

Ojai designer Janelle Kandziora defies conventional thinking: In her bathroom design (right) she follows her own advice by not shying away from using dark colors in a small space, which helps create an illusion that the room is large, as does the bordering-edge detail on the floor. The soft sea blue Impulse wallpaper (below) from Candice Olsen's Modern Nature collection by York Wallcoverings represents a color of the moment, according to Kandziora.



JANELLE KANDZIORA

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What are the hottest colors right now?
Soft sea blues and gray.

If just one element in any given room could be changed, what would have the most transformative impact on the overall look?
Scale. It seems so simple, but in most of the homes I enter, there are issues with the scale of furniture selected. The layout of the furniture is important, but I would focus on scale of the furniture because this will make the biggest impact in the end.

Who or what provides the inspiration for your unique design sense?

Other designers inspire me greatly. One of my favorite interior designers is Kelly Wearstler. I have always enjoyed her design philosophy. My favorite one is "There are no rules in interior design. Whether it comes from scale or color, I love the unexpected because it adds depth and personality to a space." I also find inspiration in nature. I love going to the beach, where I feel very creative.

What do you consider to be passé in design?
I have never been a fan of painting accent walls. The walls should not be center stage; rather, it should be the beautiful home furnishings.

What's the most outrageous trend in home design?

Shag rugs. I swore I would never wear skinny jeans, but now my closet is full of them. Trends have to grow on me like everybody else. I have never been a fan of shag rugs, but now I am starting to warm up to them and have placed a few in clients' homes. I have to say, they looked amazing and feel so great on your bare feet.

What would you never do in one of your designs?

Compromise quality. I would rather have my clients in an empty dining room until they are able to invest in the furniture they really want. It doesn't make sense to buy a cheap piece of furniture when you will have to replace it in a year or two when it falls apart. Save your money for a quality piece. Estate sales or consignment stores can offer better quality items than some of those "really affordable" furniture stores.

What new product or style is your current favorite?

I am loving Robert James Collection (robertjamescollection.com). Purist-simple but very luxurious. Their design philosophy: "Scale. Harmony. Balance. Texture. Strength. Sensuality." This is the kind of furniture I am passionate about.

If you were reborn as a piece of furniture or a home accessory, what would it be?
A dining table. I would always be surrounded by good conversation.

