

# GardensLiving

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# Maximalism, the Next Trend



By JoAnn Munro, ASID

After decades of soft greys, white-on-beige, and flea market shabby chic finds, mid-century modernism and contemporary minimalism have finally begun to give way. No, old world style is not returning; instead, get ready for an

eclectic mixture of *multiple* design styles.

This new trend, one that some might call maximalism, can be a “riot” of color and patterns, and of collected family antiques and contemporary pieces. While people can scale the look up or down according to their own taste,



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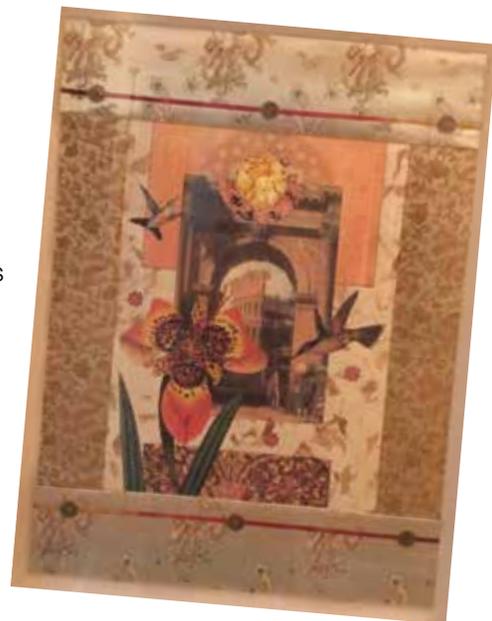
courageous trendsetting designers are going “controlled crazy,” creating layered

styles featuring dramatic and delightfully disparate elements like decorative tassels, animal prints, mismatched patterns. There’s no better time to play with your favorite color, or to enter a design world where luxe old-world sumptuousness and over-the-top Versailles can mingle with art deco, as maximalist spaces reflect the owner’s travels and or past – often with almost wacky uniqueness.

Maximalism was the chatter earlier this year at the Design Center of The America’s Winter Market (DCOTA) in Dania Beach, Florida, and a January issue of the *Wall Street*

*Journal* devoted two pages to maximalism’s “controlled chaos.” So what’s the reason for the change? Speculation is that global uncertainty has people embracing “cocooning”; they want their homes to be a safe, warm place full of things they love – regardless of whether all the design elements follow the same trends, styles, palettes or patterns.

If you want to try maximalism (perhaps by tweaking or adding to a more classic style that you already enjoy), find a designer who isn’t fettered to a specific or “signature” design style in which everything looks similar. Choose someone open to designing your home with your passions and your lifestyle in mind. ■



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