

HINSDALE LIVING'S

THE 2018 SPRING EDITION

HOME & DESIGN

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A BI-ANNUAL SUPPLEMENT
TO HINSDALE LIVING



STYLE OF OUR OWN



What distinguishes Hinsdale area homes from all the others in the region? We asked leading interior designers for their opinions about hometown style and the hottest trends to watch for this spring.

WORDS BY **SHERRY THOMAS**

OPPOSITE PAGE: Millennial clients are the new influencers in design trends. This living room by The Design Bar reflects the simple yet elegant stylings that mix bold color and texture. **ABOVE:** This bedroom was created for the Timber Trails development in Western Springs by The Design Bar.

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ith a rich architectural legacy and some of the most exclusive properties in the Chicago area, Hinsdale and its surrounding suburbs are a desirable place to call home. But what makes them all so unique is a certain interior design vibe that has evolved to meet the lifestyle of those who live in our towns. While it's hard to define, there are some commonalities that most residents can relate to—comfortable elegance, ample space for entertaining, and modern amenities to enjoy the best of suburban living.

Some are influenced by national trends and the popularity of HGTV and similar shelter-focused social media. Others are uniquely Hinsdale. As part of our Spring 2018 *Hinsdale Living Home & Design* edition, we surveyed leading local interior designers about trends they are seeing in their projects—and what homeowners can expect to see in the year ahead.

“I think the lifestyle and climate here creates a need for more intimacy in the home. Most homes here are styled for not only entertaining, but casual living,” says Leslie Bowman of The Design Bar in Clarendon Hills. “I think because of the long winter months, clients want to feel comfortable in their homes and not have to fuss too much. Life is busy enough and when clients return home, they want to feel relaxed.”



Michelle Linn of Michelle Linn Interiors created this girl's bedroom for a client in Hinsdale. "It is fun and bright but sophisticated enough to carry her thru her teenage years," says Linn. The window treatment, headboard, and pillows are by Michelle Linn Design. The wallpaper, lamp, and side table were all purchased from the Merchandise Mart. PHOTO COURTESY OF Meghan Leigh Photography.



The kitchen designed by The Design Bar in this home built by McNaughton Brothers Construction embodies all the latest design trends. “It has a beautiful French blue for the perimeter that we highlighted by encasing in in French blue paneling and then we did a more traditional white island. We designed a whole wall of floor to ceiling cabinetry that had floating shelves on tile background,” says Design Director Leslie Bowman.

It’s a Midwest thing, but it’s also a Hinsdale thing.

Another local interior designer, Michelle Linn, says this more relaxed, pared-down look is part of the reality of living in our area. “The farmhouse style has absolutely taken off in this town,” she explains. “People like the open floor plan and the family-friendly feel of this style. It’s informal and I think it’s part of a trend toward a more casual way of living. People are forgoing the formal dining rooms for the big farm table. They’re passing up the fancy, uncomfortable furniture and designing living rooms that are meant to be lived in.”

The result of this trend is evident everywhere—with cool, neutral colors, open floor plans, and rooms that serve multiple purposes. However, Janet Linly of Linly Designs cautions that residents of this area need to be more respectful to local architecture and tradition.

“Most of the new homes or homes that are being renovated follow the same trend. This has taken over many parts of the area. But Hinsdale has a reputation of being royal and grand in its architecture, with unique and beautiful dramatic interiors, so the trend of neutral colors and clean lines contradicts the history of the village.

What we do well at Linly Designs is enhance and complement not only the architecture but the lifestyle of our clients and the community by creating classic, timeless spaces that stand the test of time, yet are still updated.”

One demographic that impacts the interior design trends in Hinsdale as well as the rest of the country is the latest crew of influencers—millennial homebuyers who are tech savvy and budget-conscious.

“I feel like millennials tend to be more visual in nature and into technology a bit more than other generations,” says Bowman. “I think because of this visual aspect we have seen a rise in Instagram versus any other social platform for looking at design trends and design inspirations with our clients.”

A photo on Pinterest or Instagram is worth a thousand words, she explains. However, this new visual focus on trend spotting has also opened up opportunities to be more visual and bold with color and pattern.

“Even though most homes are still traditionally neutral in paint colors, we see in the area here more clients willing to take some



Lighting adds to the landscape in this kitchen by The Design Bar, which also reflects the latest trend of mixing cabinet finishes and colors.

risks and use great textural wall coverings and more vibrant colors in a room here or there," Bowman adds. "I also see clients here willing to take a bit more risk on furniture. We often throw in a brightly colored chair with interesting details to balance out the neutrals of the space and they also tend to not be afraid to use patterns in textiles and carpeting. It's not your Grandma's chair or wallpaper anymore, that's for sure."

While millennial tastes are driving the popularity of Mid-Century Modern touches and affordable brands such as West Elm, cb2, and even Target, Linn says other factors are at play in the Hinsdale market.

"Square footage is a premium in this town," says Linn. "And when space is that precious, you need to use what you have and use all of it. Plus, in our climate, you spend a lot of time indoors. I think both factors contribute to a trend toward multifunctional design. I see a lot of dual-purpose rooms—like a den that also houses a home office, or a sitting room that has game tables. People want to get the most out of their space."

And while it may make sense to follow trends, sometimes it's best to follow your heart.

At Linly Designs, for example, the focus is more on creating timeless looks that reflect the community.

"From our experience, creating spaces like this that are trendy or minimalistic often leads to the client coming back so that we can add in those special touches to create the warm, inviting environment that they were missing," says Linly. "This modern style fits in perfectly inside your downtown penthouse but in the suburbs, it doesn't translate so well. Therefore, we work with our clients to create a cohesive design that not only fits with their lifestyle, but also with the home's details and architecture."

Maura Braun of Maura Brown Interiors agrees. "Hinsdale is a community that focuses on quality over quantity and whether that is a La Cornue range from France or a copper Japanese soaking tub from Diamond Spas, they're willing to invest in top quality to live a luxurious lifestyle. So, it's not as much about design style as it is about lifestyle."