

# NEW LOOK

style showcase? Find out if your checklist and discover how you can do it for simple, stylish updates.

## SOFA ROUND

Is your sofa showing symptoms of past its use-by-date? Think leather or suede, overstuffed seats, a high back and puffy, padded arms. If so, it may be time to invest in a new model, says interior designer Robyn Ball, of Essence Interiors. "Update with a sleek new lined leather or upholstered lounge, one that has less 'puff' and more sleek, bold styling," she says.

Some of the best styles to look for included Art Deco-inspired shapes, angular designs, which worked in most homes.

If your budget won't allow a whole new suite, update your living sofa with a few accessories, says Robyn Ball, interior designer at Nedlands textile room Fabrics by Robyn. "Update your lounge with some new cushions and a fabric throw in bright colours for spring," she says.

## FEATURE WALL

Have you gone crazy for feature walls a few years back but it's a trend that's well and over, says Mr Patterson.

Dark colour feature walls draw the eye to a fixed point, making the room smaller and distracting from other elements in the room," he says.

Interior designer Ian Ausden, of Ausden Interiors, said dry stacked stone tapered walls were a more popular choice.

Wood panels of fabric also look popular on walls," he says. "The bigger the panel, and pop a picture light above it, and an instant 'wow' factor behind a bed, hallway, above a sofa or simply to create a focal point in a lounge room or

## BLIND FAITH

Elaborate window treatments can often look as though they belong at your nanna's house.

Period-style window treatments with heavy pelmets, thick drapes and swags are best left to period homes, interior designer Debbie Anastassiou of Despina Design says.

She suggests replacing with blackout blinds teamed with shimmering sheers, set close to the ceiling on concealed tracks to exaggerate the height of the window by drawing the eye upwards.

Blockouts and sheers also had the benefit of insulating the space, says Ms Bull. "This can warm your room by around 15 degrees in winter and keep the space up to 15 degrees cooler in summer, a considerable saving on your power costs."

## EXCESS BAGGAGE

The natural antidote to the minimal look of years past, OTT excess is also a supremely dated trend.

"Over time it is easy to accumulate just another picture frame or ornamental vase," says interior designer Megan Prentice, of Prentice + Adam Interiors.

If this sounds like your abode, simply removing some of the clutter can completely refresh a space, says Ms Prentice. "Store away some of the decor pieces and introduce different items at your whim."

Then it was simply a matter of making the most of what you already had. Put some superfluous pieces into storage, rearrange those fussy cluster displays and use a few key items to create stylish, yet relaxed looks. "For example, a solution for all the picture frames scattered throughout the home is to create a photo wall," Ms Prentice says.



Up-to-date: Refreshing your decor is as simple as adding a few accessories. Picture supplied by Freedom

# IS YOUR DECOR OUTDATED?

## If you have:

An over-the-top chandelier in your toilet

A room full of matching furniture

A feature wall painted in a block colour

Elaborate window treatments

## Replace it with:

A streamlined pendant in a subtle, pared-back design — **Jacinta Mulvihill**, Design Farm

Mix it up with a new chair, rug, buffet, ottoman, or any piece in a contrasting style — **Fiona Hutchinson**, Revive Design

Use decorator pieces as highlights of colour around the room — think artwork, sculptures, cushions and so on — **Josh Patterson**, Domayne

Sheer curtains teamed with blackout blinds — **Debbie Anastassiou**, Despina Design