

That 70's Style

Let's take it back. Cue the mood music: Pat Benatar at a low level, or maybe a little Peter Green era Fleetwood Mac.

The 70's are having a revival, which seemed like a fad at first but has stuck around long enough to gain some serious traction. If you're looking for an interior update, this is a great trend to explore as it lends itself well to a wide range of properties, and will appeal to a variety of guests. The curve-linear style of the 70's also works well as a minimal approach, so you can focus on simple, furniture pieces which are beautifully designed and made, giving your guest spaces a comfortable yet upmarket feel.

The underpinnings of this look are the hues you choose for the walls and floor. With artistic designs and a focus on natural fibres, 70's inspired interiors start with crisp whites layered with beiges and browns. A sand coloured paint such as Resene Antidote is perfect for setting the tone - used on a feature wall; the effect will be modern and

on-trend. Such neutral foundations allow for artworks or selected fabrics to make a statement in unexpected colours.

Furniture options which set the foundation of the look can fall into one of two general looks. 70's style is all about curvature or bold, straight lines. The RD Sofa from Douglas & Bec is an excellent example of straight-lined design, which is minimalist yet fits with the retro aesthetic. Continue the beige and brown theme with upholstery close to Resene Brown Sugar, which ensures that more modern designs stay situated within the aesthetics of the era. Contrast hard lines with soft curves in unexpected places - the legs of a table, or the design of a chair; this will ensure your interior retains the eclectic feel which underlies the retro-inspired vibe. Avoid designs which are overly showy - the key is selecting pieces which are deceptively simple, so the guest does not notice an individual piece, but the atmosphere created.

The finishing touches are room accessories, soft furnishings and art. Cushions in dark, natural tones and linen finishes with unexpected textures are perfect scattered on couches. In colours close

to Resene Cabbage Pont and Resene Bronco the effect is cooling yet earthy. For bedding, layer classic linens in soft tones like Resene Beachcomber, and the effect will be understated and comfortable. Regarding art, there is room to experiment - a cohesive series of sketches by a local artist clustered on a wall will give your interiors a little intrigue and substance. Conversely, large printed or painted canvases in colours which stand out from your colour palette can bring instant energy into a room. If art isn't your cup of tea, a beautiful, modern statement lighting piece with sculptural aspects; this will be functional as well as impressive. Hotel rooms which look good on a guest's Instagram are effectively being given the gift of free marketing, so featuring a piece of statement lighting or art in each room is an expense which will pay for itself. However, concerning patterns, remember to be sparing; a distinctive 70's inspired pattern can quickly look costumey, so subtlety in this area is critical.

For common areas, a record player is a good investment, and it is relatively easy and cheap to amass a good vinyl collection. Otherwise, art books piled on a coffee table will be a welcome distraction for guests. ●

