

This guide is designed to help you identify styles you like and dislike to take away the guessing work later!.

You will find themes that you absolutely love and absolutely hate and that is absolutely fine! This exercise will help you understand the key elements that underpin your choices – don't be afraid to create your own from the likes you discover here – often our style can't be boxed into just one genre so be brave and go wild!

When you come to implement the look, the key is to recognise the elements you like and the fundamental building blocks that tie the look together. We are here to help if you get stuck! Let's build your dream.

# *Design Styles*

*Decodence Design Finder*

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## Base Styles

1. Modern
2. Traditional
3. Country
4. Urban

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## Modern

Stemming from the modernism movement, distinguishing features of modern design are neutral palettes with clean lines, furniture with exposed legs and often reflective surfaces are a feature.



**Main materials:** Wood, metal, glass, steel

**Colour palette:** Monochromatic, neutral, earthy

**Furniture style:** Simple, exposed legs, raised off the floor, glossy cabinets

**Distinguishing features:** Clean lines, simple furnishings, lack of clutter & adornments, “form follows function”



## Contemporary

Current trends are incorporated within contemporary design, these include open and airy spaces which are created by the use of light wood, neutral colours and natural materials, creating an effortless look.

**Main materials:** Light woods, glass, stainless steel

**Colour palette:** Brown, taupe, cream, white, black

**Furniture style:** Exposed legs, neutral tones, natural fibres, two-tone prints, no skirts or excess fabric

**Distinguishing features:** Open space, uncluttered, airy, strong emphasis on line and form



## *Transitional*

The balance between modern and traditional within transitional design allows for a finish which will last through some time.

Key pieces of modern design such as simple furniture and neutral palette works well with the bold elements of traditional design.

**Main materials:** Wood, glass, lacquer, steel, mirror

**Colour palette:** Neutral – brown, taupe, tan, cream, grey

**Furniture style:** Curves combined with straight lines, lacquered finishes, modern fabrics, subtle prints & patterns

**Distinguishing features:** Lightly adorned, clean lines, inviting, focus wall, neutral colours





## Traditional

Classic details are found within traditional design. Luxurious furnishings and a wealth of accessories together create layers of character within space.

Dark wood and rich colour palettes complement ornate details.

**Main materials:** Wood, metals

**Colour palette:** Neutral walls, warm, rich, dark, gold furnishings/accessories

**Furniture style:** Floral patterns, dark wood, upholstered, heavy, claw-footed, velvet

**Distinguishing features:** Textural layering, crown moulding, woodwork, abundant accessories



## Classic

Elegant intricate detailing is part of the beauty of Classic design.

Neutral walls with crown mouldings, columns and woodwork add to the regal look, working perfectly together with the gold furnishings/accessories and rich furniture colour palette.



**Main materials:** Wood, glass, mirror

**Colour palette:** Neutral walls, warm, rich, dark, gold & silver furnishings/accessories

**Furniture style:** Elegant, regal, floral patterns, wooden (mahogany, maple, cherry), upholstered, heavy, claw-footed, velvet, silk

**Distinguishing features:** Symmetrical, columns, crown moulding, detailed woodwork

## Mid-Century Modern

The contrast found within mid-century modern design is created through the use of straight lines together with organic curves.

The style does not lack in colour and brings in many points of interest with iconic pieces from the past, bold fixtures and rich wood.

