



ARTICLE.

2026 Trend Report: Designed for feeling.

What's shaping interior design in 2026.

Designing for real life is becoming a defining thread in modern interiors—an embrace of form and function that honors how people truly live. At Article, we thoughtfully curate collections that strike a balance between style and purpose, creating spaces that feel timeless, effortless, and built to last.

To understand how design is shaping 2026, we asked design professionals to share what's inspiring them and what their clients are asking for. Across the board, they are seeing a return to calm, comfort, and personal expression, suggesting that—in a world that's felt anything but stable—people are finding hope in their spaces.

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Introduction

Executive summary.

As we look ahead to 2026, design professionals across North America are embracing an era of intentional design—one rooted in calm, comfort, and connection. Article’s survey reveals a **clear shift toward authenticity: homes designed for how people truly live, with equal attention to style, function, and longevity.**

Designers report growing enthusiasm for natural materials, tactile textures, and expressive color, reflecting a broader desire for interiors that restore and reflect individuality. Across every trend, from the rise of performance fabrics to the warmth of grounded hues, one message stands out: practicality and personality are no longer at odds. The most meaningful spaces are those that balance comfort with style; spaces that feel both timeless and deeply lived in.

KEY TRENDS

Designing for connection.

Back to nature.

Grounded hues with character.

The rise of feel-good fabrics.

The power of calm and comfort.

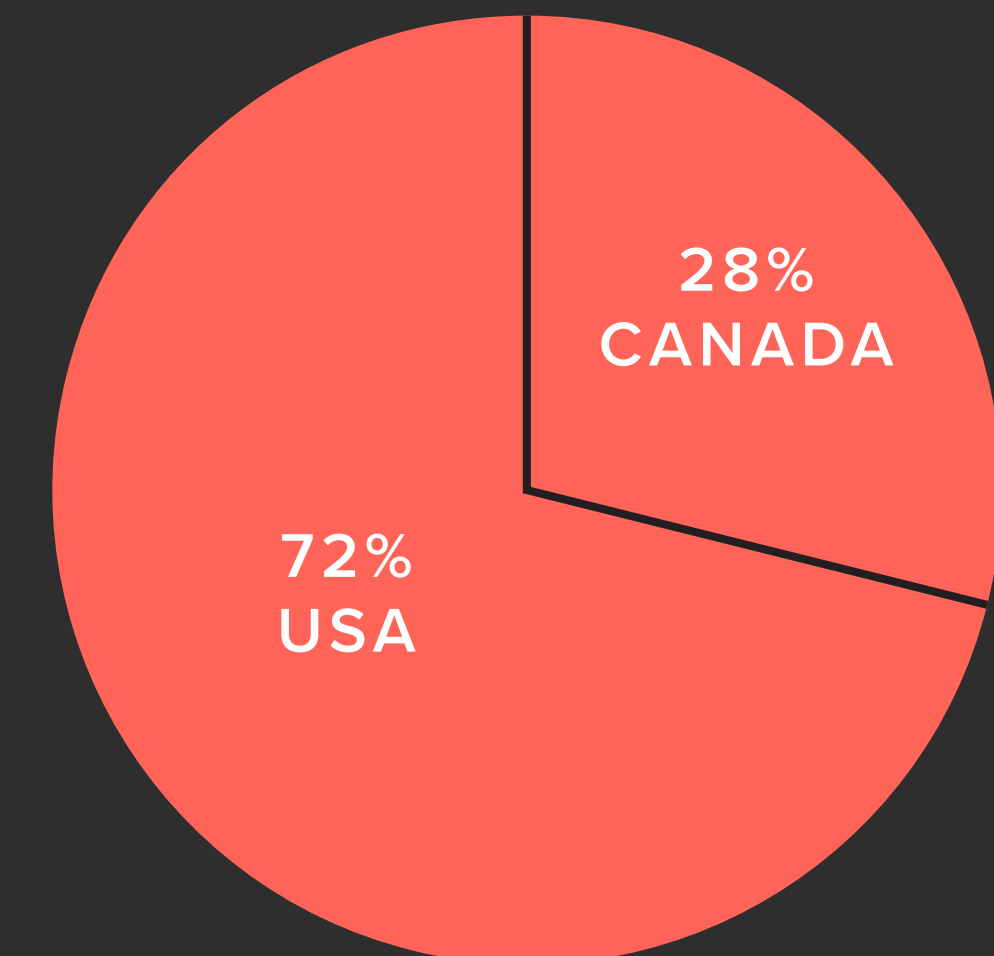
Research methodology.

