

HOMES & GARDENS

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Mid-century modern living room ideas – 15 expert ways to introduce this timeless trend

Be inspired to create sleek, stylish and timeless spaces with these mid-century modern living room ideas

By Jennifer Ebert and Pippa Blenkinshop

Timeless and stylish, mid-century modern living room ideas are enduringly popular. Characterized by clean lines, a pared-back palette and sinuous, biomorphic forms, the mid-century-modern look pairs well with many other styles and remains contemporary today.

Whether you're seeking to create a sleek, mid-century [interior design](#) or update your [living room ideas](#) with a few iconic mid-century pieces, we've rounded up some beautiful schemes and advice from the experts to get you inspired.

MID-CENTURY MODERN LIVING ROOM IDEAS

Looking to create a mid-century modern living room? Spanning the decade between the Thirties and the Seventies, with roots in earlier design movements such as the Bauhaus, the mid-century-modern movement championed the principle of purity in design and sought to push the boundaries with innovative use of materials and technologies.

Advancements in manufacturing allowed furniture designers to experiment with new materials, such as injection moulded plastics, which resulted in sculptural, sleek pieces of furniture in new colors, textures and forms.

Although mid-century modern style was driven by advances in technology, it was also inspired by the natural world, and wood is the most widely used material for furniture.

12. SHOWCASE MID-CENTURY ART AGAINST A NEUTRAL PALETTE



(Image credit: Andrew Suvalsky Designs)

If you love [decorating with art](#) from the mid-century era then opting for an all-white scheme for a living room will allow it to double as a beautiful gallery space, perfect for showing off your prized collections says interior designer [Andrew Suvalsky](#).

'Midcentury modern design, characterized by clean and architecturally sensual lines, allows you to easily incorporate elements from other periods. A neutral palette, a hallmark of this style, makes it possible to layer in different patterns, materials and finishes,' he explains.

'The residents of the Park Avenue apartment are avid art collectors who also inherited special pieces of artwork acquired from the 1950s to present. The renovation of the home and living room was intentionally designed to highlight the robust art collection.'

'The prior design was dark and muted, with colors that pulled away from the art rather than allowing its beauty to shine. The new design brings a mix of modern gallery meets vintage classic. The residents are always interested in adding new pieces to the collection and did not want a design style that would dedicate the future placement of new pieces.'

DON'T BE AFRAID TO USE BOLD COLOR



(Image credit: Andrew Suvalsky Designs)

While mid-century modern pieces look great in a white living room with a gallery feel, but sometimes these spaces can feel quite stark. To add personality and depth consider combining sleek mid-century design with bold accents of color, metallics and personal touches as Andrew Suvalsky has done in the design for his own living room at his home in Montclair, New Jersey.

'I did not want to create a time-capsule of the 1950s,' says Suvalsky, 'but rather to infuse my modern take on various elements from the 1950s to the 1970s.' For Suvalsky that meant adding layers of various patterns, materials, and finishes that tell a new narrative.

'The mission was to blend the clean lines of a 1950's California style-home with a rich and dense decor but to also play with – even upend – preconceived notions of what a mid-century ought to be,' he notes.

'I incorporated patterns, colors and objects that tell a story and are meaningful to myself and my husband so that our home would be a seamless reflection of our lives. I wanted our house to be a unique emanation of our personalities, highlighting our love for music, art, travel and hosting.'

WHAT STYLE GOES WELL WITH MID-CENTURY MODERN?

Mid-century modern design goes well with many other styles, which makes it a popular design era among interior designers. 'Mid-century modern design, characterized by clean and architecturally sensual lines, allows you to easily incorporate elements from other periods,' says Andrew Suvalsky.

'If you buy all your furniture new it's going to start to look dated quickly, but if you take the time to curate and shop in a variety of places, you end up with a much more timeless room.'

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