

Create an opulent home by incorporating gold items in your decor

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How to use *Luxurious Gold* Accents in Decor





DECOR

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Gold is often associated with wealth, opulence and prestige. Who can forget the Greek myth of King Midas who turned everything he touched into gold? A sign of nobility and social status, gold adorned the hallways and ballrooms of royalty in a bygone era ruled by excess and lavishness. And while the superfluous trend of more is more has somewhat died down in the decor world, one that will always remain is gold, albeit it in a more restrained accent.

While writing for RASM, an online curator of luxury decor items, Mariya Collins made an interesting observation on why the gold trend shows no signs of abating, stating that 'its warm, lustrous glow adds a touch of sophistication and luxury to any space'. But there are so many ways of getting it wrong. Incorporating the trend into your living space may prove a bit tricky, with the results being ostentatious and garish.

In 2020, Canadian rapper Drake invited *Architectural Digest* into his newly-built Toronto home called The Embassy. With famed interior designer and architect Ferris Rafauli helming the project, the two envisioned a mansion wielding 'old-world craftsmanship, bronze and exotic woods', using Beaux Arts architecture as the inspiration.

For one to understand the design process, you need to take a closer look at Rafauli's impressive CV. According to his website, he's won multiple awards



'MAXIMALIST BOLD COLOURS ARE ONE OF THE BIGGEST DECOR TRENDS'

In a case of when too much is too much, this was definitely the overwhelming extreme. So, how do you strike a balance to ensure your living space doesn't come off looking like a prop from *Scarface*?

LESS IS ALWAYS MORE

Cape Town-based interior designer Kim Williams believes the rise of maximalist bold colours are one of the biggest decor trends for this year. The creative behavioural strategist and author's official Instagram page (@kim_williams_design) provides much inspiration for those who want to infuse a sense of glamour into a calm yet welcoming space.

For one design project, Kim transformed a client's home into a luxurious sanctuary by combining gold light fixtures and sconces with a simple grey colour palette.

and 'creates and designs ultra-luxury dwellings and lifestyle creations for an elite clientele worldwide'.

Keeping this little old fact in mind, the finished product is what one could only describe as extravagance on steroids. Whether Rafauli indulged the rapper's every whim remains questionable, but what was evident was great big columns of marble, brass and all those gold accents, which happened to be the dominating feature.





'We underestimate how our environment influences behaviour and emotion. Having an attractive aesthetic stimulates positive emotions,' she mulls in a recent IG post.

A gold-plated chandelier may appear out of place and tacky in a small home, but if you have high or vaulted ceilings, it can instantly turn an otherwise boring space into an opulent abode, suggests Mariya.

GO FOR GOLD

When using an accent wall, opt for a softer shimmer of gold. Thanks to clever innovations, wallpaper now comes in different textures and patterns. Have fun with a whimsical Baroque or geometric design to make a bold statement in your living room

'GREAT DESIGN TAPS INTO THE PSYCHE OF PEOPLE, ELEVATING THE EXPERIENCE'

or bedroom. To make the wall the focal point of the room, place an oversized armchair or sideboard cabinet against it.

IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS THAT COUNT

The key to incorporating gold accents is to practise restraint. And, depending on your decor style, ask yourself if you want to use the trend in moderation or excessively. If you're still undecided, Mariya has some clever tricks to ease you in, including 'a simple gilded picture frame or intricate gilded mouldings'. Why not invest in gold throw pillows for your couch? The contrasting tones provide the perfect balance between form and function.

LUXURIOUS COLOUR COMBINATIONS

One of the few things Drake got right with his monolithic mansion was the combination of black and gold as the overriding colour theme. The marriage of the bold and masculine tones exudes a certain type of refined elegance that does not feel forced or over the top, and evokes a certain kind of emotion. Incorporating it into your home can be as easy as placing a geometric black and gold rug in your living room, or

pairing black bedside lamps with gold underlays with a luxurious velvet headboard for an art deco-inspired aesthetic, proposes *My Design Agenda*.

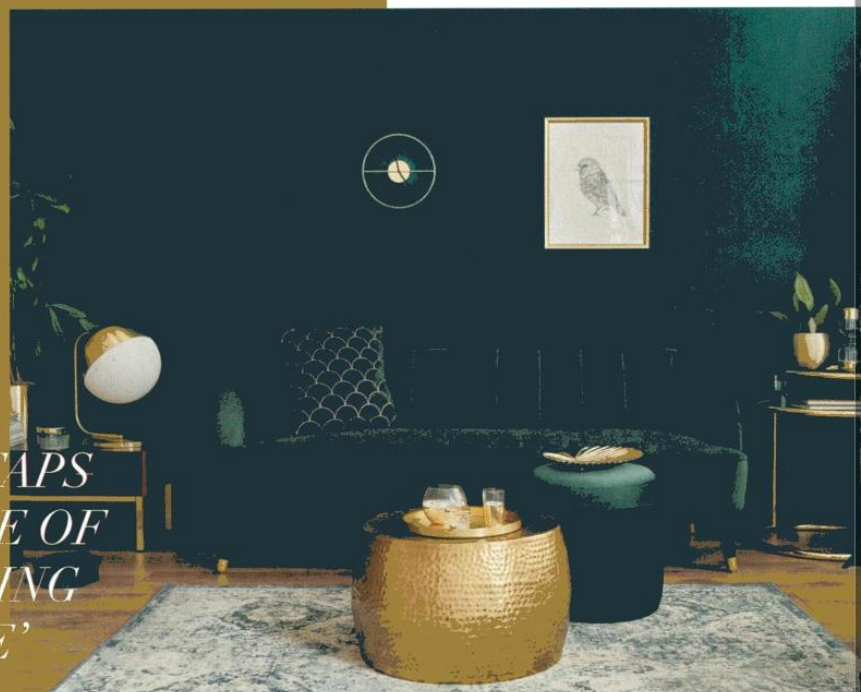
Another interesting colourway is gold and green. 'Gold – the ultimate symbol of luxury – acts as the (very glamorous) neutral counterpart to lush green tones in just about everything,' writes interiors director Linda Holmes for *The Luxurist*. According to Linda, when mixing this colour palette, it's important to note that deep green tones work better with warm, metallic colours to ensure 'the end outcome is one of pure luxury'.

When going with seating, she also suggests using green as the main fabric and matte or brushed gold as the base or accent colour.

For a well-polished effect, 'play with mottled, hammered, woven, enamelled and burnished textures in contrast to glossy finishes,' she advises.

Finally, when in doubt, don't be scared to ask a professional for help.

As Kim says: 'Great design taps into the psyche of people, elevating their experience, thinking and sensing within their interiors, with the express intention of positively impacting their quality of life – at work, home or play.'



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