





Modern décor can be like a roller coaster with its twists, turns, bright colors, unpredictable edges, and other surprises

**TEXT** ELYSE GLICKMAN

here is something about the word modern that gets people excited—either with passionate enthusiasm or trepidation. When some people find themselves surrounded by something aesthetically modern—be it art, food, or music—they express a desire to return to their traditionalist comfort zone. Other people whole-heartedly embrace the new and unexpected, and want their surroundings to reflect that. And then there's most of us: we like to pick and choose our risks with care, bringing the new and the unknown into our lives in small doses.

The beauty of modern home décor as it stands, especially since we've grown up anticipating the turn of the 21st century, is that it is versatile enough for individuals to make it their own, whether it's through one great, undulating piece (such as a sofa or chair), playful uses of lighting fixtures and accessories, or a wholesale adoption—turning your living room into a lounge-y setting, down to a tricked-out music system and



Turkish delight! Ross

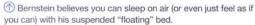
Lovegrove's new

bathroom collection

← inspired by

Istanbul and

made by VitrA.







- High Voltage: A sofa from Voltage, one of Cincinnati's most progressive furniture stores.
- TRG goes wild: TRG Interior's vanity lounge.

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① De'Longhi's newest portable heater additions help consumers save on heating costs during the frosty weather-while heating up the room's style quotient.

electronica music that even Philippe Starck would appreciate. The lines flow. The colors pop. The textures grab you. The shapes are intentionally irregular (it's not a symmetrical four-poster bed). The functions of appliances work in ways that either exceed your expectations...or simply exist to create a greater sense of movement in a room. Overall, you could see modern, on a broad scale, as a genre of design that is at once practical and provocative.

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For all of modern luxury's tactile, visual, and youthful appeal, its greatest strengths are its greatest shortcomings for those more traditional in their tastes. Those who prefer the shabby-chic look from the past decade may see the room-cutting shapes as cold or too commercial looking. Others who favor styles evoking past centuries may find the aesthetics in question are not classically beautiful.

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However, even the most conservative among us can argue that modernity is here to stay, even in room styles that are as familiar as one's childhood home.

Farrago Design (based in NY) blends an eastern and western mentality, as you can see in this cream console with glass.

When you consider flat screen televisions, computers, iPod-based music systems, and even security systems as an increasingly familiar presence in most homes, tomorrow's home (like tomorrow) has a way of sneaking up on you. As modern ideas and design trickle in, it's up to you how fast or slow you want to go in making them a part of your lifestyle. In any case, enjoy the ride!

Elyse Glickman is a fan of modern furniture, but adds it to her décor at a moderate pace.



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