THE HOTTEST TRENDS FOR 2009



aye Markert is the owner of House Details, an interior design firm in Virginia Beach that specializes in interior merchandising for model homes. When it comes to design trends for 2009, she's got her finger on the pulse of what's hot and what's not. Here's what she has to say:

BE ECLECTIC

Homes should always reflect the personality of people who live in them. There is a newly revived interest in mixing traditional and period styles with more contemporary pieces, or pieces with cleaner lines. Most families have some inherited pieces of furniture to which they can add other pieces to form an eclectic style. Furniture needs to look like it's been collected over time and from different places to create a room that has character.

Pieces and finishes should blend but not "match."

WHAT ARE THE NOW COLORS?

Yellows with zest limes, lemon and orange hues will continue to be strong. We are also seeing a lot of cool blues, and purples — they will remain popular with a shift toward the red shade. If you don't have the courage to paint your walls, start with a few accessories or even bedding with brighter colors to lift your mood.

PATTERNS

Bold geometric patterns will dominate the interior décor scenario. Botanicals, paisley, brocade and elegant animal prints, stripes and motifs will appear in furnishings and accessories.