

# BERGEN, BY DESIGN

Six local pros share the trends that are making interiors pop — and tell what to drop. By **Gianna Barone**

From paints to plants, there's a lot to keep up with in the interior design world these days. Professionals know that good design requires a careful curator committed to bringing the client's story to life in a home. These experts must be conversant with trends, but trends come and go. It's how they're implemented that can make an abode both full of character and full of style. We asked six Bergen County interior designers to explain what's hot — and what's not.

## OUR INTERIOR DESIGNERS



**Susan Anthony**  
Susan Anthony  
Interiors,  
Edgewater



**Tess Giuliani**  
Tess Giuliani  
Designs,  
Ridgewood



**Patty Lacourte**  
Eurica  
Home,  
Waldwick



**Rita Lyons**  
Rita Lyons  
Designs,  
Ramsey



**Barbara Ostrom**  
Barbara Ostrom  
Associates,  
Mahwah



**Melanie Sobash**  
Melanie Sobash  
Studios,  
Ramsey



## Jewel tones

From fiery ruby to regal amethyst, clients have this year's luxurious jewel tone trend on the brain, the designers agree. "Some people will go with a bluish purple; that's probably the jewel tone I get asked for most," says Ramsey-based Rita Lyons. "I'll often do an accent wall in that color."

As for Patty Lacourte, owner and interior designer at Eurica Home in Waldwick, she says clients who usually lean toward neutral white are now asking for colors that make a statement. "Dark blue is classic, but emerald green is very big right now," explains Lacourte, noting that clients "are unafraid to mix colors and materials."

However, for designers like Ramsey's Melanie Sobash and Edgewater's Susan Anthony, some homeowners prefer to embrace this trend with pillows, décor pieces and artwork in an otherwise neutral room before going "all in" with bigger changes such as a new paint job or a tile installation. "Right now, my clients like jewel tones more for accents," says Sobash. "There's always a transition period for colorful trends, where some clients are not fully ready to jump in just yet."

Looking for an even trendier way to bedazzle your space with jewel tones? Anthony and Lacourte agree wallpaper is back in a major way. So get swatching!

## { PROS' TIPS }



### Maximalism

For the experts, this chic trend is all about adding drama. The first thing Lyons suggests to clients who are looking to embrace today's "more-is-more" tendency is a museum-esque gallery wall. "I'll find art that's different, but where each piece tells a story," she says. Anthony and Ostrom agree that this eclectic trend is fueled partly by young homeowners inheriting antiques and wanting to show off their beauty in a contemporary way that fits with the rest of their updated homes.

"My clients are getting braver with mixing old and contemporary design," says Ostrom, who has designed politicians' homes, notably the late former President Nixon's house in Saddle River. "They're going into their attics and basements where their grandmother's furniture lives, and I tell them that I'll have it lacquered and use it."

As popular as this look has become, Sobash warns that a designer must use "lots of restraint" when mapping out a maximalist room. "When the client is a collector, there is a fine line to observe in making the space not stark, but also not suffocating," says Sobash. "You need to design maximalist spaces with a good eye and strategy."

Ridgewood-based designer Tess Giuliani concurs. "I embrace the idea of 'more is better'—not cluttered, but engaging," she says, adding that when clients approach her with the task of maximizing a space, she often encourages them to "be daring, have fun, use colors and textures and display art."