

OT

ISSUE

.28

ORACLE TIME



A SMART MOVE FOR
DE GRISOGONO

— Oracle Time Awards —

• SIHH PREVIEW • TECH • INTERIORS GET COOL •

Forget your minimalist, millennial tendencies; 2017 sees a return to the ornate intricacies, lavish curves, strikingly decorative fabrics and gilded opulence of Baroque design. Baroque is the new rock and roll in interiors and beyond, according to the current style setters of the design world. “There’s currently a trend emerging that’s seen in architecture and interior design for distinctly Baroque styles. It’s part of the search for organic forms and staying close to nature that’s set to get even bigger during 2017,” reveals Massimo Marzorati of Giacomini Design, which develops and creates innovative objects including sculptural pieces for the home, all with a ‘made in Italy’ badge of assurance. Cue curved, sophisticated lines and elegantly organic-looking shapes that are as sleek as they are desirable.

WORDS

ISABEL DEXTER

BAROQUE & ROLL

Wave goodbye to beige once and for all and immerse yourself in the love for the interiors Baroque trend



Rachel Bates



Latham Interiors



Interior experts including Rachel Bates, Latham Interiors, Lewis & Co and La Murrina can help inject some Baroque style in to your home



Lewis & Co



La Murrina



Latham Interiors



G

iacomini Design's latest offering, their artfully curved and fluid-looking titanium water sculptures, are a case in point. Part futuristic, part classic, they take their inspiration from nature, another key trend that we've seen emerging in the last few seasons, not only in terms

of form, but also pattern. Just think of those luscious dark floral and fauna prints that cool East London label House of Hackney have made popular with urban fashionistas and modern suburban families alike.

"Our water sculptures draw on Baroque and Rococo decorations, which took their lead from nature. The forms and curved lines we see in nature are ubiquitous, and this is a way of looking to the past in a modern way, and with modern forms," adds Marzorati.

The emphasis on purity of form is mirrored with the material: 100% titanium, which is also, conversely, the perfect complement for the anti-Baroque trend for Hygge-style knitted soft furnishings, such as chunky knit cushions or poufs, all in a strikingly contemporary palette of inky blues, steel greys and creamy neutrals. The result? Whether you're an all-out Baroque aficionado or more of a contemporary Hygge person, striking forms and natural materials are key. "It's about creating a contrast between modern and sophisticated and the traditional," explains Marzorati. "A modern object in an otherwise traditional house is an agent provocateur – it's a shocker."

Interior design guru Luis Hernandez, who originally studied at Parsons School of Design in New York and whose projects have included a 100 bedroom castle in the English countryside, holiday homes in Hawaii and Mallorca and private residences in Kensington, Knightsbridge and the home counties, agrees. "Metal-constructed furniture designed with clean lines and a minimalist structure work perfectly as an accent piece for a more muted study or hallway area, as well as a primary focal point within a reception master bedroom," he explains. "The dark grey steel nicely complements the current grey palette, as well as the natural tones coming through for 2017." The founder of Marylebone-based Lewis & Co loves organic fabrics and a neutral colour palette, punctuated with bright, striking accents. As well as metal, alternative organic forms and natural materials are again heralded. Think wood, stone and cork combined with that classic modern favourite, dark leather furniture, softened up with some plush throws and heady wood-scented home fragrances, all favourites of Lewis & Co interiors.

"When it comes to furniture for 2017, simplicity of form will most definitely be key," states Hernandez, whose signature 'modern with a twist' style makes for comfortable, yet stylish homes – ones that, while ticking all the trend boxes, also offer an alluringly timeless appeal thanks to their balance of both form and colour. "With colour palettes we

will see natural tones that work to complement the organic materials used to create pieces of furniture," he adds.

Similarly, an eclectic yet thoroughly desirable aesthetic is the hallmark of La Murrina who specialise in Murano glass; 100% handmade in Italy, as well as lighting fixtures and objects. Their distinct, modern chandeliers are a heady dose of black, gold and shimmering glass with some, such as their Jardin de Verre collection, featuring tiny coloured birds behind curved glass bubbles. It's an assured, utterly glamorous approach, which combines the ancient art of traditional Italian glass blowing with the passion and expertise of some of Europe's most renowned designers, architects and aesthetic visionaries. It's also an approach perfectly attuned to 2017's bold, Baroque sensibilities.

"Classical, un-datable, glamorous and colourful interiors are back in vogue in abundance," explains renowned British interior designer Rachel Bates. "Well, I say back, but these timeless and elegant styles never actually went out of fashion – the world just became overwhelmed by beige for a short time," she laughs. Bates' strong sense of colour and her respect for unique craftsmanship and bespoke, handmade production have made her a champion of artisan skill and an inherent vibrancy, which runs through all her work. "Thankfully we are seeing a huge resurgence in elegant, traditional and Baroque interiors with a contemporary twist at the moment, which in turn seem set to remain de rigueur for the foreseeable future," she continues. "People are finally realising that their passion for fashion and catwalk-style dressing should also be reflected in their own homes."

"People are realising that their passion for fashion and catwalk-style dressing should also be reflected in their own homes"

Indeed, the trend for strong historical design influences from Baroque to the Georgian styles heralded by the award-winning Latham Interiors, mirror the catwalk's current penchant for all things nostalgic and lavishly look-at-me. "The symmetry, proportions and elegance of properties built in this style play to the mix of old and new," explains Sarah. A philosophy that stands to underpin 2017's trends. More is more has never looked so elegant.