



Some say luxury is being dramatically redefined. Do you agree? Styles may evolve, but the quest for the finest is always there. The delicate ladylike fine French furniture so popular in the 1950s has been replaced by mid-century modern and gutsier 18th and 19th century pieces. Watteau is out, Warhol is in. Forget Fragonard, think fierce! End tables aren't filled with paperweights; they showcase a few fabulous vases, allowing their shape and surface to tempt.

What will luxury homes and interiors look like 20 years from now? Probably a little smaller, due to concerns about the environment, the cost of heating, air conditioning and electricity. But smaller might mean even finer. If the high-end consumer is going to live with less, the quality will be more.

Think back to 1988. If money had been no object, what would your home have looked like? I envision that dream home of 1988 in St. Jean Cap Ferrat, in the South of France. A great behemoth of white stucco, with classical proportions and details, marble floors everywhere. Art and furnishings would be 18th and 19th century, and the upholstery and window treatments would have acres of damask.

In 1998? That's where I live today. Eclectic, colorful and interesting. I moved into my current apartment in that year, and for me it was a dream achieved. The loft I chose is in a great neighborhood, has views of Madison Square Park and the Flatiron Building. It is spacious and bright, and has all the attributes I desired.

And today? Today and tomorrow are blending for me. Next year I will be leaving my current home for a snazzy new flat in a building designed by a hot "starchitect," in far west Chelsea. My apartment will have dramatic 16-foot ceilings, walls of windows facing the Hudson River and a great outdoor room. The most novel feature is an automobile elevator that will whisk my car directly to its own garage attached to my apartment. The decor will be cool and hyper-sophisticated: sateen curtains cascading from lofty ceiling heights, a fine woven metal carpet on which the low-slung seating will rest in the living room. The palette will be more severely neutral with bright accents of fresh pastels, and lots of gold and bronze.

CLODAGH

Another International Design Hall of Famer, Clodagh was named after a picturesque waterway in Ireland and raised in Oscar Wilde's summer home. She was listed in Robb Report's Top 40 Interior Designers in the World, named one of Interior Design's Top 100 Interior Designers in America and one of the world's leading interior designers by Architectural Digest. Recent awards include the IFC Circle of Excellence Award for Enlightened Design, the 2006 Women in Design Award, an ADEX Platinum Award for her Copper Bowls for SURevolution and an ADEX Silver Award for her Strata Collection for Tufenkian Carpets. Current and recent projects include Manhattan's Landmarc restaurant, the Miraval resort in Arizona, The Caledonia, the first luxury condominium building on the Highline in Manhattan, White Horses Spa at Doonbeg Gold Club in Ireland and Sasanqua Spa on Kiawah Island.



PHOTO | DANIEL AUBRY

Known for her unique blending of modern technology, primitive materials and ancient techniques, Clodagh emphasizes the inventive and sustainable use of materials to create energizing, low-maintenance environments characterized by unexpected design elements, innovative use of light and space and the incorporation of global influences, as shown here.

Today, the word "luxury" means time to spend with one's family and friends, and with oneself. Low maintenance simple homes with everything at hand, and appliances and gadgets that work. Perfect service everywhere you go. Car service. Good airport lounges. Easy communications. Super health clubs and spas with the time to attend them. Think: simple, tactile, sensual, welcoming, hospitable.

Today's luxury commodities Time. Rarities are still a luxury but more and more consumable, so the rarity is an amazing wine or truffle from an obscure location. Fabulous tubs, showers, beds and kitchens. Terrific simple-to-handle media systems. Silence, sleep, great cookware.

Today's status symbols The true symbol of wealth and success is the person who has achieved both and still knows how to enjoy life. In fact, success is only valid if the person can enjoy life and good health.

