

Look for reddish-orange tango in 2012 home decor

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Chella Textiles offers a chair covered in Aretha in Ash Bark & Papaia, a canvas sateen with chenille large-scale Jacobean floral. The fabric resists stains and is machine washable. It sells for \$292 a yard. / Photo provided by Chella Textiles

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When 2012 arrives after midnight tonight, look for a new year alive with bold fireworks of color – especially tangerine tango, the Pantone color of the year.

This is no timid hue. It's fireworks for your decor, an orange bombshell for the home that dazzles when it's teamed with turquoise, yellow and apple green. And don't forget fuchsia. Pink and orange are as sublime as spicy sweet Thai dipping sauce.

In an uneven economic climate, this spirited reddish-orange "provides the energy boost we need to recharge and move forward," said Leatrice Eiseman, executive director of the Pantone Color Institute.

Orange signals not only vitality, but also urgency and strength – associations that should resonate in a year in which many are hoping to start seeing changes.

Tangerine tango is "sophisticated but at the same time dramatic and seductive," Eiseman

said. It's "an orange with a lot of depth to it." Like a sunset, it "marries the vivaciousness and adrenaline rush of red with the friendliness and warmth of yellow, to form a high-visibility, magnetic hue that emanates heat and energy."

Orange is not new to the design scene. Carrot orange was hot a couple of seasons ago, and then fuchsia gained ground. Last year's color of the year was honeysuckle, a pinkish orange.

Fashion designers from Tommy Hilfiger to Adrienne Vittadini are incorporating orange into their spring collections.

Designer and color forecaster Stacy Garcia says we have been looking to orange over the past two years, shifting from a lighter, brighter yellow orange to a sophisticated red-orange.

"Designers such as Prada decided that orange lips were (and still are) hot," Garcia said. "The energy and attractiveness of this hue expressed warmth . . . and when paired with black or deep backgrounds, it gives a vibrant, surprisingly elegant restraint."

Alex Shuford III, vice president of sales marketing for Century Furniture, is "playing around with a Marrakesh Moroccan feel, a lot of textures, a lot of patterns from that area of the world, peacock blues, raspberry reds, some oranges. We think there's a warmth to the spice tones."

This world-traveler look is punchy, high energy and exotic.

"I'm a big fan of vivid color," said interior designer Barclay Butera. His Barclay Butera Lifestyle furniture showroom bloomed in brights this fall, from bluish greens to oranges. Zig-zag, leopard, zebra and paisley prints were executed in rusts, oranges, pink and blues. "It's all about color," Butera said.

Currey & Co. offers Marjorie Skouras-designed turquoise and orange chandeliers, which recall old turquoise jewelry.

"We were thrilled to have Marjorie come on board and to bring this big shot of color into our line," said Cecil Adams, creative director of Currey & Co.

Wallpaper and fabrics from such lines as York Wallcovering and Chella Textiles dance with tangy oranges.

For a more affordable way to add tangerine to your home, opt for a bright art poster. Art.com has a selection that features tangerine tango and other variations of orange.

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