 has had an effect on bringing back a slight stars and stripes influence – yet to see how long this trend will last.
- Warm, mid-to-lighter wood tones are very important
- Rough-hewn surface texture, planking and matte finishes are key for furniture and flooring.
- Strong NATURAL overtones still prevail in prints, fibre content and colour stories
- The contemporary movement of the '90s has influenced this look to be cleaner and more settled resulting in a more restful décor.
- Scandinavian décor is also trending up supporting this cleaner casual feeling. TEAK old and new is an important colour and wood.
- Bohemian “tag sale” quality is also a growing trend for great rooms, family rooms and vacation homes but only for the secure decorator.
- Flooring is *very important* for creating this interior décor. It is important that the surfaces are natural (wood, stone, natural matting), but an even bigger trend for **Casual** interiors is Cork flooring. The burlled nature of the grain combined with its comfort and imperfection make it an ideal choice.