

Flight of Fancy

Want a home style that feels eclectic, fanciful and spontaneous? Zoe Hubbard at Maison Interiors, shows us how to have fun, recreating this year's 'Whimsical' trend

Be unpredictable

This look is all about diversity; bringing varying tastes together in a capricious way. Think Mad Hatter's Tea Party! Whether contemporary, baroque or retro, if done with the correct balance, anything goes! Be inventive with your colours too. The more spectacular the better. Opt for deep jewel colours like olive, indigo & aubergine and clash and contrast for a fabulously quirky look!

Keep it simple

The backdrop to this style should be stripped right back. Industrial brick and concrete walls work well with this style, or alternatively create your blank canvas using grey/indigo chalk paint. If your home is more traditional, panelling will look great on the walls. Again use a chalk paint but stick to lighter hues, as otherwise it'll be too imposing. Incorporate deeper shades through your furniture, curtains, cushions etc.

Don't be floored

Hard flooring is well suited for this look, as it is clean and simple. For the industrial style, try a painted concrete floor, and for a more traditional design, you can't go wrong with wooden parquet flooring. To add warmth and/or texture, choose a reclaimed Persian rug with a bright pop of colour or alternatively a sheep skin or more contemporary patterned rug. You could even select a couple of different rugs for the same room, try different shapes and sizes until you create a look you love.

Mix and match

The key items of furniture, such as your sofas, should be of one era i.e. a retro sofa or traditional chesterfield in a jewel coloured velvet. Then mix with occasional pieces from another era, such as a Baroque ornate reclaimed dresser, chest or mirror. Remember to throw in a few modern items along the way. A Philippe Starck 'Ghost Chair' works well with this look!

A fanciful twist

For that true whimsical feel, there must be a few quirky pieces here and there. This is the perfect time to use your family heirlooms or special antiques you may have gathered over the years. Old fashioned crockery not only to drink from but hanging from the wall is exactly the kind of random décor I love to see in a 'whimsical' room! If you're new to this style, have fun collecting unusual and imaginative pieces to get you started

Think natural

The Natural world is an imaginative place and bringing the outside in, is another great way to create a surreal surrounding. Soft furnishings, artwork and eccentric decorative pieces featuring birds, bees, butterflies and trees, are extremely popular right now, so there is no better time to add a touch of wit and whimsy to your home style.



Eclectic & vibrant. It's easier than you think!



Dig out some old heirlooms for instant style.

Images: Maison Interiors