Today's luxury homes and interiors Luxury in the home means a huge table and the space for people



to gather. A fabulous mattress — look how the Westin Heavenly Bed is selling... a billionaire client of mine bought one. Rich people experience luxury in hotels and try to capture that simplicity and comfort for their homes. What's interesting to me is that as people simplify their homes they are spending a lot more money on their outdoor living spaces and landscaping to bring the inside out and the outside in.

Are you working in luxury markets outside the U.S.? I work in Ireland, Armenia, New Zealand and Japan.

Some say luxury is being dramatically redefined. Do you agree? We're at the beginning of a cycle where people collect experiences rather than things. We are working on hotels where one-stop experiences are so important — a perfect restaurant, a spa



Photo: Elaine Wagner



Photo | Tony Sears

Tim Andreas describes his work as a search for authenticity, each design a singular exploration of space, light, material, texture and color. Here, a completed project in the Majestic on New York's Central Park West.

Today's luxury homes and interiors Minimal, polished, ethereal, dramatically lit, staff quarters and kitchens, home theatres, wine caves, 30-car garages, his and hers master suites, Swarovski crystal chandeliers, carefully curated objets d'art, spa-like baths, professional artist portraiture, contemporary art.

Are you working in luxury markets outside the U.S.? We recently finished an apartment in Buenos Aires.

Some say luxury is being dramatically redefined. Do you agree? It's no longer about a uniformity of aspirational style, but a search for authenticity and expression of personal taste, which in today's world of rapidly blending cultures can often devolve into what I call fauxthenticity, or a pretense of individuality, instead of an act of real personal expression.

What will luxury homes and interiors look like 20 years from now? A greater move back to natural influences. New technologies will create smarter homes that pamper us while conserving precious resources. We'll search for a more regional expression in architecture as we relate to our changing climate.

Today's luxury commodities Private jets, a fifth home, things that pamper, technologies that make life easier. Luxury brands have become so commodified they've lost a lot of their exclusive appeal. People are looking to more artisanally crafted goods rather than mass-produced goods of traditional luxury retailers.

Think back to 1988. If money had been no object, what would your home have looked like? In 1988 I had just moved to Los Angeles and my ideal home would have been a raw concrete and weathered wood simple, modern, cliff-top beach house in Malibu.

and health club, a good bar and a garden experience to reinforce biophilic needs.

What will luxury homes and interiors look like 20 years from now? Perfectly functioning simple, comfortable support systems. Luxury markets are moving towards hiring star designers and architects to create their homes. An interesting and exciting twist is the upsurge in art collecting.

Think back to 1988. If money had been no object, what would your home have looked like? I live in a loft which hasn't changed much since 1883... on the West Side with a water view and a huge deck. In 1998 the loft acquired a guest bathroom. Today it has a home studio. This is true luxury... knowing that what you have is enough and if you add something, it has a useful role in your life.

Today's status symbols A personal chef, summer in the Hamptons, Christmas in St. Barts, personal guided tours of world monuments, private concerts with popular recording artists. People are looking for unique experiences in both their daily and leisure lives.

TIM ANDREAS

Pennsylvania native Tim Andreas earned his Bachelor's of Architecture degree in 1987 from Penn State and moved to Los Angeles where he became an integral part of the design team at the award-winning firm Koning Eizenberg Architecture. His work on the Philippe Starck-designed renovation of the Mondrian Hotel led to a position as VP of design for Ian Schrager Hotels in 1998. While there, he expanded his expertise to interior design, including the Mondrian Penthouse, Morgans Bar and Skybar at Shore Club. Since co-founding his company, Banjo, in 2005, his range has expanded to include work for Morgans Hotel Group, Ty Warner Resorts and Hotels, Sacha Baron Cohen and Isla Fisher, and Courteney Cox.

Today, the word "luxury" means authenticity, exclusivity, rarity, sparing no expense, keeping ahead of the Joneses.



Sandra Espinet draws from the natural world when selecting her color palette and materials and infuses her resort designs with an elegance and flair inspired by her extensive travels.



PHOTO | GREY CRAWFORD