HOME DESIGN – THE PLEASURE AND COMFORT OF SHELTER

There’s nothing like a Parade of Homes to inspire fresh ideas in décor. It could be just a small vignette that entices us to take a look at what’s hot – and what’s NOT. Maybe you’re ready to embrace the deep oranges of an autumn sunset, or move to the liquid blues of a mountain stream. Perhaps the pure innocence of white thrills your heartstrings, or perhaps you’re ready for a shot of turquoise opulence or psychic royal purple.

Whether you’re exploring design styles or inventing your own, our designed spaces need to grow as we grow, and change as we navigate our own life cycles. With color, an interesting mix of finishes and textures, and the pieces that tell our own stories, we push our homes past the basic boards and stones of building to a designed space that welcomes and embraces, that says, “this is My Home, like no other in all the world!”

At the HBASC, we have members who specialize in design and décor, and you will see some of their work as you tour the 2013 Parade of Homes. Three designers were willing to share their insights on current decorating and design trends in Durango’s very unique market. Here is what Sarah Sumner of Fusion Interiors, Susanne Brozovich of Aaron Thomas Interiors, and Tess Jordan of Jordan Design Consulting have to share with you...

Q: So many decorating fads date a home. In your work, what design and decorating trends have you seen that have an enduring, timeless appeal?

Brozovich: The most important element in a home is a piece or finish that the homeowner is drawn to on an emotional level. If the client loves the piece, it becomes enduring, and it says “home” to them. It’s all about the humans. Discovering exactly what the client loves, and integrating that feeling into the design lasts because it hits the emotional target.

Jordan: So much of what we are attracted to in Durango comes from maximizing the mountain views and capturing a bit of nature. Even in more contemporary design contexts, we are always pulling in natural colors and rich textures that root a home in this environment. In so many ways, that keeps the Durango/Mountain aesthetic more timeless.

Sumner: Anything that relates to the region is timeless, and things from nature never go out of style. These natural elements such as the stone sourced from this area pulls in the coppers, dark browns and golds that speak of rest and recovery. Nature makes people feel good.

continued on page 51
Q: What is your best source for great design ideas? How do you come up with original ideas?

Jordan: I pull ideas from everywhere. I am constantly studying and exploring materials and details – anything from airplanes to pinecones. Anything from super-contemporary New York apartments to tree houses can be inspiring for any project. As an abstract painter, my art is all about exploring colors and playing with textures.

Sumner: One of the many places I find my inspiration is out in nature – where I can meditate and let the brain rest. When I let go of trying to force something, then creativity flows. Sometimes I even dream a design. I attend National Designer Shows and also use Houzz.com and Olioboard.com – a tool for arranging furnishings. You can do quite a bit with the free version.

Brozovich: I love to visit Parades of Homes in other cities like Oklahoma City or St. George, Utah, for fresh takes. It sometimes helps, too, to see what doesn’t work. I can wake up out of a dead sleep with a new design solution. The people I work with are so inspiring in themselves.

Q: What is fresh and exciting in your business right now?

Sumner: Combining the elements of steel and rock takes the traditional mountain rustic aesthetic so much further. I am seeing more contemporary designs as a whole, such as rock fireplaces with steel panels. C-channel stair supports, glue-lam stair treads and cable rail; anything that integrates the outside with the inside works so well.

Brozovich: The new neutral is grey, from the warm silvers to the taupe greys that transition from brown. We are seeing turquoises and purples in the whole spectrum, sometimes in a monochromatic scheme or just a pop of color. In the trend toward grey, we see a desire for a fresh, clean crispness that we lost in all the muddled browns. White kitchens are being driven by the same feelings – a desire for cleanliness and simplicity. Overall, I see more simplified color schemes and scaled back accessories. And an emphasis on lighting schemes with the new LED bulbs.

Brozovich: Any element can become a trend. It might be something as simple and elegant as a leather-wrapped sand cast door handle. The key in the movement toward simplicity is to find that one article, that one finish that is the outstanding signature piece and memory point.

Q: Do you see any design or color trends developing for fall?

Sumner: Combining the elements of steel and rock takes the traditional mountain rustic aesthetic so much further. I am seeing more contemporary designs as a whole, such as rock fireplaces with steel panels. C-channel stair supports, glue-lam stair treads and cable rail; anything that integrates the outside with the inside works so well.

Brozovich: I love to visit Parades of Homes in other cities like Oklahoma City or St. George, Utah, for fresh takes. It sometimes helps, too, to see what doesn’t work. I can wake up out of a dead sleep with a new design solution. The people I work with are so inspiring in themselves.

Q: Do you see any design or color trends developing for fall?

Sumner: Combining the elements of steel and rock takes the traditional mountain rustic aesthetic so much further. I am seeing more contemporary designs as a whole, such as rock fireplaces with steel panels. C-channel stair supports, glue-lam stair treads and cable rail; anything that integrates the outside with the inside works so well.

Jordan: Painted cabinets are back, which is fun. I am loving the stained wood floors in grey and white-washed tones – that soft, old European feel. Monochrome spaces that are rich in texture just sing.

Brozovich: The new neutral is grey, from the warm silvers to the taupe greys that transition from brown. We are seeing turquoises and purples in the whole spectrum, sometimes in a monochromatic scheme or just a pop of color. In the trend toward grey, we see a desire for a fresh, clean crispness that we lost in all the muddled browns. White kitchens are being driven by the same feelings – a desire for cleanliness and simplicity. Overall, I see more simplified color schemes and scaled back accessories. And an emphasis on lighting schemes with the new LED bulbs.

Sumner: Combining the elements of steel and rock takes the traditional mountain rustic aesthetic so much further. I am seeing more contemporary designs as a whole, such as rock fireplaces with steel panels. C-channel stair supports, glue-lam stair treads and cable rail; anything that integrates the outside with the inside works so well.

Brozovich: I love to visit Parades of Homes in other cities like Oklahoma City or St. George, Utah, for fresh takes. It sometimes helps, too, to see what doesn’t work. I can wake up out of a dead sleep with a new design solution. The people I work with are so inspiring in themselves.