

Home Improvement Guide



▲ MARRIAGE OF THE TWO APPROACHES CAN RESULT IN A STRIKING INTERIOR

RADICAL '70S DESIGNS MEET THE '90S RETURN TO TRADITION

The 1970s brought many interesting elements to the interior design industry. Cabinetry, interior detailing and colours were very "bold." Chrome and glossy lacquers were lavishly and, for the most part, very effectively used in conjunction with strong, geometric forms.

The 1990s have brought with them more emphasis on traditional furnishings, fine detailing and exotic wood finishes.

The marriage of the two approaches to design can result in a

striking, updated, eclectic interior if properly executed.

For example, a carved wood traditional chair and/or sofa frame such as a bergere with a subdued upholstery fabric can be very effectively used in conjunction with a "modern" wall or entertainment unit.

As well, an overly radical coffee table from the '70s could be substituted with a more transitional wrought iron and glass unit.

Surface-mounted incandescent

track lighting can be replaced with set-in, more discrete, halogen pot lighting.

This light, which is more natural, will bring all those subdued fabrics and finishes of today to life.

Back-drop or wall finishes could be changed from strong patterns, typically stripes, to subtle sponged paints, applied linens or fine grasscloths.

Of course, conversely, an overly traditional interior can be given much more "personality" by injecting a few contemporary elements.

Style balance is the key to a well presented eclectic interior.

For a reasonable fee a design professional with a respect for your acquisitions can often save and utilize key pieces and, at the same time, provide you with a wonderful new environment.

— article supplied by Tristar Design Consultants