This report draws on insights from 144 Article Pro Members, a group of residential and commercial design professionals across North America. The study was fielded between September 18 and October 5, 2025. Respondents represented a range of project types and design philosophies, with **72%** based in the United States and **28%** in Canada.

The survey explored what's influencing design as we approach 2026. Designers shared insights on the materials, colors, and features resonating most with clients, as well as how personal expression is shaping the spaces people create.

Responses were analyzed to uncover key themes and shifts in design attitudes, helping to paint a clearer picture of where interiors are heading next. Expert interviews added further depth and perspective, bringing the findings and the design stories behind them to life.

144
Design Professionals



A person is playing checkers on a wooden board. They are holding a glass of amber liquid. The background is blurred, showing a person in a green shirt and a person in a grey dress. The text "Designing for connection." is overlaid in white.

Designing for connection.

Designers are focusing on creating spaces that nurture tranquility and togetherness. 60% are designing with connection in mind, and 59% are focused on creating spaces that feel inviting.



In 2026, designers are striving for spaces that are:

Connecting
Inviting
Joyful
Personal
Calm

“People want their family around the table, they want their friends around the table, they want more intimate nights at home... there’s a real swing to those spaces that are designated for these moments.”



Melanie Mills
Owner
Grace and Riley Design



@cozycloves
Creator-generated content. Furniture provided by Article.



Back to nature.

Bringing the outside in is one of the best ways to foster connection.

So it's no surprise that our respondents have homed in on **nature-inspired design (56%)** as a popular theme, focusing on spaces that echo the outdoors. Words like natural, wood, organic, warm, and earthy are surfacing again and again—a clear sign that people are craving spaces that feel grounded, tactile, and connected.



@yellowbrickhome

Sponsored content. Furniture provided by Article.

What's on design professionals' minds:

color
tones
wood
organic
natural
warm
rich
fabrics
materials
textures
earthy

Natural materials will be taking center stage.

