



TRAVERSING THE color SPECTRUM

THE THEME AT LAST MONTH'S High

Point furniture market was all about how the home furnishings market collides with the fashion runway. The focus was on making an individual statement and how this statement can be manifested in the home.

This can be exciting and daunting all at once. Colors change slightly each year with a nod to the environment or culture changes to make them seem organic and absolute. But the hidden in all of this change is the push for more sales. What better way to get more sales than to tell you that all of the colors we told you were perfect last year are now all out of date?

Did you ever wonder why all of the runways tend to have similar color palettes? There are some practical reasons for tracking these colors and getting everyone on board to the color schemes. A panel of color experts buy in to join the color marketing group. They meet periodically to pinpoint the changes and direction that color will take in all of the industries. Based on their information, fabrics are designed, lacquers are developed, and the industrial world makes changes so that all of the designs work together two years later when the products arrive in our stores. Individual stores and designers may deviate, however it is no surprise that the pastels that Target showed this past spring worked perfectly with the trends throughout the higher-end clothing markets.

The other practical reason is we tend to miss colors when we haven't seen them in a while. Emerald

green looks so fresh right now that I just smile when I see it show up (I felt the same way about teal two years ago). The 2012 Pantone color of the year was tangerine tango, and the 2013 Pantone colors are the aquatic colors of Monaco blue and emerald green. Benjamin Moore told us last year that the paint color to try was Wythe blue and next year it will be lemon sorbet.

My advice in all of this is to listen to what my mother used to tell me, "Spend more money to have good investment pieces in your wardrobe, and add the trendy fashion look with the use of accessories and smaller items." In your home the investment pieces

are going to be items such as your upholstery pieces, your dining table, or a great hand-knotted rug. The fashion trends can come in the form of a garden stool, a lamp, artwork, pillows, and paint.

Without a doubt, I believe in updating your home and staying fresh. However, I believe that you should dress your home in good investment pieces that you love, and use accessories and small items to add the fashionable flourish. Otherwise, instead of updating every 7-10 years, you will be chasing the fashion frog every year and never be satisfied in your home. Find your style and you will always be in fashion!

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