

# SUN **HOMES** AND **DECOR**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15, 2022

## Death of rustic farmhouse?

Discover the décor trends designers are most excited about

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Special to Ppstmedia Network

Out with the old, in with the new. As 2022 gets underway, that means bidding farewell to — or at least toning down our love affair with — barn doors, open shelving and wide plank floors and ushering in tone-on-tone colour palettes, climbing tiger area rugs and furniture with rounded edges.

“One of the biggest trends that’s leaving us is the colour grey,” says Karl Lohnes, *Style at Home* magazine’s editor at large. “Grey has been the go-to neutral for a very long time but has been fading away. It will still be around in a smaller way but won’t be as exciting. We’re seeing things warming up — more camel, caramel and toffee colours...Pinky browns and apricot browns are very, very popular for furniture, fabrics and even countertops.”

Jane Lockhart of Jane Lockhart Design also predicts new hues. “The emerging colour palette sees tone-on-tone like beige, cream and ivories mixed with a bit of black, white and terra cotta,” she says. “Instead of all

grey interiors, we’re seeing charcoal grey with ivories and white. Look out for cognac and browns in the mix, too.”

**GOODBYE:** Rustic farmhouse interiors. Red Barrinuevo, principal designer at Redesign4More and property stylist on HGTV Canada’s *Hot Market*, recommends incorporating transitional pieces that encapsulate the essence of the trend for a sophisticated spin on a look that’s easily interchangeable when tastes inevitably shift.

Instead of splurging on barn doors or distressed hardwood floors to create a rustic farmhouse vibe, for

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**Making large changes for overly popular design trends can be unsustainable for both your wallet and the environment.”**

Red Barrinuevo



Transitional pieces encapsulate the essence of a trend and are easily interchangeable when tastes shift. **REDESIGN4MORE**



The Rug Company’s climbing tiger area rug is on trend. **AVENUE ROAD**

instance, add metals and embrace a colour palette that includes warm beiges, black and pale oak. Choose a sisal area rug instead of a pattern. “It’s still warm, comfortable, cozy and has a country charm but it’s more sophisticated,” he says.

**HELLO:** Texture and layers. “Flat, smooth surfaces can be hard to live with so layered fabrics like drapery and textiles add to the comfort of a space,” Lockhart says. Our love of boucle fabrics and faux sheepskin continues. “This year, we’re even seeing a lot of authentic sheepskin in pieces like ottomans, chairs and pillows,” says Lohnes.

**GOODBYE:** Square edges. Sofas and other furnishings with square arms have had their time in the spotlight. “We’re starting to see rounded edges, even in modern furniture, though rounded usually means more traditional,” he says. Watch for

balance it out.”

**HELLO:** Climbing tigers. Lohnes predicts this will be among the biggest trends of the year but doesn’t think it will stand the test of time. Think area rugs, fabrics and wallpaper. Interestingly, it’s the Year of the Tiger in Chinese astrology.

**GOODBYE:** Meaningless collectibles. “Maybe pick up one or two small pieces for a guest room instead of buying everything of one trend. Display pieces that have meaning to you and that you’ve thoughtfully collected over time,” says Lockhart. Ditto signage that describes emotions. “It was a quaint trend to begin with, but it’s become a cliché, which means it’s beyond trend status and not necessarily in a good way,” she says. It’s also time to retire open shelving. “A little might help lighten things up but dishes on display are a dust magnet.”

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**For longevity in décor, buy flooring and large furnishings in the colours, shapes and sizes you can live with and are less trendy. Smaller pieces can follow the trends because they’re easier to replace.”**

Jane Lockhart

waterfall coffee tables, curvy or round area rugs and rainbow-arched headboards. “You don’t say goodbye to square edges completely, but you

**HELLO:** decorative stairway railings. It’s time to define your railings, whether you paint existing railings and spindles black or dark grey or

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**If you were caught up in a trend and still love it years later, it’s no longer a trend to you — it became a classic.”**

Karl Lohnes

replace them with iron — a popular art déco trend of the 1920s and 1930s. Wide plank flooring, meanwhile, is giving way to thinner floorboards as the casual lifestyle trend evolves into something slightly more formal and traditional.

**GOODBYE:** Open format floor plans. The popularity of knocking down walls between the kitchen and family room is fading as families value some privacy. “Maybe the kitchen has a place for a home office or a casual place to eat,” says Lohnes. “A separate kitchen also gives you the opportunity to decorate it anyway you wish. You don’t have to be influenced by the rest of your home. You can have the all-white or industrial farmhouse kitchen if that’s desirable.”

**HELLO:** Vintage finds. “There’s a big lifestyle trend of people getting antiques and redoing them, such as painting an old dresser in a bright colour,” he says. “Put a beautiful vintage lamp in a modern place and it stands out.”