

# Picture PERFECT

Mirrors and wall décor will instantly liven up a space, writes **Guinevere Davies**

Carné Interior Design

There's no better way to add instant personality to and create visual impact in a space than with the right selection of mirrors and wall décor. When it comes to finding the perfect style or piece of vertical décor to suit, the options these days are abundant. >



### THE MAGIC OF MIRRORS

As every interior designer will no doubt tell you, mirrors are not only beautiful pieces of décor, but also one of the quickest ways to liven up a living space. As Carin van Heerden of Carné Interior Design says, "Ask for one of the most useful tools available to an interior designer and you'll find that most of us say: 'Mirrors!' Whether you want to add a polished touch to your interiors, make a statement with wall art or amplify light and space, a well-positioned mirror is the answer."

Casarredo's Darren Postan adds, "I have always been fascinated by features that mirrors possess. They have the remarkable ability to illuminate and enlarge a space beyond expectations, always playing a wonderful mind trick. I personally have a passion for exaggerated pieces, so for me, the bigger the better. Italian mirror designers and manufacturers are also including more functionality within their products. The ones I am most excited about are the dualistic mirrors that turn into TVs."

Mobelli Furniture + Living's Alon Sachs agrees. "The bigger the mirror, the more space it will appear to create, so think carefully about the angle of the room you want to reflect – placing a mirror opposite a window, for example, will bring both natural light and greenery into a smaller room. Mirrors can also add textural elements to a space. A great way to inject texture to your space is by using a mix of materials and frame styles in the warm >



Casarredo



Mobelli Furniture + Living



Newport Lighting



KARE



Audi Snýman Interior Design

metal tones on-trend right now.”

Roche Bobois’s Sandrine Fanchette says, “Place a mirror in a location that makes the most of its reflective qualities. Unlike other decorative wall objects like art, a mirror is a functional item that should be used to open spaces up. Mirrors reflect light instead of absorbing it, so they trick the eye into thinking the room is brighter and larger, depending on where they are placed.”



Roche Bobois

### THE WONDER OF WALL DÉCOR

There is nothing more personal than the type of art you choose to display in your home. From paintings to posters and even three-dimensional wall sculptures, there’s no end to the options available. And, like everything else when it comes to interior design, while it may be good to know the rules, sometimes it’s even better to break them.

Evelina Kravaev Söderberg, head of design and creative at H&M HOME, says: “The wall décor trend itself is fantastic as it gives people the opportunity and inspiration to make their home more personal and fun. Anything goes as long as it is selected with love and passion.

“I think you should adapt your space to the artwork

and not the other way around. If you have a large artwork, put it on an empty wall. If you have family photos, group them together to emphasise a family feeling. If you have smaller artworks, decide which ones go well together aesthetically and hang them in the space that suits them best.”

Décor Identity’s Elisha Annandale adds, “Don’t choose art that doesn’t speak to the space, or that doesn’t work with your style or taste. You will hate it and want to replace it every time you look at it. Make it personal to your look and feel and choose something you will love having and feel proud of in the room. When selecting art or mirrors, always keep in mind that you must create a focal point and balance the size of the art or mirror so it’s in proportion with the wall size and also the size of the room.”

There are a few more things to keep in mind, says Audi Snýman of Audi Snýman Interior Design. “Give the art room to breathe – your artwork should take up two thirds to three quarters of the wall. When buying modern or contemporary art, bigger is definitely better as it maximises the statement. Try to hang identical abstract pieces of art in a series and substitute artwork for mirrors along long walls and hallways.”

Da Rocha Interiors’ Daniela da Rocha recommends



Da Rocha Interiors

**“When buying modern or contemporary art, bigger is definitely better as it maximises the statement.” – Audi Snýman**

exploring wall décor alternatives. “Panelling and cladding is the wall décor trend I’m most excited to see. It adds warmth, cosiness, texture and depth to an interior. And it limits the usage of too many mirrors and artwork pieces, which is also great. The look these days is less about traditional formality. It injects personality into a space and gives the room detail.”

KARE’s Karin Cawthorne adds, “We’re seeing a move towards more sculptural or three-dimensional wall decoration such as casts or sculpted (faux) animal busts and large over-scaled flowers. Our latest favourite decorative series incorporates mirrored fauna like bugs, hummingbirds, parrots and dragonflies that add both interest and pops of light into a space.”

### LET THERE BE LIGHT

Wall décor needn’t just be something beautiful to look at, like mirrors; it can serve other functions too, says Newport Lighting’s Guy Harris. “Wall lights can easily become a decorative feature on a wall. While a single light fitting could make quite the sculptural statement, a group of lights arranged in a considered way can make >



Crema



Newport Lighting

Roche Bobois

for great visual impact. As an example, an interesting arrangement on the landing of a staircase can create a dramatic focal point."

Crema's Craig Raeside agrees. "Wall lights work beautifully down a passage or entrance hall, as does adding art or neon lights to a blank wall – which are very on-trend at the moment."

For the best of both worlds, Newport Lighting's Harris says: "Backlit mirrors are also a must. With the advancements in LED strip lighting you can backlight any shape of mirror to create a beautiful halo effect. This makes the mirror appear to be floating while producing a desirable ambience in that space."

As a final piece of advice, Crema's Raeside says,

"Avoid cluttering an area: rather create contrast and tie in what you have on your wall to what you have in that room by sticking with the same colour scheme. For example, if there is a steel finish on the table, tie the décor in with a steel-framed mirror." 🏠

**With thanks to Audi Snijman Interior Design, Casarredo, Carné Interior Design, Crema, Da Rocha Interiors, Décor Identity, H&M HOME, KARE, Mobelli Furniture + Living, Newport Lighting and Roche Bobois**



Décor Identity



Décor Identity



Audi Snijman Interior Design



Carné Interior Design