



SPRINGFAIR

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Interior Design Trends 2026: The Essential Guide for Design Professionals

Prepared by Spring Fair |
The UK's Largest Retail &
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Executive Summary

The interior design landscape of 2026 marks a decisive shift away from minimalist austerity toward spaces that are warm, layered, and deeply personal. Designers are embracing heritage details, rich color palettes, natural materials, and perhaps most significantly treating every surface, including ceilings, as an opportunity for intentional design.

This report identifies six key trends shaping residential and commercial interiors in 2026, with particular focus on the emerging 'Fifth Wall' movement that's transforming how designers approach spatial design.



Trend 01: Modern Heritage

Modern Heritage represents the hottest design aesthetic of 2026: a sophisticated fusion of restored architectural details with contemporary furnishings.

Why It's Working:

Clients are rejecting the uniformity of developer standard interiors. They want spaces with story, character, and soul. Modern Heritage satisfies this craving while maintaining the clean lines and functionality modern living demands.

How to Specify:

- Restore or add period features such as panel mouldings or ceiling roses.
- Mix antique or vintage pieces with modern furnishings.
- Use heritage tones — deep greens, inky blues, rich neutrals.
- Pair traditional materials with clean-lined design.

Material Palette:

- Reclaimed timber, aged brass, linen, marble, and textured wool.



Trend 02: Warm, Earthy Colour Palettes

2026 sees a dramatic shift away from cool greys, stark whites, and all-beige schemes toward richer, more saturated hues rooted in nature but decidedly expressive.

Key Colours:

- Tobacco, terracotta, olive, ochre, amber, and chalky rose.



Why It's Working:

After years of cool, neutral palettes that felt safe but sterile, designers and clients are craving emotional depth and warmth in their spaces. These earthy, saturated colors create intimacy and comfort without sacrificing sophistication.

Trend 03: Curves, Sculptural Pieces and Fat Furniture

Hard edges and rigid geometry are softening as designers embrace flowing, continuous curves and sculptural furniture that serves as both functional piece and focal point.

Why It's Working:

The angular minimalism of the 2010s feels cold and unwelcoming. Curves bring visual softness, comfort, and a human quality back into interiors. These pieces invite touch and use while creating sculptural interest.

How to Specify:

- Curved sofas, barrel chairs, and oval tables.
- Arched doorways and rounded cabinetry.
- Organic lighting shapes — globes, gourds, or soft cylinders.

Material Considerations:

- Velvet, chenille, plywood, cast resin, and sculpted wood.



Trend 4: Natural Materials Textured Surfaces

After years of painted everything, natural materials in warm, medium tones are experiencing a major resurgence. Texture is equally important — designers are mixing smooth with rough, matte with gloss, to create depth and tactility.

Why It's Working:

Natural materials bring warmth, authenticity, and a connection to nature that manufactured surfaces can't replicate. They also age beautifully — scratches, patinas, and wear become part of their story rather than detracting from them.

How to Specify:

- Use medium-tone timbers, honed stone, and linen.
- Mix finishes — rough with smooth, matte with subtle sheen.
- Include at least three textural contrasts per room.

What's out:

- High-gloss finishes, synthetic surfaces, and overly matched materials.



Trend 05: The Fifth Wall - Ceilings as Design Canvas

Designers are finally treating ceilings as integral design elements rather than afterthoughts. Dubbed "the fifth wall," ceilings are receiving bold color treatments, textured finishes, and architectural details.

Why It's Working:

Colour and texture overhead create intimacy and balance. Ceilings now act as a cohesive design element rather than an afterthought.

How to specify:

- Colour: Use deep jewel tones or warm neutrals to draw the eye upward.
- Colour Capping: Extend wall colour 30–60cm onto the ceiling for definition.
- Texture: Apply lime plaster, wallpaper, or tongue-and-groove panelling.
- Detail: Incorporate mouldings, coves, and indirect lighting.

Tip:

Lighter tones suit low ceilings; darker hues add drama in larger rooms.





Trend 06: Evolved Biophilic Design

Nature-led design matures into a holistic approach centred on wellness, texture, and light.

Key Characteristics:

- Living walls and vertical gardens as architectural features
- Abundant, diverse plant life (not just trendy species)
- Natural materials that bring organic irregularity
- Views and sight lines to outdoor spaces or natural elements

Why It's Working:

Clients increasingly seek interiors that restore calm and promote wellbeing. Integrating nature improves air quality, mood, and productivity.

How to Specify:

- Introduce living walls or built-in planting.
- Use raw timber, stone, and woven textiles.
- Maximise daylight and incorporate tunable lighting.
- Add natural scent and gentle sound for sensory depth.



What's Out + In for 2026

Falling Away:

- All-white kitchens and grey interiors.
- Matte black hardware and faux finishes.
- Industrial style and matchy furniture sets.
- Bouclé overload, neon signage, and slogan décor.

In:

- Rich colour, individuality, craftsmanship, and comfort.

Implementing These Trends

Residential:

- Start small — powder rooms, entryways, home offices.
- Layer architecture, furniture, and textiles gradually.
- Combine trends for personality: Heritage + jewel tones = timeless luxury.
- Biophilic + naturals = calming sanctuary.

Commercial:

- Align aesthetics with brand and guest experience.
- Use quality materials that age beautifully.
- Highlight ceilings, lighting, and tactility for visual impact.

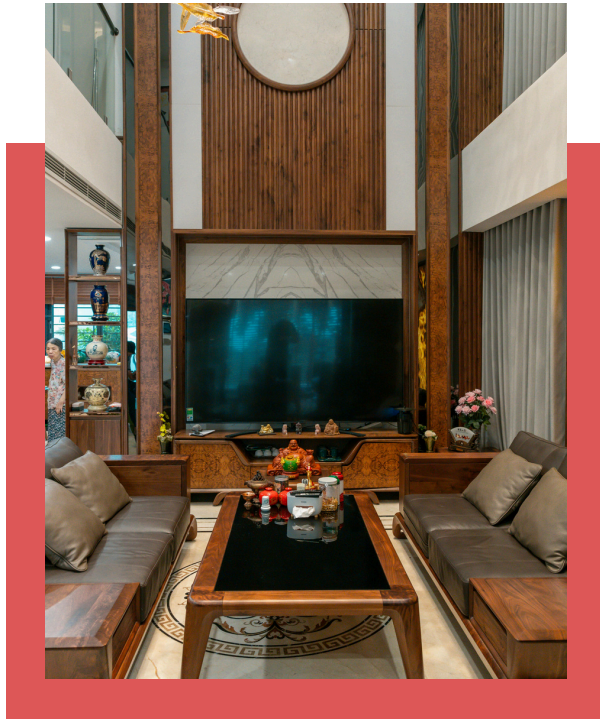


Conclusion

2026 is a return to authenticity and comfort.

Spaces feel crafted, layered, and human — where old meets new, colour feels emotional, and natural materials anchor design in warmth.

These trends aren't fleeting — they represent a lasting shift towards interiors that truly nurture and inspire.



About Spring Fair

Spring Fair is the UK's largest retail and home trade show, connecting 38,000 buyers—including 3,200 interior designers—with cutting-edge products, trends, and suppliers.

Our 2026 event takes place February 1-4 at the NEC Birmingham.

For more information about Spring Fair 2026, speaking opportunities, or partnership inquiries, visit springfair.com or contact our team at hello@springfair.com.