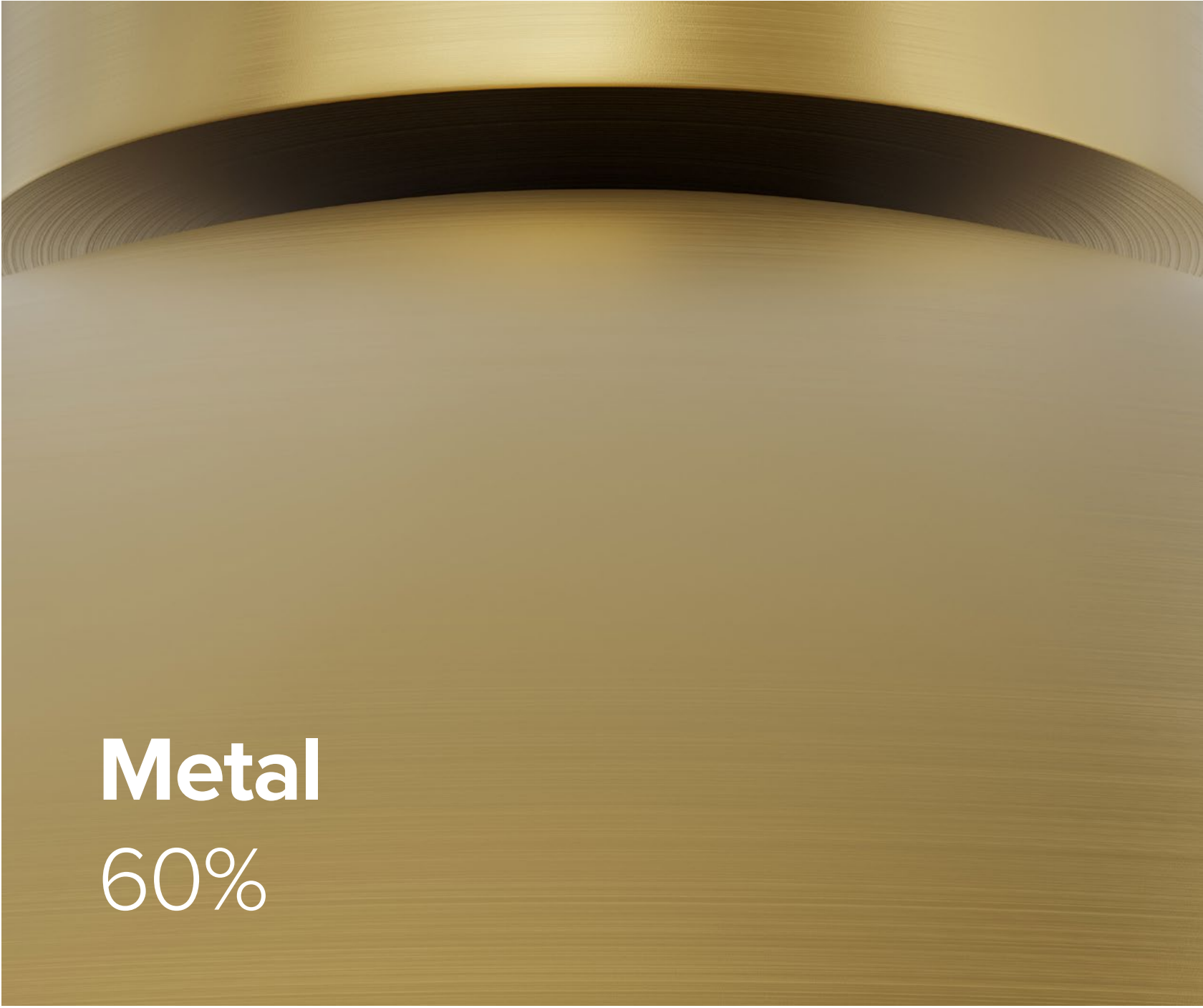
Three in four designers expect **organic materials like travertine and stone** to be among the most in-demand options, thanks to their warmth and timeless texture. **Medium-toned woods (70%)** followed closely, striking a balance that feels approachable yet refined. There's also a noted shift away from the extremes of very light and very dark finishes.

More than half **(54%)** also said that **relaxed curves and organic forms** have staying power in 2026, linking natural materials and flowing shapes to a sense of comfort and well-being. Together, these elements evoke a feeling of calm in interiors.

