



Design Trend Index

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Presented by:

Interface®

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Interface design experts list the top interior design trends at the mid-year mark following NeoCon 2022. The following trends center around one theme – design is increasingly people-focused. While this has always been a tenet of good design, the world-changing events of the past two years have resulted in a heightened need for spaces that adapt to us rather than the other way around.

Let's take a closer look.

Trend | 1

Creating Calm

After the stress of the pandemic, we could all use a little tranquility in our lives. And we see this need for quieter, calming spaces reflected in design choices. The severe lines and bold, cool colors of the 2010s have been phased out and replaced with warmer hues paired with softer, curving shapes as designers aim for more serenity and less anxiety.

Wood tones, soft pastels, and nature-influenced tones like moss greens and saturated reds will dominate the coming seasons. Rounded shapes will be in everything from floor and wall coverings to the silhouettes of furniture.

Even designs with the appearance of sharper edges and lines will have a softness to them. Take our [Rising Signs™ collection](#), for example. Upon closer inspection, patterns that appear as hard angles are actually composed of dots and softer shapes.



NeoCon Trend:

Aligned with creating calming spaces and a dominant byproduct of the work-from-home experience, we saw a growing trend toward relaxed comfort at NeoCon. This included quilted fabrics and padded forms with curved organic lines that brought a softness to spaces and will make waves this season.



Creating Calm

Trend | 2

Biophilic Design is Better

When COVID arrived, a heightened awareness of mental and physical health came with it. Employers scrambled to create environments that allowed for social distancing, and therapists saw a steep rise in patients as the unknown resulted in fear and anxiety for all.

With this awareness, we saw more people integrating elements of biophilic design in commercial spaces. Biophilic design is defined as connecting humans to nature by incorporating natural elements into a space, but in practice, it goes far beyond that. Studies have shown that implementing biophilic design elements, such as natural light, outdoor views, natural materials, and fresh air, positively impact mental and physical health.

Interiors products can also bring a biophilic perspective to a space, like our Beaumont Range™ and Fresco Valley™ collections, through the use of pattern, color, and texture, mimicking natural elements like the forest floor, granite mountains, or ripples of water.

As we've navigated our way through the pandemic, we continue to see a consistent use of biophilic design and predict this trend will continue for years to come as caring for our health and wellbeing becomes an even greater focus.



NeoCon Trend:

As an extension of the emphasis on biophilic design, a focus on nature-inspired elements continues to grow. New knotted and woven textures like macrame took the stage at NeoCon, pushing the trend of organic textures further into the spotlight. The outdoors truly found a way in this year, with popular designs featuring extra-large repeats and large fields of varied textures to bring nature's randomness to interior spaces.



Biophilic Design is Better

Trend | 3

Flexible Design

The “will they or won’t they return to the office full-time” debate stretches on, but regardless of a company’s work-from-home policy, how we live and work is undoubtedly changed.

Spaces, both at home and in the office, will continue to become more flexible and adaptable – leaning into a human-centered approach. Offices will have layouts that can accommodate 20% of the workforce just as easily as 100%. And, according to a [recent study](#), the acoustic, textural, and visual qualities of materials, furniture, and lighting selections should be informed by the actual people using the space to achieve cognitive and sensory wellbeing. Layouts should support space-specific needs through modular and mobile furniture, color usage, and flexible flooring solutions.

These were changes that we incorporated in the [redesign of Base Camp](#), our corporate headquarters, when making plans for our return-to-office at Interface.

People are also updating their home office spaces to be equally flexible and transformable to meet changing needs. This means creating areas that can serve multiple purposes – such as a space for work where you can also workout. Carpet tiles are a great solution for defining these spaces.



NeoCon Trend:

It's no surprise NeoCon showcased how residential influences can be used to transform office settings into inviting environments that also emphasize social distancing and remote-work strategies. This was seen through richer textures and products that bring elements of the home – like comfort – into the workspace.



Flexible Design

Trend | 4

Return of Retro

“What’s old is new again” is a common theme in design, from fashion to interiors to music. This is due in part because our brains are wired for nostalgia. [Research](#) shows that nostalgia activates the reward center of our brains, bringing back good feelings when we think back to a happier time. It’s also shown to be a frequent tool for coping with stress and navigating uncertainty – kind of like the past two years.

Perhaps this is why retro design trends have come back in such a big way, from the wood-paneled excess of the ‘70s to the soft pastel palettes of the ‘80s and the bold, eclectic patterns of the ‘90s. In addition to the warm fuzzy feelings of nostalgia, these specific trends include many of the calming, natural elements mentioned earlier.

Lockdown may have caused this round of nostalgic trends to be a bit bolder than previous cycles. With nowhere to go and plenty of time on their hands, people often turned their attention to redecorating as a way to control their environment and introduce change.



NeoCon Trend:

Seen as an emerging fashion trend over the last year, checkerboard print was also a dominate design feature at NeoCon. Instead of high-contrast checkerboards, we saw tonal patterns, like warm shades of eggnog.



Return of Retro

Trend | 5

Innovating Sustainability

There is a growing interest in sustainability as the impacts of climate change become more and more visible in our world. The [National Retail Federation](#) reported that 57% of consumers are willing to change their purchasing behavior to help reduce negative environmental impacts. The number of companies that made [net-zero commitments](#) grew from covering 16% of the global economy in 2019 to 70% by 2021.

People are expanding their scope of sustainability beyond their use of products and looking into their origins and disposal. How is a material manufactured? Are the resources sustainable? How often will it need to be replaced? These questions are asked more frequently as the threat of climate change grows larger in our collective consciousness.

The response to these demands has led to a wave of innovation across the design industry as we seek to find more sustainable ways to create our spaces. Some companies are researching the uses of [mycelium](#), a compound derived from mushrooms, to make plastic alternatives. Other manufacturers are using recycled plastic to create [sustainable versions of terrazzo](#), a common stone composite in design.

At Interface, we increased the amount of bio-based and recycled materials used in many of our products and last year launched the first [carbon negative carpet tile](#). We've since expanded this innovation to residential spaces, introducing [carbon negative area rugs](#) through our consumer-facing brand, FLOR.



NeoCon Trend:

Making a positive impact on people and the planet continues to be a top priority for the A&D industry. NeoCon brought together forward-thinking companies and organizations to showcase innovative products, initiatives, and resources to help achieve sustainability goals and advance our collective effort to reverse global warming. For example, [materialsCAN](#) aims to improve embodied carbon awareness.



Innovating Sustainability

Often, trends are viewed as things to react to, rather than the results of reaction. But the trends we are witnessing this year have been shaped by a period of enormous change and self-reflection. They are reflections of our need for comfort, our desire for flexibility, and our greater understanding of our impact on the world around us.

To read further design insights from our Interface design experts, visit [Human Spaces](#), [Interface.com](#), or [FLOR.com](#).