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# Interior Design Trends

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# Interior Design Trends



## Four Designers Speak to Four Trends

**In a world where** bedrooms became offices, living rooms became gyms, and kitchens became restaurants, it's difficult to look around our home and not want to give it some extra love and attention. If you're ready to revamp your space and refresh your surroundings, redesigning a room is a perfect solution. To help you get started, we spoke to four designers about their current obsessions. Whether it's replacing a bright white room with deeper colors or designing an outdoor space that feels as inviting as your living room, let these pages guide your next big redesign. **BECKY MANDELBAUM**

Photo by Stella Say

# Turn It Inside Out: Creating Outdoor Spaces



Photo by Aaron Leitz

## Trend Spotlight

Now more than ever, outdoor rooms are the new indoor rooms! They extend the usable space of your home, offering more options, more space, and a totally different living experience. Thinking about outdoor rooms is my favorite, because I love the outdoors and feel it restores me. I know I'm not alone. As humans, we should all be outside more, breathing fresh air and feeling the sun on our skin. It's healthy for us, and it makes us happy. Creating or improving an outdoor space is about more than adding value to your home—though it does this, too. It's about improving your environment, making your life better.

## Must-Haves

- 1 **Nerissa Concrete 38" Round Propane Fire Pit Table from Pottery Barn**



- 2 **Oscar Lounge Chair from Brown Jordan**



- 3 **34 x 50" Rectangle Fire Table from Brown Jordan**



Photo by Andrew Giammarco. Art by Joyce Gehtl via Patricia Revzar Gallery.

## Words of Advice

When designing an outdoor room, I design just as I would for an indoor room, except every element needs to have extra durability and cleanability. I'm pretty pragmatic, and when it comes to the Pacific Northwest, we all know the weather can get pretty gross. Things get wet, they get ruined. So it's important to just work with our environment and be realistic about what will work and what won't. (That's why I think outdoor rugs are a bad idea in this area.) I also hate throw-away culture, and when people buy non-durable outdoor furniture, they eventually have to throw it away and buy replacements.

When it comes to creating an outdoor space you want to spend time in, it's important to actually accessorize, the same way you would with an indoor room. When you think about those swoon-worthy photos you see in magazines, they've accessorized, and it's more than just string lights and candles. You want multiple layers of lighting and art.

Another necessary element in any outdoor room, especially here in the Pacific Northwest, is flame and fire. It's such a human experience to be around a fire...it's primal. This is your cave. It goes back to that deep part of your brain; you need flame and fire. Not only will it provide warmth, extending the usability of the outdoor room into the evening, but it will also provide a layer of light and a beautiful focus. This may be a fireplace, fire bowl, fire table, or an array of candles.

Photo by Talitha Bullock



*"Creating or improving an outdoor space is about more than adding value to your home."*

## Meet the Designer: Colleen Knowles

**Colleen Knowles**, one of the Pacific Northwest's leading luxury residential designers, is known for the exceptional service and the unique interiors she provides to prominent homeowners in the Pacific Northwest, including the greater Seattle area, the San Juan Islands, and Suncadia.

A full-service custom designer, Knowles has worked on primary and secondary homes for clients over her 30+ year career. She has won service as well as design awards, and more than 90% of her work comes from referrals.

Her clients describe her as "extremely creative," "exceptionally organized," "amazing to work with," and "the perfect blend of 'interior designer' and 'architectural designer.'" Some of her client relationships date back 10 years, and she has worked with different generations of the same family.

Through her firm, Colleen Knowles Interior Design, Colleen helps clients improve their lifestyles by enhancing the look, comfort, and functionality of their homes. One of the firm's specialties is helping clients include original art in their project or add to their art collections. *Colleen Knowles Interior Design, 9311 SE 36th St., Ste. 103, Mercer Island, 206.399.2232, colleenknowles.com*

## Where to Shop

First: every art gallery in Western Washington! I think it is so important to purchase as many original, creative, one-of-a-kind authentic selections as you can (Editor's note, see p.60 for more thoughts on buying original art). For everything else: Epic Antique in Seattle is a real gem for our area. Auda Sinda Rugs in Bellingham. Driscoll Robbins Rugs and Turabi Rugs in South Seattle. Abnormals Anonymous wallpaper Bainbridge Island. Inform Interiors in Seattle and Vancouver. Modern Classics furniture Bellingham. Schoolhouse in Portland. Honeychurch Antiques in Mount Vernon.