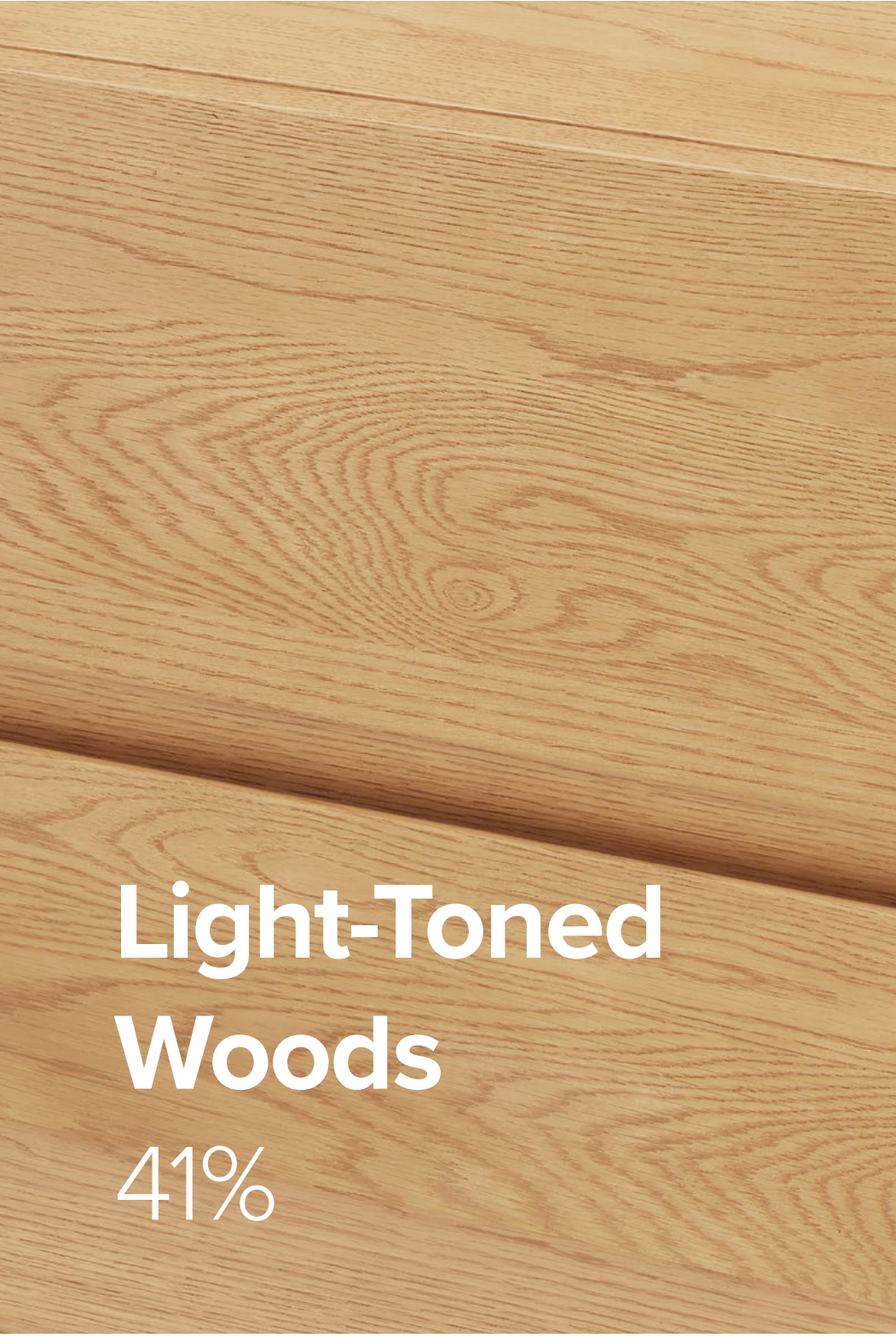


What materials do design professionals anticipate will be popular in 2026?

