

Trends come and go, but what are the perennial looks and authentic details that form the foundation of the most stylish homes? Interiors experts share their essentials for rooms that evolve but never date...

THE FURNITURE DESIGN GURU

Elena Paparozzi from Heal's has these insights:

■ I'd recommend investing in key pieces – such as a really beautiful dining table, or bedroom furniture – which will last you for years. Trend-led pieces are great updates and can then be changed as your taste evolves. Using accessories, such as cushions and art, offers a simple way to add colour and give a nod to certain trends, without investing significantly.

■ Quality materials, such as solid wood or ceramic, will never go out of style, so are worth investing in. A ceramic-topped dining table would stand up to the wear and tear of busy family life, while still looking good. Invest in well-made pieces that will look good for years.

■ Pair vintage or heirloom pieces with something that's more contemporary – it's a great way to inject your individual personality into a room, while demonstrating an awareness of style that lasts.



MODERN CLASSIC

'A four-poster is a timeless buy for a modern bedroom,' says Elena. Marlow four-poster king-size bed by Tim Rundle, £2,499, Heal's

LONG-LASTING DESIGN

'Choose what you like and not what you think other people would like,' says Bhavin. Shutters in Silk White, from £379sq m, Hillarys



THE WINDOW DRESSING EXPERT

Bhavin Taylor of Bhavin Taylor Design reveals this insider know-how:

■ Window treatments can be expensive, so choose wisely and think long term, rather than treat them as a fashion accessory to change up frequently.

■ When it comes to longevity, there's no simple answer to choosing shutters, blinds or curtains – it all depends on your interior and the style of your home as to what will suit best. It's your home and it should reflect you and your personality – that's how to get a look that lasts for you.

■ Choosing a pattern for curtains or blinds needn't be daunting. For those of you taking

your first pattern step, choose a pattern that you love, and try to keep the colour palette of the pattern to just one or two colours, so it doesn't become too specific to your current interior, allowing you to ring the changes without changing the curtains or blinds.

■ If you can afford it, go for made-to-measure when it comes to curtains or blinds. Treat them as an investment and get them made by a good curtain maker. There is nothing nicer than a hand-sewn or hand-finished pair of curtains that have been made for the specific dimensions of your window.