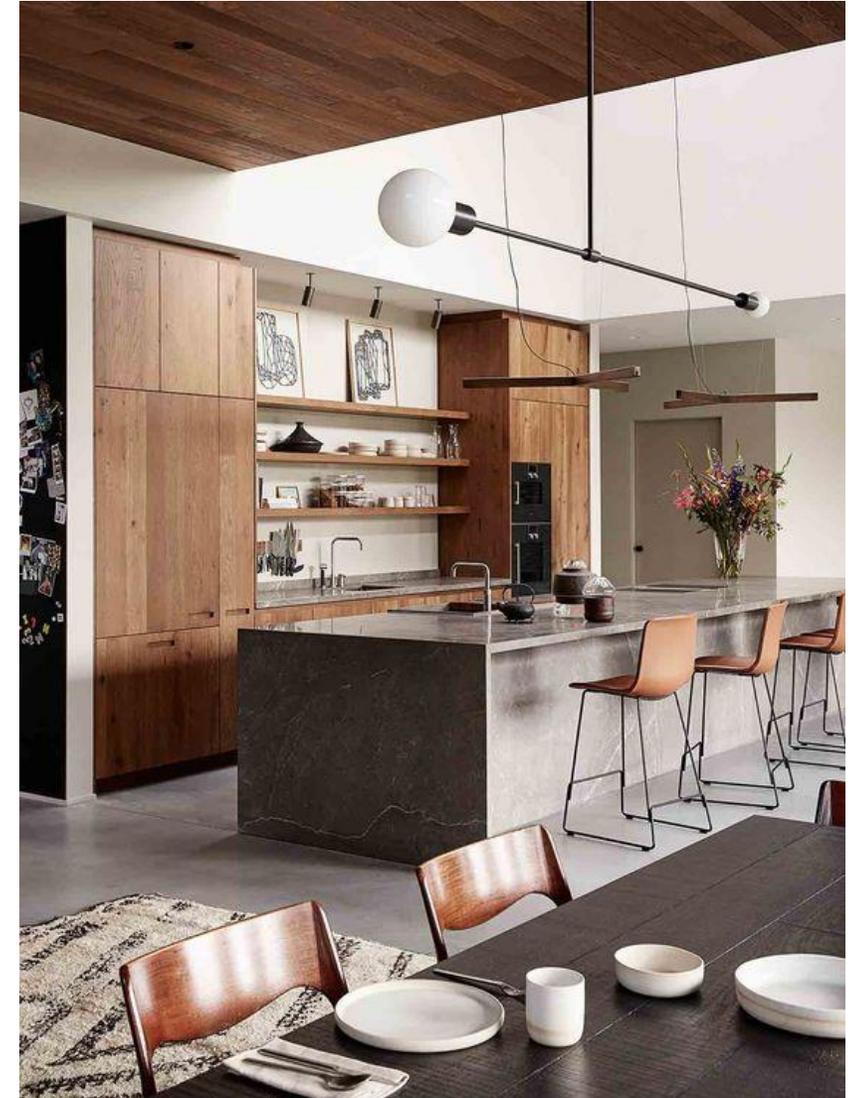


**Main materials:** Wood, metal, glass, vinyl, plywood

**Colour palette:** Neutral, bold, graphic

**Furniture style:** Vintage, wooden, sleek, statement

**Distinguishing features:** Juxtaposition, straight lines, organic shapes, nature indoors, minimal ornamentation



## Country

Wooden beams and stone walls are a perfect combination to create a rustic country feel within any space.

Distressed wood and rough edges add to the imperfect finish strived for.

Greens, beige and greys are often used together with organic textures to add subtle interest in country spaces.

**Main materials:** Wood, stone, organic textures

**Colour palette:** Neutral, green, grey, beige

**Furniture style:** Distressed/rough wood, leather, rough edges

**Distinguishing features:** Wooden beams, stone fireplace/accent wall, warm colours, natural materials, wooden counters and furniture, worn finishes



## Bohemian

Layers of bold personal pieces combined with a relaxed colour palette create balance.

Plenty natural light together with plants provides a calming fresh space.



**Main materials:** Wood, fabrics, metals

**Colour palette:** Neutral, taupe, tan, cream, pops of multi-colour, botanical green

**Furniture style:** Traditional

**Distinguishing features:** Woven pieces, layering, colourful patterned soft furnishings, botanicals, vintage pieces





## *French Country*

Traditional and classic style furniture is incorporated within these spaces.

Distressed woodwork, ruffles, mixed patterns and neutral hues bring together the elegant yet effortless look of French Country design.



**Main materials:** Wood, metal, fabrics

**Colour palette:** Neutral, cream, soft green/blue,

**Furniture style:** Distressed wood, weathered metal, classic style curves

**Distinguishing features:** Distressed wood, aged metal, curved shapes, neutral soft furnishings, natural materials

## Urban

Sleek steel combined with weathered brick and exposed ceilings create a downtown look without having to be in a city.

Artwork is a key factor of bringing personality into Urban design.



**Main materials:** Wood, metal, brick, concrete

**Colour palette:** Neutral shades – brown, tan, black, cream, grey, pops of colour

**Furniture style:** Mix of wood and metal, clean lines, weathered wood and leathers, functional

**Distinguishing features:** Artwork, open concept layout, high ceilings, exposed materials, uncluttered, functional, mix of old and new, negative space





## Minimalist

An open space with as little furniture as possible is key to a minimalist look.

A fresh, monochromatic palette and clean lines allows for a fresh atmosphere.

Neutral materials like concrete, marble and wood bring in interest while keeping the overall look calm.



**Main materials:** Glass, wood, marble, concrete, metal

**Colour palette:** Monochromatic, white, black, grey

**Furniture style:** Streamlined shapes, simple, functional, subdued colors

**Distinguishing features:** Clean lines, uncluttered, lack of ornamentation, calm, spacious, airy, lots of light



## *Industrial*

Neutral shades and materials of industry such as brick and concrete, metals and woods all create the unique style.

The suspended wire exposed lighting creates drama while being balanced by the weathered look of the materials used.



**Main materials:** Weathered wood, metal, brick, concrete

**Colour palette:** Neutral shades – brown, tan, black, cream, grey

**Furniture style:** Mix of wood and metal, vintage/antique look, weathered, functional

**Distinguishing features:** Open concept layout, high ceilings, exposed materials, uncluttered, functional, mix of old and new, negative space