

Forward thinking

Esquire's resident design expert
Cyril Zammit on next year's trends
that will shape your home (and life)



PHOTOGRAPHY BY ABDULLAH TOUK

For many of us the summer is a natural break in annual proceedings. A moment to unplug, recharge and take stock on the year, before gearing up for the relentless pace of the oncoming 'busy season.'

The design world is particularly busy post-summer with September welcoming back Salone del Mobile in Milan alongside other physical events in Paris, Helsinki, Copenhagen, Shanghai, Seoul, London and Vienna. From October the eyes of the world then turn to the UAE with the start of Expo2020, with Dubai Design Week returning in full the following month. It may only be July, but, before you know it, we'll soon be talking about 2021 in the past tense.

With that in mind, let's take a moment to project what 2022 is likely have in store for us.

I recently took part as a judge at the 'Emirati Futurism Award' organised by Dubai Future Foundation and Dubai Culture. Despite the tendency to focus on the evolution of technology, when looking at the design entries, it was actually the low-tech projects that I enjoyed the most, as that is what I believe we witnessed over the past 12 months. Multi-functionality grew in importance with our homes becoming offices, and we rediscovered just how important the social element of our existence is. We slowed down and found out that we liked it, and it made us start to readdress our priorities. As we see great signs of recovery worldwide, there is a hope that we can (re)build our lives in a more sustainable manner. Analysts are predicting that this trend will become a main component for the decade ahead.

Funny enough, in product design—beside using more sustainable, upcycled or recycled materials—the trend is retro and vintage with repairing iconic pieces. New creations merge new technology into familiar, friendly and pure shapes. If marble remains strong, leave it in the bathroom and concentrate on warm natural colours in your home. Metallic touches will be present with copper, zinc and some brass around—but the latter is slowly fading.

Curves will make a return because they welcome us into a cosy room filled with comfortable chairs, and sofas where you can plunge and feel safe in your sanctuary.

Finally, when it comes to 2022, the colours will reflect our need for safety and comfort with shades from buttercream, military gold, sheepskin and natural brown to green quartz and sunflower. What works with colours, works with life. Albert Einstein said it once: "Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving". Onwards and upwards, I say. 🚲

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