



Golden moment Mustard yellow is tipped as a hot colour for this year, as are informal mixes of styles, textures and moods.



done the African safari look very well and Freedom Furniture will also be bringing in an interesting range of objects. When it comes to flooring, Lukacevic says her clients are still preferring timber over carpet, while polished concrete has had its day. "People are looking for more warmth these days."

Bag the shag

This year isn't the year to be buying a shag. Rugs are becoming more low pile, with interesting patterns woven through. If the budget allows, Lukacevic recommends the

limited edition ranges by Designer Rugs as a good example. Plus, she says there is a really strong emphasis on good quality basics - sofas, arm chairs and dining room tables. Think clean lines and attention to detail. This is where minimalism is still alive but interest is being added through accessories.

When it comes to lighting, big is best. Brisbane-born Sandro Tothill, founder of lighting company Luzifer (now based in Valencia), says expect oversized signature lamps to dominate rooms and create a sculptural impression. He also sees low-energy ambient lighting as the way ahead.

Fabulous fabric

Not much has changed from previous years, where texture and luxury dominated fabric design. Mokum's design director, Stephanie Moffitt, says texture will continue to be popular.

"People aren't looking for completely flat fabric, they want material they can touch that feels luxurious," she says.

"In the upper market, it's still all about luxury, glamour and sophistication. We achieve that through

Luxe living Silks and viscose are popular, according to Mokum. Mix formal pieces with fun highlights, like this globe from Coco Republic.



quality yarns, such as silks and viscose." She stresses that the luxury look is not about recreating a European aesthetic but about finding a uniquely Antipodean style that works with our more casual way of living.

Moffitt also believes the penchant for geometrics will continue, especially Moroccan-inspired geometrics. While animal prints are all the rage, it isn't a look Mokum aspires to.

Like many fabric houses, Mokum looks towards fashion for ideas. "We're seeing a lot of embroidery and metallics in handbags and shoes, that will follow through in fabrics."

Mal Damkar from Afficionados of the Nod is pleased that pattern is becoming more acceptable after years of plain colours. He says these new patterns will be no shrinking violets but in-your-face, strong, bold, geometric graphics, even op art, akin to the 1960s.

He feels that animal prints will emerge in a bigger way towards the end of the year, after lingering around for several seasons, but they won't be used on big-ticket items such as sofas. "People have a fear of them dating," he explains.

One of the big stories for 2008 will be the use of natural fabrics such as pure cotton, pure linen and pure silk. Damkar says this trend will be driven by the growth in environmental awareness and the concept of 'green miles' - the notion that products produced close to their selling point use less energy to transport.

"Green miles are very important in the UK now," he says. "I think Australians will start insisting on Australian-made products."

Design forecast for 2008

Sizzling

- Using an eclectic mix of furniture styles to give individuality to a room
- **Vintage 60s fabrics**
- French antiques - be careful, they must be good quality - think gold and silver leaf
- **Hollywood regency period furniture - white gloss, of course**
- Knoll - designs by Bertoia and Saarinen; Herman Miller's Noguchi coffee table - always hot classics
- **Polished chrome and polished brass used together**
- 1980s 'antiques' - chrome and marble furniture
- **Arflex furniture - pure luxe comfort**
- Future systems furniture - aerodynamic, organic shapes
- **Fabrics in bright green, blue and yellow - think Doris Day**
- Animal-inspired ornamentation
- **Wicker and roped furniture - white and blue**

Cold as ice

- Total catalogue looks - boring
- **Bad reproduction antiques**
- Baroque furniture - too much, way too much
- **Reproduction classics - if you can't afford it, then buy something else just as good for less**
- Square slabs of beige furniture - you know
- **Cheap leather furniture**
- Minimal architecture furniture

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