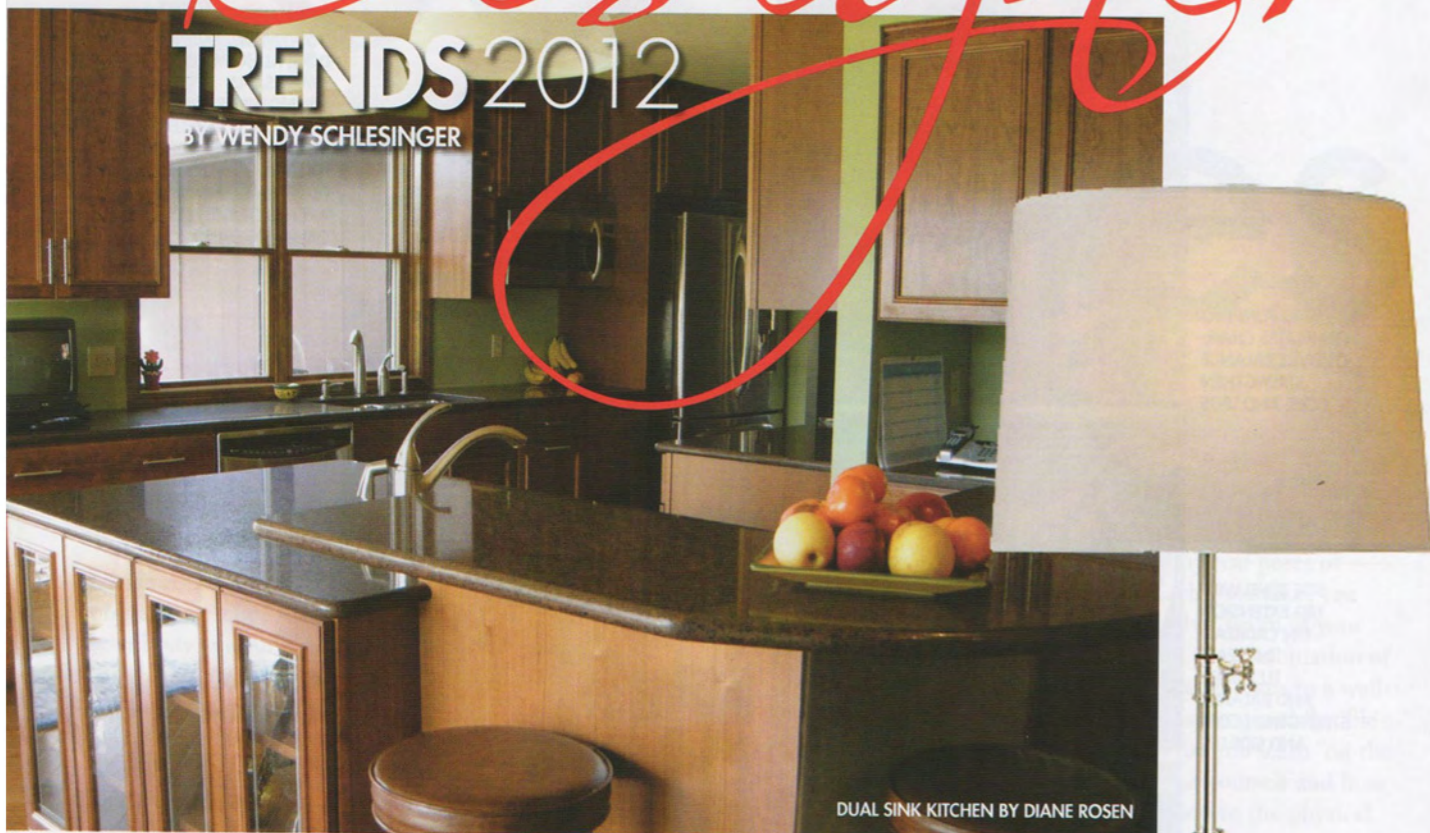


Designer

TRENDS 2012

BY WENDY SCHLESINGER

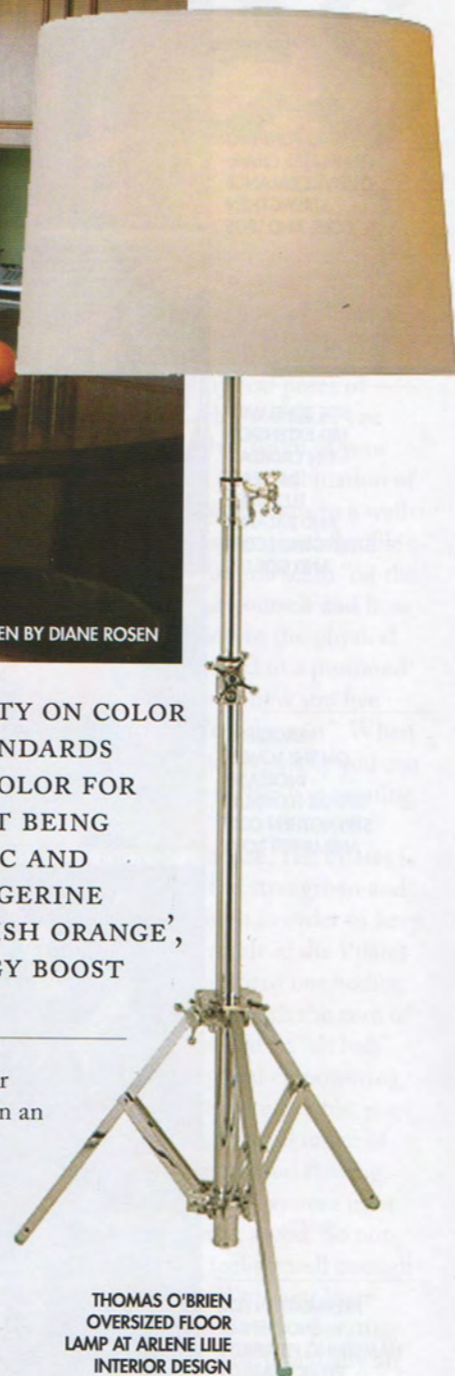


DUAL SINK KITCHEN BY DIANE ROSEN

EVERY YEAR PANTONE, THE GLOBAL AUTHORITY ON COLOR AND PROVIDER OF PROFESSIONAL COLOR STANDARDS FOR THE DESIGN INDUSTRIES, SELECTS ITS COLOR FOR THE YEAR. THIS YEAR'S SELECTION, AIMED AT BEING AN ANTIDOTE FOR THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE, IS PANTONE 17-1463 "TANGERINE TANGO". DESCRIBED BY PANTONE AS "A SPIRITED REDDISH ORANGE", TANGERINE TANGO 'CONTINUES TO PROVIDE THE ENERGY BOOST WE NEED TO RECHARGE AND MOVE FORWARD.'

For some, Tangerine - Tango or otherwise - might be a bit too much for your interior but Teddy Karl of the Ladue design firm, The Great Cover Up, has seen an increased use of color among his clients over the past several years. "People aren't afraid of color anymore." It's also easy to add in little pops here and there to get used to the idea slowly. His one-of-a-kind pillows that he personally makes by hand are a great beginner step to adding color for those who may be a leery of changing an entire room.

A big trend he sees, which adds both color and texture, is the return of wallpaper. For many years it used to be just high-end residences that were incorporating it into their decorating scheme but "it's cycled around" Karl says. "Wallpaper is definitely trending again and in the mainstream, not just upscale."



THOMAS O'BRIEN
OVERSIZED FLOOR
LAMP AT ARLENE LILIE
INTERIOR DESIGN

Karl adds "grasscloth is still huge, as it has been in the past" but more and more people are enjoying the patterns and textures wallpaper adds to achieve a layered look.

Wallpaper holds several other benefits as well. Several years ago, when HGTV was hitting big and the do-it-yourself trend had people trying to create their own wall treatments and faux finishes, you'd often find a room with four different effects. Not intentionally, but it took three walls to figure out how to master the technique. Wallpaper solves that problem by giving a uniform predictability for the entire room while still adding texture. It's also more wipeable than a flat finish paint and doesn't fade. And, lest you've tried to strip your grandmother's antique rose paper bit by tiny bit until you just decided to paint over it, fear not, today's papers are much more easily removed.

Perhaps more importantly though, Karl explains "It's more accessible [than it had been] and some are not as expensive as before." Manufacturers have also made it easier for clients to select wallpapers. It used to be designers would have to lug out several huge books to show the client, or you'd have to imagine for yourself what an entire room would look like. Karl explains "Thibaut, our largest selling line, shows a picture of the pattern and all the colors it comes in" so it's much easier to envision your room.

