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TRENDS 2026

Natural materials and conscious choices in home design.

Interior design in 2026 is no longer about chasing trends, but about making increasingly conscious choices. Today's clients understand that interiors are not created for a year or two, but often for a lifetime. That is why there is a growing focus on nature - earthy tones, stone, texture, linen, and materials that age beautifully over time.

To explore how investors' needs are evolving and which directions will shape interiors in 2026, we speak with architect Agnieszka Nabakowska, founder of Nabakowska Architects Interior Design Studio.

What questions do clients come to you with most often today? What are they really looking for in interiors - calm, comfort, or perhaps something more daring?

More and more often, clients begin the conversation with emotions and everyday comfort. They ask how to design an interior that feels calm, pleasant and truly liveable - not just visually impressive. They seek cosiness, but understood in a modern way: through natural colours, texture, light and materials, rather than an excess of decoration. Boldness does appear as well, but rarely in an avant-garde form. Instead, it is a confidence rooted in natural elements - stone, linen and expressive textures. Contrary to appearances,

these materials still leave plenty of room for creative expression.

Do you notice whether clients are more guided by trends, or do they prefer proven, safe solutions?

Today's clients are far more aware and increasingly less inclined to treat interiors as a passing fashion. They draw inspiration from their surroundings, but also understand that interiors are not designed for a year or two, but for many years - and often for a lifetime. The year 2026 is not a radical turn, but a clear direction that continues to gain strength. At the same time, a distinct division is emerging: more contrasting, thematic and bold approach.

Which trends are beginning to emerge in 2026?

There is a growing emphasis on natural materials, calm colour palettes and textures that age gracefully. In accessories and details, we can see a move away from gold, high-contrast black or gunmetal



finishes in favour of nickel - a more restrained, elegant and neutral option that works beautifully with natural materials and does not dominate the interior.

Which solutions do clients most often choose when designing a house or apartment?

Clients are looking for solutions that combine aesthetics with common sense. A budget is always part of the process - whether defined by a specific amount or framed within an entry-level, mid-range or premium price bracket. As architects, our role is to bring all design decisions together into a coherent whole and, very often, to guide clients towards the best possible solution rather than simply following their first instinct or initial inspiration. This requires experience and the ability to view the project holistically..

And when it comes to colour - do clients still prefer light, muted shades, or are they increasingly opting for darker, more expressive tones?

Light colours remain popular, but deeper, natural shades are appearing more and more often - used thoughtfully, as accents or as elements that help set the mood of an interior. Colour is no longer treated as mere decoration; instead, it has become a tool for creating atmosphere.

What do clients pay attention to when they want an interior to feel modern yet cosy?

Proportions, materials and light are key. Clients are increasingly less interested in a single dominant feature and more focused on creating a coherent, harmonious whole. Modernity is no longer associated with coldness, but with simplicity and quality - including the technical details.

And in small apartments - which solutions do clients ask for most often?

Most often, they are looking for ways to visually enlarge the space and make the most efficient use of the available square footage. This frequently involves rethinking the functional layout and eliminating unnecessary divisions. The goal is to bring out what matters most to the user - even within a limited budget.

Which radiators do clients choose most often - simple ladder models or more design-driven ones?

More and more often, clients see radiators as part of the interior design rather than just a technical installation. They pay close attention to form, colour and finish, choosing models that are fully aligned with the overall aesthetic of the space.

Do clients prefer a "disappearing" radiator, or one that stands out and adds character to the interior?

Both options are popular, but the choice is always a conscious one. A radiator either blends seamlessly into the background or becomes a subtle accent - never an accidental element.

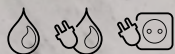
Finally - what one piece of advice would you give to people planning a renovation or furnishing a home?

Start with an honest conversation about budget and real needs. Very often, expectations are two or even three times higher than what is financially achievable. An experienced architect - often drawing on lessons learned from their own past mistakes, which I like to call education - knows where savings can be made and where they absolutely should not. It is this knowledge and sense of responsibility that make it possible to create an interior that is coherent, functional and built to last for years.



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