Photo by John Granen

# More from Colleen Knowles

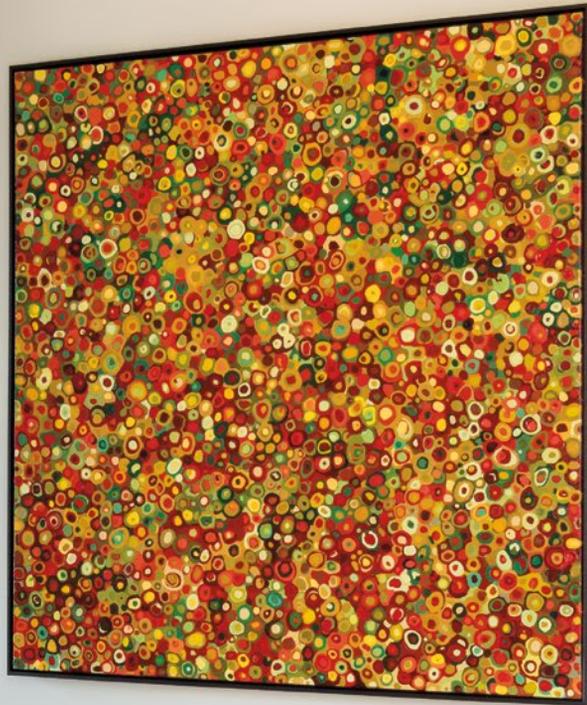


Photo by Aaron Leitz. Art by Yvette Neumann.

## The Importance of Buying Original Art

**A**NOTHER THING Knowles can't stress enough is the importance of buying unique, original artwork. She encourages her clients to shop for original art just like they would shop for anything else.

"You simply walk into a gallery and get inquisitive. Ask lots of questions, learn, and don't be afraid to ask the price. It's not chichi, it keeps artists going," she says.

Knowles sees that many people are afraid to buy art because they worry they don't know enough to make a proper selection.

"People think they don't buy enough original art...but it's not because they don't think it's important, I find it's because they are intimidated and wonder if they are knowledgeable enough, or assume it will be too expensive. They don't want to look stupid."

There's no such thing as stupid when it comes to trusting your own aesthetic. What appeals to you? What do you find beautiful? What brings you meaning? These are all you need to know when deciding what art to put in your home. Remember to also think broadly. Original art can mean a painting, ceramics, a tapestry, rug, glasswork, or sculpture. Whatever draws you in or moves you. Also, simply placing an item on a plain white sculpture pedestal is an underused interior design device.

If you look at some of Knowles' projects, art is often at the center of the room. Not only does it tie everything together, but it also gives the room a unique character it would not otherwise have. To display original art is to create a one-of-a-kind space that speaks to who you are as an individual—what you like, what you believe in, how you want to feel in your home.

In other words: it's worth putting in the time and effort to shop for original art to add to your home.



Photo by John Gramen



Photo by Andrew Giammarco. Art by Julie Sanchez.

## Go Big or Don't Go Home

**A**CCLAIMED INTERIOR DESIGNER Colleen Knowles has a theory about what makes us fall in love with a room.

“Our feelings about our home are very primal...our home is our cave. It’s where we want to raise and protect our family. It’s a very deep part of the brain.”

When we feel good about our cave, we feel good about our life, and who we are. We feel safe, comfortable, and protected, which puts us at ease.

“When you get to the deeper meaning,” she says, “that’s when it feels right.”

And yet, when it comes to designing our cave, many of us fail to get that feeling we’re looking for—the feeling that we absolutely love our surroundings.

Knowles has a few ideas about why this happens. Namely, it’s fear of making a mistake. She notes that clients often focus too much on things like resale and timelessness, rather than choosing selections that truly delight them. Most often, people regret not getting what they actually want, even if it means a higher price tag or a bigger gamble in terms of resale value.

“Don’t let fear be the paramount force behind your decision-making,” Knowles stresses. “Push yourself to do the scary thing—you have to push yourself...It’s the same when you’re making a decision in other areas of your life.”

She urges people to avoid making selections that are too small-scale, monochromatic, or lack color and pattern. Again, decisions we often make out of fear of getting it wrong.

“People buy so many small things,” she says. “Buy bigger. More color. Go big. If you’re going to do it, do it.”

And worrying about resale value? Move it down the priority list.

“Everything is going to look bad in 12 years,” she jokes, “so pick whatever truly delights you. Make your space what you think is amazing, because it’s your space. It means everything. You should look around your space and say ‘I like this, I feel good here, and at the end of the day, it makes me happy, and I’m comfortable, and that’s enough.’” **BECKY MANDELBAUM**

## Round Shapes & Soft Lines



1 Mid-Century Orb Pillows from Kardiel

2 Ball Pillow from SewBallsy on Etsy



*"These ball pillows are coming for everybody."*  
**Colleen Knowles**



1 Sit Tight Sectional from Thayer Coggin

2 Jacobsen Style Egg Chair from Modern Classics

3 Simple Coffee Table from Wisser's Furniture



*"All of the showrooms are shifting to furniture with soft lines, no right angles. Think curved sofas and round coffee tables. It's a very feminine look and it is also showing up in décor items like lamps and mirrors."*  
**Sandra Hurtley**