Travertine/Stone
75% of responses



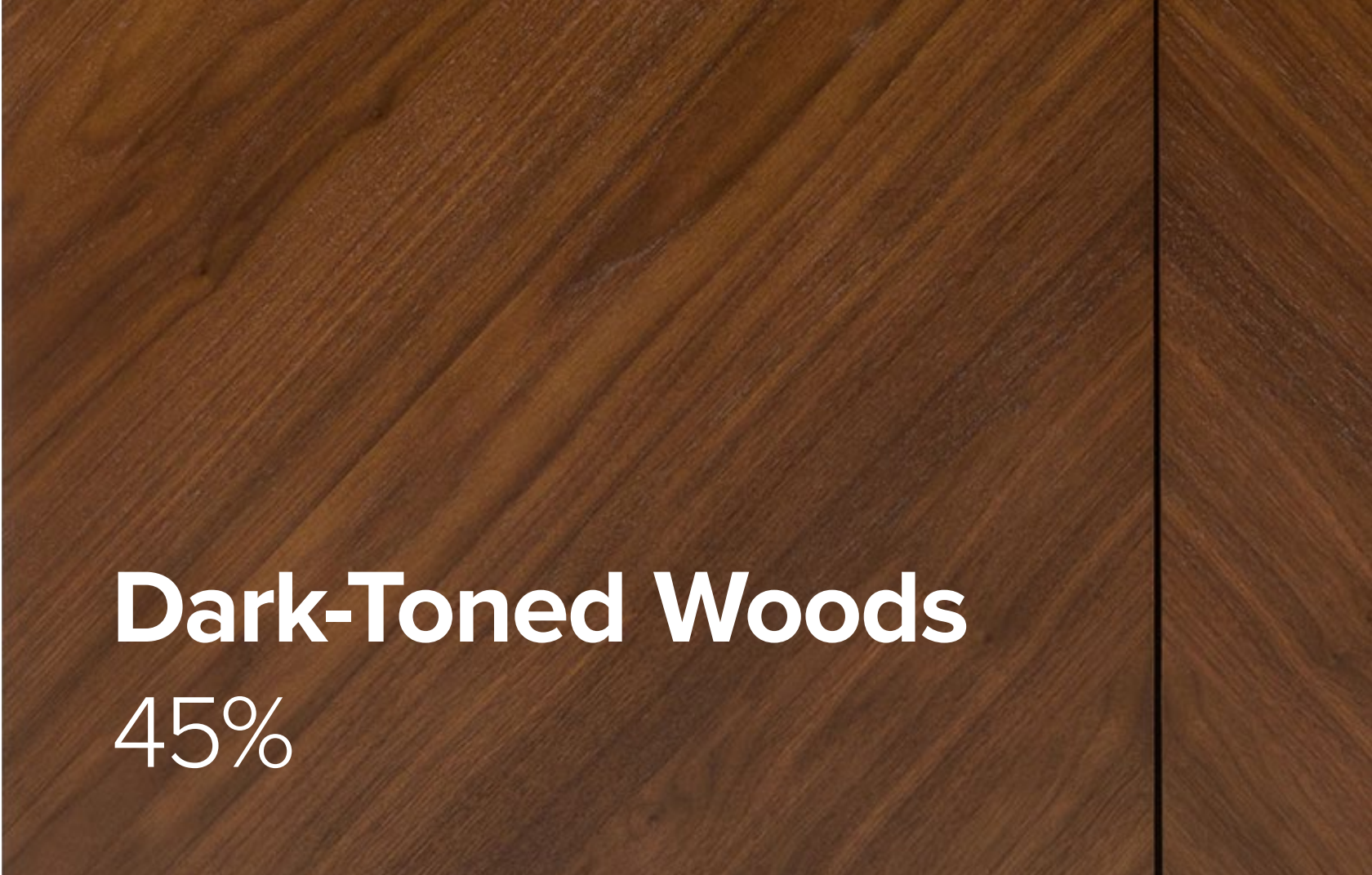
Metal
60%



Light-Toned Woods
41%



Medium-Toned Woods
70%



Dark-Toned Woods
45%



Glass
24%



“I love seeing nature itself becoming a heavier influence in interiors: materials with natural tactility, biophilic shapes, and pieces that feel grounded in place.”



Kathryn Pilon
Principal Designer
INDEX Design Studio LTD.



Grounded hues with character.

Designers are moving away from neutral minimalism toward palettes that are rich, rooted, and full of depth.

They consistently pointed to color as one of the most expressive ways to show personality in a space. **Earth tones** (think: rusts and mustards, to moss greens and chocolate browns) lead the way, with **76%** of designers saying these grounded hues will define next year's interiors.

These shades nod to the 1970s, but feel distinctly modern, bringing cozy sophistication to both statement and accent pieces. Browns and greens are emerging as the new neutrals, stepping in for the gray-and-white palettes that once dominated.



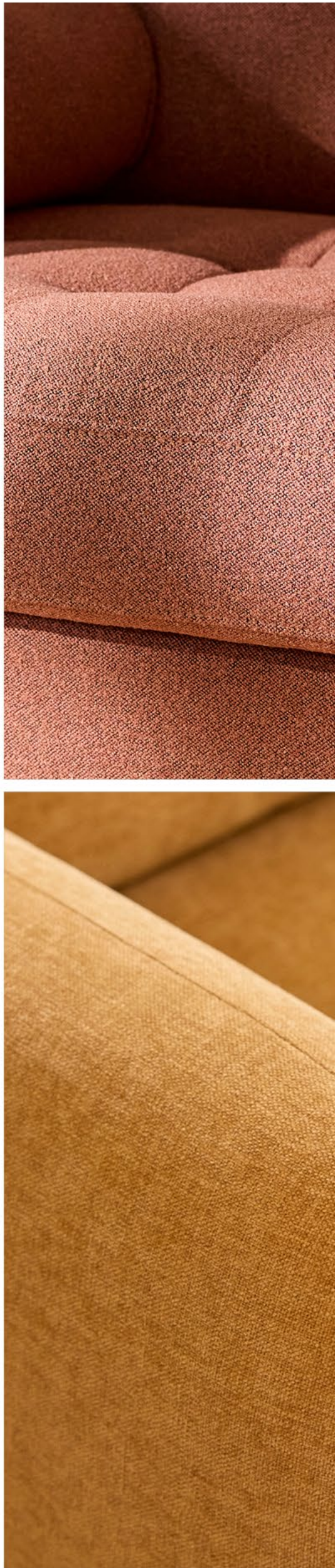
@gabriellavalladares

Creator-generated content. Furniture provided by Article.



