

Tell-tale signs you're stuck in the past



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If you've been living in your home for a long time, there's a good chance it may be dated without you even realizing it. After all, the shag carpeting and vertical blinds were trendy when you bought them, right?

Here are some sure signs that you're living in the past. Watch for these instant agers, and replace them to breathe new life into your home.

As a professional stylist, I've seen wallpaper come, and go, and come back again. It has definitely made a comeback in recent years, but don't get me wrong — there's no confusing today's modern papers with the floral, striped and starred relics of the past.

Replace that old, dingy and outdated wallpaper with something that's clean, bright and contemporary for an

instant update in your home.

Panelled walls are another artefact that's best left back in the 1960s. Ideally, it's best to remove it, repair or replace the sheetrock, and repaint the walls.

But be warned, this can be labour-intensive and yes, expensive. The faster, easier and more economical fix is to simply paint the paneling. You'll need to prep the surface to ensure that the paint adheres and you cover all the grooves.

The third worst offender when it comes to dated decor is window treatments like heavy drapes, swags, tassels and tiebacks. And remember roller shades with the fringe trim from the '80s?

There's a very good reason I'm still trying to forget those. If you're not concerned about privacy or insulation, let the view take centre stage. If privacy is something to keep in mind, consider a timeless treatment like a sliding light-weight drape, or contempo-

rary shades or blinds.

When it comes to updating your interiors, light fixtures are a great entry-point into the modern era. Nothing says "original" (translation: old) like builder's-grade light fixtures.

In my professional opinion, these basic fixtures don't do you any favours, in terms of lighting or aesthetic! Upgrading your light fixtures can be as simple as a visit to your local big box store, where you'll find a selection of the latest trends at reasonable prices.

Another easy and cost-effective update is to update your drawers, doors and cabinets with new hardware. Ensure your hardware and hinges match and are on-trend.

Brushed nickel is the universal neutral when it comes to metals, but if you're feeling bold you can opt for a more-modern finish, like matte black! Updating your faucets and plumbing fixtures is also



Repositioning your furniture is an easy update that costs you nothing more than some thought and a little elbow grease.

an easy and instant update for your kitchen and bathrooms, too.

Another trick I suggest is simply repositioning your furniture. This is an easy update that costs you nothing more than some thought and a little elbow grease.

Take inventory of what you have, donate or give away the undesirables, and reposition your pieces to create a new focal point. This could be a window, an interesting archi-

tectural feature or an eye-catching piece of art.

TIP: If you're purchasing new furniture, avoid the matchy-matchy sets. Instead, opt for a mix-and-match look, which is visually more interesting, totally on trend, and easy to modernize with the purchase of one or two new pieces.

Your modernizing efforts don't have to be as intensive as a full-blown renovation — or as expensive! Something as

simple as some fresh bed linens and towels, pillows and throws, and lampshades can make a world (and years!) of difference.

— Toronto-based Red Barrinuevo is principal of Redesign4more, known for enhancing and creating stylish yet functional spaces through their home staging and interior styling services. Visit www.redesign4more.com.

Kitchens are the focal point of the house



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It wasn't long ago the kitchen was tucked away in the back of the house out of the eyes of guests, the sole purpose merely for cooking and cleaning.

Today, it is the focal point of the home, paraded in all its beauty, at the very center of the house where we eat, cook, entertain, study and more.

If your kitchen isn't filled with happy memories, it may be time to consider a reno. From colour and materials to appliances and aesthetics, here are some of the top trends you can expect to see in 2018.

When it comes to countertops in 2018, the darker, the better. Scour a little deeper than granite, and you'll find soapstone. The next big thing, soapstone has a soft honed finish (impervious to fingerprints), is naturally resistant to bacteria build-up and has a subtle veining that provides just enough drama.

Another favourite — concrete; and not in the way that

you might think. No longer exclusive to flooring, concrete has found its way to our counters.

Not only is it affordable but it allows for significant customization when it comes to texture and colour. Concrete is excellent for creating chic, atypical countertops but it's also great for walls.

When using it on walls, always opt for a lighter version — think bright artist's loft. Anything too dark can end up feeling like a reformatory.

It is official, technology has taken over our lives, and now, our kitchens. From the faucet to the fridge to lighting and more.

Smart kitchens are a rapidly evolving aspect of design and are slated to be one of the most significant trends this year. Why not start with your faucet.

New to Delta Faucet Canada, is ShieldSpray Technology that delivers a simple yet practical means to clean, with laser-like precision.

A concentrated jet of water powers stubborn residue away as an innovative water shield simultaneously contains splatter and clears off mess.

The new technology is currently available as a part of Delta's Esque Kitchen Collection, providing consumers with an affordable solution to high-performing design, with a heightened aesthetic.

This year, expect to see a few more colours of the rainbow. In 2017 it was the all-blue kitchen. This year we're seeing green.

Keep it classic by opting for warmer undertones, to give your space an old-world feel. Compliment the bold hue with shiny brass fixtures and crisp white marble. Still love your all-white kitchen?

That's okay too. For a more modern look, try updating it with all matte black fixtures, hardware and don't forget the faucet. Black is refined, contemporary and as a bonus, it's considerably more resistant to wear and tear than any other finish.

Embrace your inner scientist and start experimenting with the Lab-Like Kitchen. Trending in the restaurant scene over the last few years, Lab-Like kitchens will trickle over to the home in 2018.

Now I'm not talking food testing here, but rather a laboratory aesthetic — science labs' utilitarian style: open-concept shelving, hanging pots and pans, stainless steel surfaces, exposed plumbing fixtures and metal stools.

When choosing a Lab-Like sink, go big, with an emphasis on function. Generous, high-performance models with a single bowl easily camouflage messes while accommodating large pots and pans and other items that require handwashing.

Accent your oversized sink with a great faucet — the new Litze™ Kitchen Collection by Brizo®, melds a clean, contemporary sensibility with an artisanal touch; perfectly pairing with the lab-like kitchen trend.

The collection features an exquisitely bent tube-spout rendered in three distinct shapes; arc, square or angled. This unique faucet comes in a range of configurations that are beautifully at home in any modern industrial space.

— Natalie Deane is a lifestyle connoisseur who writes about trends in home decor, travel and entertainment.



One of the hottest trends is a lab-like kitchen with an oversized sink and an artisanal faucet like the Litze by Brizo.



Delta Faucet ShieldSpray delivers concentrated jet power to get off even the most stubborn residue from your dishes.