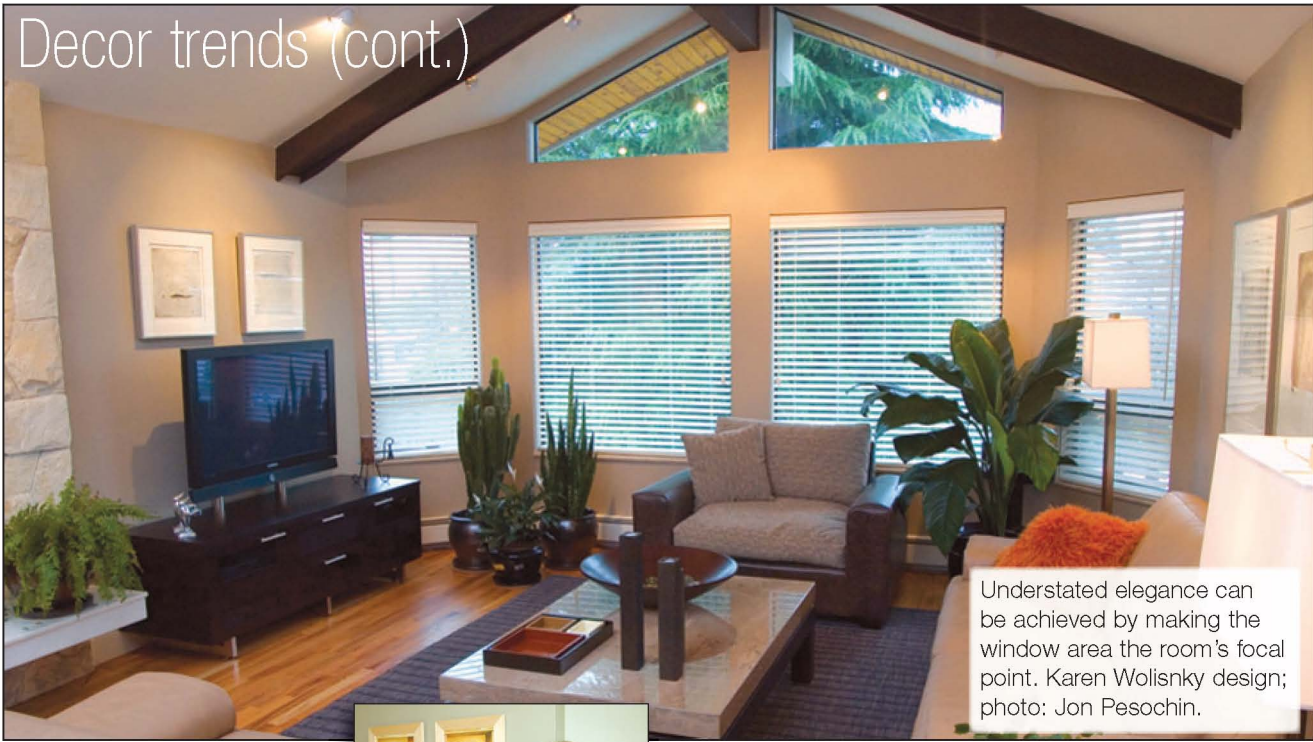


Decor trends (cont.)



Understated elegance can be achieved by making the window area the room's focal point. Karen Wolinsky design; photo: Jon Pesochin.

Karen Wolinsky, interior design professional at New Interiors:



The design aesthetic this year is elegant, understated and classic in inspiration and modern in interpretation. I am seeing a return to the glamour and elegance of decades past. Art nouveau, classic forms, classic shapes and vintage-modern inspire. My top trends:

- Mixing and matching is in and my clients are embracing this. I am combining colours and materials to create a novel and interesting presentation.
- I see a move to warmer colour palettes and textures; a definite departure from the minimalist interiors of the last decade.
- My clients are choosing fabrics from an array of intricate weaves, elaborate textures and lustrous overtones.
- Traditional patterns, ethnic prints, stripes and paisleys are reenergized and modernized, presented in bright and unusual colour combinations and in an oversized scale.

- Grey is favoured as an alternative to black.
- Gold and silver tell the metallics' story, particularly with special finishes such as blackened-patina or hammering.
- Wood, bamboo and cork are renewable resources that have continued staying power for flooring and furniture. There is also a shift to lighter finishes.

Karen Wolinsky, B.I.D., is an interior design coach; www.newinteriors.com.