76% of design professionals say earth tones

will be the most popular
palette of 2026.





Color is also becoming a key tool for personalization.

A massive **90%** of designers agree that **color helps clients express who they are at home**, and **54%** see **adventurous use of color** as a big trend in 2026.

This movement is echoed in Article's collections, where colors feel rooted, not loud; expressive, not overpowering. These hues bring balance and warmth to modern spaces, helping people create homes that reflect who they are.

@rachelnorstrom

“I’m most excited about the return of richer colors in interiors. While I will always appreciate a beautifully layered neutral palette, there are “quiet colors” that can act like neutrals. Adding these to your neutral foundation will make the space feel more personal.”



Nishia Shubert
Founder and Principal Designer
Stay Interiors





The rise of feel-good fabrics.

Next year, design is going to be all about engaging the senses and texture is leading the charge.

69% of designers said **rich, tactile textiles** will be the biggest trend, reflecting a renewed appreciation for materials that invite touch and provide a quiet dimension. **More than half** also noted that **soft textiles** will be an important design feature in the year ahead.

Velvet, chenille, and other soft-touch fabrics are being reimaged—still cozy and indulgent, but expressed in a more subtle, understated way. While bouclé and shearling remain popular, we’re seeing them show up as accents and details rather than centerpieces. Over half of designers said **leather (59%)** and **velvet (55%)** will be in demand, used in refined ways that let color and texture carry the mood.





THE TOP THREE UPHOLSTERY
MATERIALS FOR 2026:

**Performance
Fabrics**
81%



Leather
59%



Velvet
55%



Performance fabrics are also redefining comfort.

81% of designers said they'll dominate 2026, combining style with durability for the realities of modern living. **76%** identified them as the top functional feature clients will ask for, and nearly half (**48%**) said **pet-friendly upholstery** is something they're looking for.

Designers are sourcing textiles that perform for real life. They're on the hunt for pieces that look elevated but feel inviting, softening a room both visually and emotionally.

It's design that celebrates texture as comfort, blending luxury and livability in a way that feels unmistakably modern.

“Performance fabrics are definitely something people are asking for, especially when it comes to velvet. Across the board, my clients want performance. It is not just about the way it looks anymore. It also has to be functional and must integrate seamlessly into their lives.”



Alexandra Dow

Founder

Alexandra Dow Design

A blurred background image of a man and a woman sitting on a light-colored sofa. The woman is in the foreground, holding an open book. The man is behind her, also looking down. Large, bold, white text is overlaid on the center of the image.

The power of calm and comfort.

Make room for calm.

Designers are creating interiors that restore and recharge. **55%** said **calming, restorative spaces** will lead in 2026. It's comfort redefined: visual, functional, and deeply personal.

85% of designers selected at least one **minimalist style** as a dominant trend in 2026. While clean minimalism still holds some relevance, we see designers gravitating towards warmer, expressive minimalist styles designed to evoke feeling.



The new faces of minimalism.

Bold minimalism to showcase personality with the use of high-contrast colors, rich textures, and bold shapes and forms.

Japandi for fostering warmth and visual calm through function, earthy color palettes, rich textiles, and natural materials.

Scandinavian styles which emphasize simplicity and functionality, using natural materials, relaxed curves, and organic shapes for visual comfort.



@maisonsteph

Creator-generated content. Furniture provided by Article.



Designing for comfort has become a priority.

72% of designers said **comfortable seating** will be in demand, along with **intentional lighting (54%)** to shape the mood of a space, and **storage solutions (49%)** so that everything has its place. Homes that feature all three feel comforting and calm.

Improved functionality (65%) is a top priority, because the less there is to worry about, the more a space can be enjoyed.

Top priority for clients in 2026:

65%

IMPROVED
FUNCTIONALITY

60%

COMFORTABLE
SPACE TO RELAX

60%

SPACE THAT
SPARKS JOY



Specific features that
will be most in demand:

72%

COMFORTABLE
SEATING

54%

INTENTIONAL
LIGHTING

49%

SPACE AND
STORAGE
SOLUTIONS






“It’s about bringing more personality into the home—curves, softer shapes, and those nostalgic touches that make a space feel comforting and familiar. Furniture is leaning cozier too, with rounded sofas, warm woods, and beautifully textured fabrics.”



