

GOLORADO URBAN

# HOME

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CELEBRATING INSPIRATIONAL DESIGN AND PERSONAL STYLE

INTERIOR  
INSPIRATION

Audrey Hill Photography

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# Opposites Attract

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Stovall Studio

EVEN A QUICK LOOK AROUND TODAY'S WORLD OF INTERIOR DESIGN REVEALS UNEXPECTED COMBINATIONS AND EXCITING CONTRASTS AT EVERY TURN. AS A CENTRAL PRINCIPLE OF DESIGN, CONTRAST CREATES THE ABILITY TO SURPRISE, INTRIGUE AND ENTICE IN ALL SORTS OF WAYS.

## Odd Couples: Traditional Meets Modern

When combined correctly, whether in art, design or marriage, opposites can bring out the best in each other. Mixing traditional and contemporary design elements has become a popular way to allow each style to make a unique statement.

"Although going contemporary means many things to different people, we're seeing a lot of clients wanting to update to a cleaner, more refined approach," explains Joanne Brutsch, an interior designer with Slifer Designs. "By bringing in the right materials, furnishings and lighting, pairing these two styles is as achievable as it is desirable for our clients."

Contrasting modern lines with vintage finds can add warmth and dimension to any space. "We're seeing rooms with elements like rustic wood beams next to modern glass chandeliers and hip metal drum shades," said Brutsch.

Angie Paché from Associates III Interior Design describes how the traditional look of stone combined perfectly with the modern element of steel in a recent mountain contemporary design. "A stacked stone wall cut a plane into the light and cozy living space as a continuation of the home's panoramic mountain views, while steel I-beams infused a contemporary edge."

## Dynamic Duos: Brilliantly Blending Textures

Perhaps one of the most enticing pairings in contemporary design is the beautiful blend of tantalizing textures. Eddie Doumas, owner of Worth Interiors, describes how faux fur has moved beyond the mountains, and is being seen in all sorts of spaces, especially in upholstery. "For example, an early 70s chrome mod chair covered in a faux fox provides that stunning contrast of a slick, stainless steel structure combined with an organic, cozy texture."

Doumas' favorite duo—leather and bronze. While recently visiting the exquisite Italian custom furniture designer Promemoria in Milan, he was able to see some of their amazing new original pieces combining forged bronze and hand-stitched leather.

Promemoria provides an excellent example of yet another exciting blend prominent in design today—old world craftsmanship and cutting-edge, contemporary style.

"Texture is definitely on the forefront today with lots of variety in



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its application," said Brutsch. She explains how diverse textures and materials came together in her design to update a more traditional space. "Using a grey grasscloth wall covering behind dark wood bookcases, adding modern sconces for light, and reframing existing art work in gallery float frames really brought the room up to date."

"A recent powder room design featured natural, no VOC limestone plaster, a reclaimed walnut live-edge cantilevered countertop, and recycled glass tiles with a bronze vessel sink," said Renée Keller of Associates III.



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#### Fusion Freedom: Not Your Grandmother's Wallpaper

There has been a huge transformation in the world of wall coverings. Its reinvention of almost revolutionary proportion has made wallpaper the perfect backdrop for a wide range of contemporary designs.

"Grommets, studs and other metal accents are giving today's wallpapers unique and appealing textures that really add depth to a room's design," explains Brunsch. "Right now I'm using a Phillip Jeffries grey hemp paper with rivets in a grid pattern providing both bold movement and energy to the walls."

Doumas explains, "Handcrafted by artisans, many of Phillip Jeffries' popular wallpaper designs achieve beautiful contrasts by taking organic, open-weave grasscloths and overlaying them on metallic papers. There are so many new approaches and companies using contemporary twists, such as using paint on silk and then hand-embroidery to form a completely different dimension for the wallpaper."

#### Yin and Yang: Mixing the Refined and Rustic

Creating an atmosphere comfortable with the combined aesthetic of sophisticated charm and down-to-earth warmth captures the best of both worlds. Jill Bossart of Associates III describes one client's desire to welcome guests with both, "With the selection of natural stones on wall and floor surfaces, an earthy plaster accent wall and a sustainably harvested walnut console table, we created a welcoming space for their entry. The decorative details like the copper patina sculpture and the contemporary floral arrangement provided another layer of visual interest offering life and color."

#### Night and Day: Modern Lighting Takes Center Stage

"Lighting is really becoming almost like a piece of art," said Doumas of Worth Interiors. "Lighting, like the chandelier in the Great Room, has become an important piece to the overall design, not simply background lighting. With talented designers like John Pomp, Jonathan Browning and many others, we're seeing some incredible, very artistic lighting." Pomp continues to establish himself as a leader in the modern lighting industry through the old-world art of glass-blowing. Browning takes pride in inventing pieces combining refined classical details and a flair for industrial design and minimalism with dramatic cast bronze pieces. ♦



Sifer Designs



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#### RESOURCES

Associates III Interior Design	303-534-4444	www.associates3.com
Sifer Designs	970-926-8200	www.siferdesigns.com
Worth Interiors	970-949-9794	www.worthinteriors.com