

# SPRING 2016 HOME FURNISHINGS TREND REPORT

Alden Parkes shares the leading trends for 2016

The Spring 2016 High Point Market was all about evolution, not revolution: the next big thing is the next better thing. The “fashion show for furniture” brought beautiful detailing and deft refinements on styles with proven staying power.

For the consumer, High Point Market is a trade-only event that leaves consumers guessing as to what the next big trends are going to be (or at least until it hits retailers about six months later). But we’ve got an insider’s look at the top style points from the spring Market:

**Celebrity Takeover:** Hollywood made their mark at the spring Market with new collection introductions from big names like HGTV’s Fixer Upper Joanna Gaines, fashion houses Kate Spade and Cynthia Rowley, and country crooners Eric Church and Trisha Yearwood.

**Mixed Materials:** Today it’s all about the fusion of mixed materials when it comes to home design. Throw out labels and forget obvious match-ups in favor of a creative tension between odd-couple materials. Think of fine wood veneers paired with brass accents that have an almost industrial simplicity, or a plain glass top set on an ornately hand-carved base.

**Mid-Century for the 21st Century:** The glamorous style moderne of the mid-twentieth century has been updated with warm wood tones and brass accents. “The Mid-Century look has been reimagined for today’s relaxed living,” said Lynne McArdle, owner of Alden Parkes, a high-end furniture manufacturer. “While still keeping the same feel of mid-century designs, manufacturers are giving their pieces an updated look that can effortlessly pair with many different styles.”

**Distressed for Success:** Look for complex finishes that show the artistry of hand application to mimic the wear of age. Among the best this season is the subtle distressed detail of nickel-plated brass nail heads. Think Restoration Hardware and Crate and Barrel style pieces that have become popular among consumers over the last year.

**Paint:** Look for furniture that was designed for a painted finish—simple lines that show off the color, plus artful details that give the piece depth and elegance. Hand painted designs applied to furniture pieces were also a hit; while emerald green, blue tones and white were the most widely seen colors in home furnishings and décor.

**Unexpected Leather:** Tanned and treated leather—both faux and genuine—is nothing new in furniture design, but the freshest trend shakes up our expectations with less-familiar leathers and leather finishes. One of the favorite picks of High Point Market is Alden Parkes’ Monaco arm chair, which used a leather strap and buckles to create the arm of the chair.

**Exotic Veneers:** Every wood has its own signature, often expressed most beautifully through artfully matched and applied veneers. Vellum, Eucalyptus, and Cerejeira veneers were widely seen at Market and a variety of furnishings and home décor pieces.



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