

Generations

Designer suggestions for updating a home

An article by Sarah Crow about ways some home décor is outdated was featured on www.bestlifeonline.com and it caught my eye, not because I have any plans of selling my home, but because I wanted to see just how outdated my home actually was.

And, true to form, my home proved to be perfect — but only if the year was 1980.

The first negative checkmark was for popcorn ceilings and, after a careful survey of every room, yes, we've got them throughout the house. I remember when we first moved in and painted them — tough chore, but it was cheaper than replacing them.

The next, wood paneling, is nowhere in our home. I remember how Mom and Dad went crazy with the paneling when they bought their first home on Long Island over 60 years ago — they hammered

it in everywhere — but that's one thing that didn't follow me to Morganton. I like it, but designers say it's out-of-date.



Peg DeMarco

Bathroom carpets, also, are dated and were popular way back in 1990. I have a couple of throw rugs just to keep the toes warm on winter mornings, but no full carpeting in either bathroom. Too many germs living underneath was the main problem aside from the look.

Track lighting was next — yes, we've got them in our home over the fireplace. For a more modern look, the article suggests replacing them with pendant lighting or recessed-can lighting in silver or white (not black — dated).

Unless you're living in the 1980s, brass faucets

have no place in your home (haven't got them, so we were OK on that one).

Inconvenient, hard to clean and unsightly, tile countertops were a popular poor design decision in the 1970s and no longer chic these days. And much like linoleum flooring, laminate countertops were once heralded as the height of convenience and style, but not today. I score double on that one as I've got both linoleum and laminate in my home.

Striped wallpaper may have once been a cool addition to a home. By today's standards, according to the article, it looks outdated and fussy — particularly if those stripes also have a floral print to them. We have both in our bathrooms — but not together.

Ornate curtains with matching valances were once the height of sophisticated design, but today they're outdated. Accord-

ing to the article, "Drapery is meant to enhance the light and view and should subtly complement the room décor — not dominate and slap its face." Sheer panels are more in today and will instantly modernize a room.

I've always loved Tiffany lamps, but the article doesn't appreciate their beauty and said to chuck them. Frankly, if I was lucky enough to have a Tiffany lamp, it would remain in my home forever.

Do they still weave shag carpets? That was an obvious no; for a more modern look, low-pile carpeting in a neutral hue is a better bet.

Today, white appliances feel unbearably dated and can drag down the look of an otherwise well-designed kitchen. For a more modern look, stainless-steel appliances are a better bet. We've equipped our kitchen with black appliances and we love them;

stainless steel, however, is on the horizon when any one gives out and needs to be replaced.

The article suggests doing away with dated, frosted-glass lighting fixtures and sticking to plain glass. We were 50/50 on this one.

Not sure how many homes this applies to, but the article suggests that the rustic-chic look may still be going strong, but hanging driftwood in a home immediately makes any room look dated. Ditto crystal doorknobs, except in a bed-and-breakfast if you're in the business.

Once thought to be an elegant and contemporary addition to a home's design scheme, today, floral-patterned furniture has come and gone. I had to get up and check our sofas — nope, no flower prints and no plaids either.

Pastel bathrooms used to be really popular; I've got a linen closet full of

baby-pink and light-blue towels I'm hanging onto, complete with toilet-seat covers. One of these days, when my husband isn't watching (he hates to throw anything out), I'll pack them up for Goodwill. The article also recommends replacing a pink tub, blue toilet or a jade-colored sink with plain old-fashioned white, off-white or tan.

All-white rooms are a thing of the past, and color is in. Thank goodness. With three dogs tracking in mud and a grandchild who is into watercolor painting, there are no all-white rooms in my house, and it's going to stay that way.

Frankly, it was easier to delete the article than to remodel, so our house will remain comfortably outdated.

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