



a dash of color

'Fetish foods' is the theme of the 2019 colors of the year

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An interior design announcement that many wait for all year, the Pantone Color of the Year, is the defining hue that takes its cues from the year behind us, and attempts to set the tone for the year ahead. The official colors are selected by Pantone, a company known for its color matching system used throughout the design industry.

Rose Quartz was officially the 2016 color of the year, though I still see it lingering in the design world. Greenery, a yellow-green color, was 2017. The 2018 color of the year was Ultra Violet.

'Fetish foods' is the theme of the 2019 colors of the year. Spicy reds, sweet flamingo orange and rich purples—all the colors of foods you crave. Caviar blacks, burgundy reds, and deep teals carry the opposite side of the trend. Born in 1959, it brings me back to my teenage years. With a name like Cathy Purple Cherry, I can relate to this year's color palette, so I will use them sensitively and with a great level of flexibility for future change.

High Point, NC, the furnishings capital of the world, puts on a week-long event in the spring and fall of each year. Showcasing the industries' products from accessories, rugs, furniture, fabrics, antiques, lamps and much more, industry partners including Interior Designers, Architects and retail buyers come from around the world to see the new products and design trends for the season. These new products are designed and created to provide industry partners with a "must have feeling" that makes them not want to miss out on something new. While new products are created to keep the industry pushing forward, ultimately they are searching for the next "thing" that will inspire them on their next design project. These things could be anything from a simple texture of a fabric, a gorgeous hand-knotted rug, the graceful lines of a piece of furniture, uniquely printed wallpaper, or even a color.

For upholstery, long gone are the days when we were told not to touch anything, and forbidden to eat or drink in the liv-

ing room for the chance of ruining the furniture. Fabrics have come a long way over the past decade. To name a few, the new words when describing fabrics are "Crypton," "Smart Solution," "Sunbrella," and "Indoor/Outdoor." These are trade names that have a stain-resistant chemical specially engineered into the fabric either through a solution dye or a spray that ultimately protects the fabric from stains, spills, germs and more.

Today's couples strive not only to have a beautiful home but also have it properly function for their family needs. Nowadays, the home for most Americans is chaotic to say the least. There are likely two hard working parents hustling and bustling at their jobs with little time on their hands. With dogs, cats, young children, and teens, high activity, food and drink are everywhere! These environments benefit from fabrics that literally allow the spill to sit on top of the fabric instead of soaking into the cushions. It's becoming hard to tell what is a "family friendly" fabric and not. These fabrics come in many different colors, textures, patterns, and solids. Whether the fabric is used to upholster a piece of furniture or used as bedding, the possibilities are endless. Carpeting has followed the trend. Whether indoor/outdoor, polyester, or 100% wool, all have a high-resistance to staining. This year, it's time to say goodbye to the stains and spills and hello to carefree, maintenance-free fabrics.

Wallpaper has also changed from the old-fashioned florals and farm animal borders of the 90s. Wallpaper products now come in many material options and vary in style of colors, murals, stripes, landscape scenes, geometric patterns, and abstract shapes. Wallpaper can be seen as the artwork of the room which replaces the need for framed artwork and other wall decor. The trend in wallpaper right now is bold, large geometric patterns. When strong in color, it is referred to as a Mod pattern beckoning back to retro 1960s, but done with more sophistication. Large scale is also "in," whether soft tone-on-tone flowers or other settings in nature. Wallpaper is also being applied to

ceilings to change up the expected.

Today's world is much more concerned with an environmentally-friendly approach to life, especially within design. The natural wood boards of an old barn may be reused to create a reclaimed piece of furniture and mixed with recycled metals for a complete juxtaposition. The tones of wood in furniture and flooring have somewhat moved away from high-lacquered finishes to matte surfaces. While high-gloss classic cherry wood will always exist in furniture, bleached oak and scraped pine have set a trend, especially amongst the younger generation. The more rustic finishes are the most popular at this time. Recycled and reclaimed materials remain a strong-hold in the design community. The casualness that these finishes bring help offset the intensity that technology has brought to our daily lives.

The question I'm often asked is "is this timeless?" Generationally, we still spread memory across many different styles from pre-reclaimed Queen Anne furnishings to now. Only a hundred years from now will we understand if these new design trends are timeless. Will our great, great, grandchildren remember the classic formal settings we've experienced during this lifetime? I don't honestly know.

Furniture styles still spread across the spectrum from the sleek modernism of Roche Bobois leather pieces to the weighty industrial stylings from Restoration Hardware. Many of the furniture lines are not available to the public, but rather can only be accessed by the design trades. So, if you can't find what you like, know that options can be purchased through professional designers.

The formidable trend at this time is called "transitional style." It is a blend of traditional and contemporary elements, fabrics, furnishings and architectural features. Design elements tend to be more square than rounded. Dark metal windows are often incorporated, with a clean yet sophisticated presence. The color palette favors neutral tones with splashes of strong color. Also currently trending is "industrial chic," which refers back to details in old factories from exposed brick, concrete,

weathered wood and iron light fixtures.

So, how do you get ready for the New Year?

First, purge! Make way for a change. Be inspired! Select fresh colors for your home that make you happy. Trust your emotional instinct. Introduce something different that has the flexibility to easily change, that are freely added and freely discarded, like pillows, art, objects, bedding, and rugs.

Read magazines, and utilize technology for inspiration. Houzz and Pinterest are great internet sources for imagery. Consult with friends or designers for ideas. It's always easier to know what you don't like than to decide what you do. Find the inspirational elements that are right for you.

The best design integrates beauty with function. Think about your patterns of living and reinforce those patterns with pieces of furniture or design layouts. Don't try to do something opposite of habit. When you learn to accept that your habits won't change, you can then begin to put into place systems of design that help...and excite, inspire, relax and evolve who you are!

Born and raised in Virginia, **Cathy Purple Cherry** ultimately landed in Annapolis where she grew a large architectural firm specializing in high-end custom homes and estates. A talented architect, visionary, and three-dimensional thinker, Cathy is able to marry clients' dreams with the reality of the built environment. Cathy's intense love for the mountains has always been deeply rooted in her, and as such, Cathy is passionate about extending her 27-year old practice through DC and down the range to Charlottesville. She and her husband are building their second home, which they will one day retire in on Ennis Mountain. While Cathy revels in the intricate design opportunities presented by high-end residential architecture, Cathy is equally passionate about her philanthropic efforts and her work serving the special needs community through the firm's Purposeful Architecture studio.

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