Sarah Atiq
Owner and Principal Designer
Sarah Atiq Interiors

SUMMARY

At the root of it all.

A photograph of a modern, light-colored wooden vanity table. On the table, there is a round mirror, a small tray with two bottles, and a vase with yellow flowers. A green velvet chair with a wooden frame is positioned in front of the table. The scene is set in a room with light-colored walls and a wooden floor.

At the heart of 2026's design direction is a return to what truly matters, and that's creating spaces that work hard, feel good, and stand the test of time.

People are seeking homes that support how they live: tactile spaces grounded in nature, layered with color, and designed for real life. That shift is reflected in the growing demand for performance fabrics and the emphasis on functionality.

Practicality and comfort can beautifully coexist, and it's what customers want. Across every trend, the message is clear: style and function aren't opposites, they're partners. This new era of design invites authenticity, comfort, and creativity to live side by side.

**The result is design that feels human.
It's about spaces that breathe, invite
pause, and encourage connection.
In 2026, we want interiors that look
refined but live easy.**

Products featured in this report:



PAGE 3
[Bea Velvet Office Chair](#)
[Torme Height Adjustable Desk](#)
[Williams Wall Mirror](#)



PAGE 3
[Sven 107” Tufted Velvet Corner Sectional](#)
[Baarlo Coffee Table](#)
[Bing Sconce](#)
[Leigh 33” Swivel Lounge Chair](#)



PAGE 7
[Harmon Checkerboard Side Table](#)



PAGE 8
[Sven Tufted Velvet Sofa](#)
[Eleanor Velvet Lounge Chair](#)
[Baarlo Coffee Table](#)
[Rye Floor Lamp](#)



PAGE 9
[Sven 107” Tufted Corner Sectional](#)
[Torme Storage Coffee Table](#)
[Everse Velvet Lounge Chair](#)
[Bonnie Velvet Round Pillow](#)



PAGE 10
[Sanders Velvet Sofa](#)
[Harmon Checkerboard Side Table](#)
[Layne Table Lamp](#)



PAGE 11
[Baarlo Coffee Table](#)



PAGE 12
[Adel 82.5” Dining Table](#)
[Maribo 48” Leather Storage Ottoman](#)
[Krossa File Cabinet](#)
[Gusfa Stackable Dining Chair](#)



PAGE 14
[Sporo Travertine Coffee Table](#)
[Sporo Travertine Side Table](#)



PAGE 16
[Kouva Bench and Wall Panel Storage Set](#)
[Pursl Large Indoor/Outdoor Planter](#)



PAGE 17
[Gracile Performance Rug](#)
[Haren Rug](#)
[Lorens Wool Rug](#)
[Athene Rug](#)



PAGE 18
[Sanders Reversible Sectional](#)
[Baarlo Coffee Table](#)
[Sloane Floor Lamp](#)

Products featured in this report:



PAGE 20
[Lenae Reversible Modular Sectional](#)



PAGE 21
[Sanders Lounge Chair](#)
[Marko 6-Drawer Double Dresser](#)



PAGE 22
[Everse Velvet Lounge Chair](#)



PAGE 25
[Riley 84" Sofa](#)
[Torme 72" Media Unit](#)
[Baarlo Coffee Table](#)



PAGE 29
[Archie Lounge Chair](#)
[Adel 42" Round Coffee Table](#)
[Jens 38" Bar Cabinet](#)
[Krysto Table Lamp](#)



PAGE 30
[Sanders Velvet Lounge Chair](#)
[Sigrid Storage Coffee Table](#)



PAGE 31
[Torme 72" Media Unit](#)
[Brie Table Lamp](#)



PAGE 32
[Marina 90" Reversible Storage Sectional](#)
[Adel 42" Round Coffee Table - Smoked Oak](#)
[Sloane Floor Lamp](#)
[Sula Rug](#)



PAGE 34
[Munk Velvet Dining Chair](#)
[Torme Extendable Dining Table](#)
[Romy Jute Rug](#)
[Moon Chandelier](#)



PAGE 35
[Leif Storage Console](#)
[Maribo Storage Ottoman](#)
[Calvet Wall Mirror](#)
[Bovi Runner](#)