Hunter Douglas, the window coverings manufacturer, has also streamlined the way their books work so it's easier for a client to understand their options. Their big trend is the return of bamboo woven wood blinds. Karl describes them as ones "like back in the seventies but they're modernized and back in full force again."

Another big trend for the coming year is menswear inspired looks. Ralph Lauren, Giorgio Armani and Andrew Morgan have all turned their attention to interiors. Think tweeds in camel and cigar brown, leather, flannel, hounds tooth prints and pinstripes. Ralph Lauren's Haberdashery line includes furniture, bedding, lighting, rugs, wall coverings and even dinnerware in herringbone or glen plaid. The "Gentlemen's Lounge" inspiration acts as a solid backdrop for a variety of decors and

while currently trending, is trend-resistant in it's classic, timeless appeal.

The biggest trend Karl sees overall however is that people aren't moving. Instead he's seeing more new updating. HGTV decorator Lori Dennis reiterates this in her trend watch for 2012 where she says McMansions are out, the use of quality materials in smaller spaces is in.

This is never more apparent than in the most functional room of the house - the kitchen. Diane Rosen of Diane Rosen Interiors says "The trend has been to have more convenience - warming ovens, wine coolers and a separate ice compartment in the wine fridge." Wine coolers are especially popular because they come in so many shapes and sizes.

In addition to trend-setting appliances, she's seen a trend in the overall kitchen design as well. "We're still maintaining an open large island. I think the island is here to stay so you can prep and visit at the same time" says Rosen. But more and more she's designing kitchens with two separate sink areas, one for cleaning and one for prep work. She says "I definitely like a prep sink and a utilities style sink, even in smaller suburban homes because it's much more user friendly. You can prep on one side and chat on the other side." Overall,

Rosen says "People want luxury touches, with convenience."

Another way of updating and modernizing your existing space is utilizing "oversized" items in your design. Arlene Lilie, of Arlene Lilie Interior Design says

"the trend I see, and it's been happening for a while and it's continuing, is the use of large scale." This could be a large scale pattern in a wallpaper or fabric, or oversized mirrors, windows, artwork or floor lamps for example. She says "It's a good way to easily update a room, especially if you don't have a lot of money."

ABOVE:
PANTONE'S 2012
COLOR OF THE
YEAR "TANGERINE
TANGO"

LEFT: RUSSELL
YOUNG LIMITED
EDITION ARTWORK
WITH LEATHER
SLIPCOVER COUCH
AT ARLENE LILIE
INTERIOR DESIGN

