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Global Color Research
Colour, Design, Trends
and Materials

SS 2017 Part Two
Colour Trends

New Trend Glitch
Disrupt & Distort

Colour Now
Trends for AW 2016/17

Materials
Composites

UK £35
EUR €45
USA \$60



Luxury Leather

As we see in our new trend Ground, it was perhaps inevitable that catwalk trends for leather and suede would influence interiors, encouraging designers to once again re-engage with this old favourite.





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In many ways, leather is like wood, a hero material that designers will always choose to work with. Carol-Ann Boshoff, Showroom Manager, Whistler Leather explains its appeal: "Leather is so versatile, lending itself to many applications. Being natural, it is a warm product, soft and comforting to the touch and ages over time, to a luxurious patina," she says.

However there has been a marked increase in leather, partly a reference to fashion's current love affair with this material. "Furniture and interiors have always been slightly influenced by the catwalk, so with the resurgence of 70's inspired leather for Spring Summer 2016 fashion, certain aspects will filter down into the home," says Kirsty Whyte, Product & Design Manager, Heal's. Nadia Dalle Mese, Founder of Studioart Italy agrees: "Interest in leather products has hugely risen in the accessories world, gaining the attention of the fashion catwalks and this has led to an overall increased demand for leathers."

There are other reasons too why leather is on our radar. New techniques, many sourced from fashion and accessories design, are also driving interest. Sophisticated tanning techniques are making white leathers whiter, while digitally printed, lazer cut and lace effects are all making their mark. "There is also an enormous interest in embossed leathers and with so many fabulous designs, the possibilities are endless," notes Boshoff of Whistler Leather.

Within upholstery we are seeing an emergence of raw edges, along with natural

mat tones, where previously traditional leather upholstery would be dyed and with a waxy finish. Natural processes, in particular aniline leather (using soluble dyes), inform colours that have become more mature, in deep tones, moss green, navy blue and mid grey.

But its not just colours from nature that are being referenced either: "I've found my clients are keen to experiment with coloured leathers and leathers with a subtle shine as opposed to classic brown leather; using coloured leather is a fabulous way to make a design statement," says Niloufar Bakhtiar-Bakhtiyari, Founder of NBB Design. "Pastel colours (light blue, pale rose and beige) and stronger shades like Campari red and bottle green are becoming very popular along with textured leathers like small animalier (shagreen and lizard), geometric patterns, or golden laminas," adds Dalle Mese of Studioart Italy.

And finally, leather, is broadening its remit. We are seeing the material used for home accessories, including the recent leather lined trays from Skultuna designed by GamFratesi, for flooring, for inlays on wooden tables and as trims for wooden furniture. Campbell Thompson, Senior Furniture Buyer, Heal's agrees that designers are widening their approach: "Recently there has been a noticeable trend for mixing materials which has seen leather introduced as handles on cabinet furniture or as a textural addition on table or desk surfaces, or used on headboard coverings and seat cushioning on chairs," he says. ■



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Opposite page
Cassina

Above from top left
01 Poltrona Frau
02 Zanotta
03 Skultuna
04 Heals

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