

# Modern Interiors

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## Definition

- Born at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, **Modern** interiors were a reflection of what was happening in technology and industry. Industrial materials, synthetics, geometric based lines and the simplicity of shape were commercially celebrated and eventually gave way to residential use as the decades progressed.
- The Arts and Crafts movement that celebrated design simplicity and architects such as Frank Lloyd Wright inspired interior designers to create a beautiful interior based on the principle of less is more.
- **Modern** interiors celebrate clean lines, solid colour blocking, and simple accents with very little visual noise.
- The contemporary interior can be as subtle as a ZEN garden or as bold as a pop art painting as long as the statement is focused and dramatic.
- Colour and texture are very important when creating contemporary interiors.
- Colours are often monochromatic or contrasting – creating extreme statements.
- Texture is very important, it can be either slick and smooth or soft and nubby but it is important that it be all one without a variance in texture.
- Simple lines and geometrics strongly influence pattern design.

## Today's Modern Trends

- Originally (early 1900s) **Modern** interiors used a lot of natural materials such as wood, stone, bronze and glass. When synthetics massed the market (1960) **Modern** interiors took on a very cold, slick appearance. Today the trend is to use the natural and synthetic in harmony.
- RETRO is a huge “psychographic” trend; consumers are looking to the simplicity of their youth for comfort and security. This trend has been a big reason why contemporary interiors are making a come back. For the baby boomer it's the charm of the '50s; for the 20-somethings it's the way-out, fabulous '60s and '70s.
- ZEN or Asian culture has also influenced today's contemporary interior. Simplicity, natural colour, soothing texture and clean lines are key to creating a ZEN like serenity in the home. Today's hectic lifestyle makes this an excellent choice.
- **Contemporary** or **Modern** interiors are important but not as important as **Casual** or **Traditional**. Modern interiors are difficult for a family to live up to, so a total look may not be the answer however this décor is the most influential. It is the simplicity of modern living that is influencing Casual and Traditional décor toward easy, more forgiving elements.
- Materials cover synthetic to natural, textures are simple. Flooring choices are best if hard surface with the added drama of an area rug.