PAGE 36
[Munk Velvet Dining Chair](#)
[Torme Height Adjustable Desk](#)

Expert Contributors



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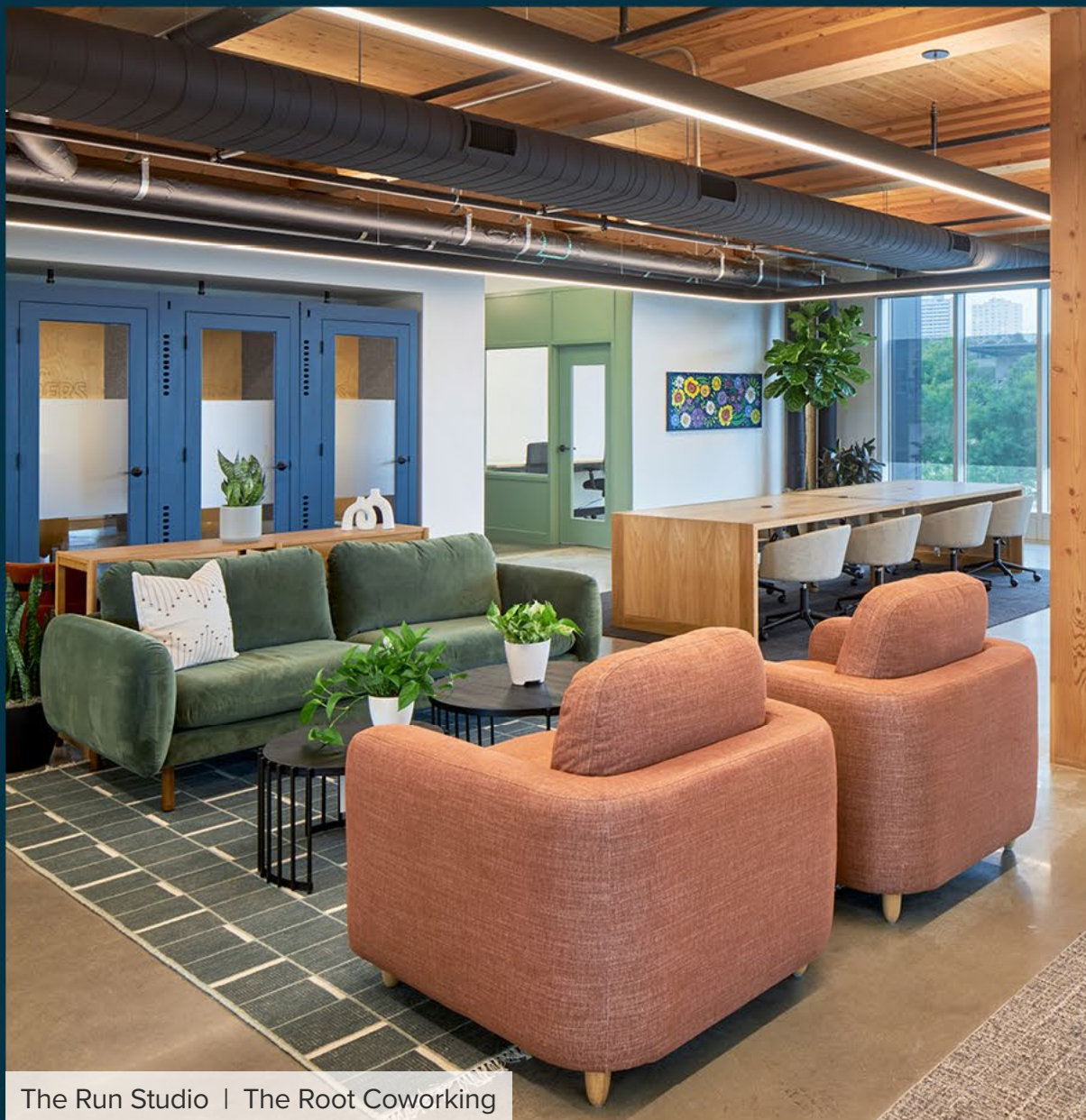
Sarah Atiq
Owner and Principal Designer
Sarah Atiq Interiors



Jewel Toned Interiors



Placemakr



The Run Studio | The Root Coworking



The Retail Duo

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