



The Block's Josh and Jenna have their own range for Beacon Lighting. www.beaconlighting.com.au

ON TREND NOW

Interior designer **LUISA VOLPATO** showcases five of the top trends in furniture, homewares and accessories to help you inject some style into your home.

Now that summer is over and the cooler autumn weather has started to creep in, it's the perfect time to spend more time indoors. If the sight of your home doesn't fill you with joy, then it might be time to make some adjustments to your interior styling. Here are five ways you can inject a new look and some interest into your home without breaking the bank.

TREND 1: ALL THAT GLITTERS

From glamorous gold and brass for a bit of bling to warm copper and bronze for a more industrial look, metal accents in homewares and lighting are the 'in' thing right now.

Metals are really proving popular, particularly in floor and table lamps and pendants. From simple exposed bulbs with copper lampholder that makes a feature of the cord, to entire lamp bases in copper-look metal, there are many ways to inject a little metal into your home.

Two-time stars of Channel Nine's *The Block*, Josh and Jenna, have embraced this trend as part of their own range of designer lamps for Beacon Lighting. "Our range is everything we love about design, transforming the organic beauty of natural and neutral materials into fresh, modern pieces that reinvigorate a space," says Jenna Whitehead.

"A huge part of our design aesthetic has always been simplicity. We like to stick

to using natural or raw materials like copper, concrete and timber. .

"The majority of lights are made of timber, copper, some concrete and others powder coated steel. We love the idea of copper tones as they can be used to break up colder surfaces like tiles, stone counter tops and white walls."

TREND 2: OUTDOOR RUGS

If you thought rugs were just for indoors, then think again. One of the brands leading the charge is Armadillo&Co, which has just launched its first outdoor collection of hardwearing, user friendly, multipurpose rugs that you can take anywhere. The designs are similar in feel to their existing Earth Collection of indoor rugs, but woven with a mix of wool and polyester so they can handle use both indoors and out.

"The polyester fibre looks and feels like wool, so none of the aesthetic or texture is lost," says Armadillo&Co founder and designer Sally Pottharst. "They're perfect

for picnics, for pets, on the verandah, beside the pool, in the bathroom, in the garden... really for all applications.

Use them everywhere, including at the kitchen sink, so feel free to splash away. If they get dirty, just hose them down. They can handle rain, hail or shine."



ABOVE: New outdoor rugs by Armadillo&Co. www.armadillo-co.com

LEFT: Geometric cement tiles by Perini Tiles. www.perini.com.au



ABOVE: Cushions from the Gypsy Heritage range by Rapee. www.rapee.com.au

TREND 3: STYLISH CEMENT

Forget all white or neutral tiles in the bathroom or kitchen, cement tiles are all the rage right now, available in an array of colours, intricate patterns and modern geometrics.

Cement tiles were first created in the South of France in the 1870s; however the Spanish perfected the mastery soon after by developing vast and wonderful patterns and motifs, says Kate Fuller, marketing manager for Perini Tiles.

"Cement tiles are made by hand with natural pigments and materials and do not require kiln firing. A mould is used to create the colourful design followed by a water bath to cure. The tiles are then 'air cured' until completely dried, then treated with a light wax coating. Once laid, cement tiles need to be sealed. Cement tiles are ideal for use indoors but can also be used outdoors, however if used outdoors there may be some fading over time due to UV exposure, which is more obvious in brighter colours," says Kate.

If this sounds a little over the top for you, then use them just as a feature tile. A good way to incorporate them into the kitchen is as a splashback. In the bathroom use them as a feature wall ideally behind the vanity with an oversized mirror over the top of them.

TREND 4: GYPSY STYLE

When it comes to giving your interiors a bit of a facelift, there's no simpler or cheaper way to go about it than to update your scatter cushions. One set of light and bright colours for spring/summer in fabrics like linen and cotton, and another set with warmer

colours and textures, such as faux fur and velvet, for the autumn/winter seasons.

One of the key trends being embraced by Rapee, manufacturer of cushions that you'll find in loads of stores such as David Jones, is called Gypsy Heritage. "Gypsy heritage is a pastiche of global cultures—an aesthetic melting pot that blends a range of rustic, tribal vibes but with a modern feel," says Rapee head of design, Christie Pacher.

TREND 5: SCANDINAVIAN COOL

While it's not new, the trend for Scandinavian inspired interiors continues. Interior designer and style ambassador for online retailer Zanui, James Treble, says the look suits the Australian home. (James is the resident interior designer on Channel 10's *The Living Room*, usually as Barry (Baz) Du Bois' nemesis for the show's design challenge and other styling segments.)

"The influence from the Scandinavian love of light coloured wood, which for them is simply their native timber, combined with contrasting textures and finishes, creates an airy uncomplicated look which is very comfortable to live with," says James.

"The clean lines and simplicity in design of their style, provides us with timeless pieces... As the days get shorter and colder timber tones in coffee and side tables add warmth and a comfortable feel. The historical Scandinavian use of animal furs and skins can be interpreted by featuring a cow hide floor rug and plush faux throws and faux fur cushions on a sofa to provide texture and interest. Layering with different sized and shaped cushions creates an inviting place to relax."