

SPRING INTO ACTION



Hot decorating tips from expert Aly Velji

Don't spend this extra time at home trying to keep everyone in the family from getting on each other's nerves. Get everyone together and their thoughts about making your home bright, cheerful and more comfortable.

Myke Thomas
CALGARY SUN

Aly Velji, principal and senior designer at Aly Velji Designs, is one of Calgary's best known designers, specializing in mixing design styles, patterns and textures, to add a hint of the unexpected to each of his projects.

He is also a familiar face in the Canadian television industry, appearing on shows

including *Designer Superstar Challenge*, *The Style Dept.*, *My RONA Home* and is a resident design expert on *The Marilyn Denis Show*.

Aly has also designed his own line of rugs, a collection of furniture made with reclaimed wood called SALVAGE, and has recently launched a capsule furniture collection with Canadian furniture company, Mobilia.

Here, he shares his thoughts on spring design trends.

"Spring is a great time to think about changing up your space. Out with the drab and dated and in with the new and fresh," he says. "These trends have been on our radar for a while."



ALY VELJI
Aly Velji Designs

◀▼ CALIFORNIA COOL

"I am really into creating more casual spaces that are inviting and approachable, spaces should be designed to be lived in and enjoyed. Interiors are becoming more laid back and less stuffy. Bringing in natural colours and materials like rattan, linens and cottons really help in creating this look. Wood tones and leather are also the perfect addition to help warm up the look."





SHADES OF ORANGE ▶

“Orange is the new black. Different shades of orange are making a comeback and we could not be happier. We have been using all tones of orange from tangerine to camel in our interiors for some time. It is a colour that can be bright and bold but also one that can be moody and dramatic; a colour that is very versatile in that it can be modern or traditional or a great way of adding something a little different and unexpected in your space. With colour, accessories are a great way of doing this — pillows, vases, etcetera — or go bold and add some wallpaper for a more dramatic look.”



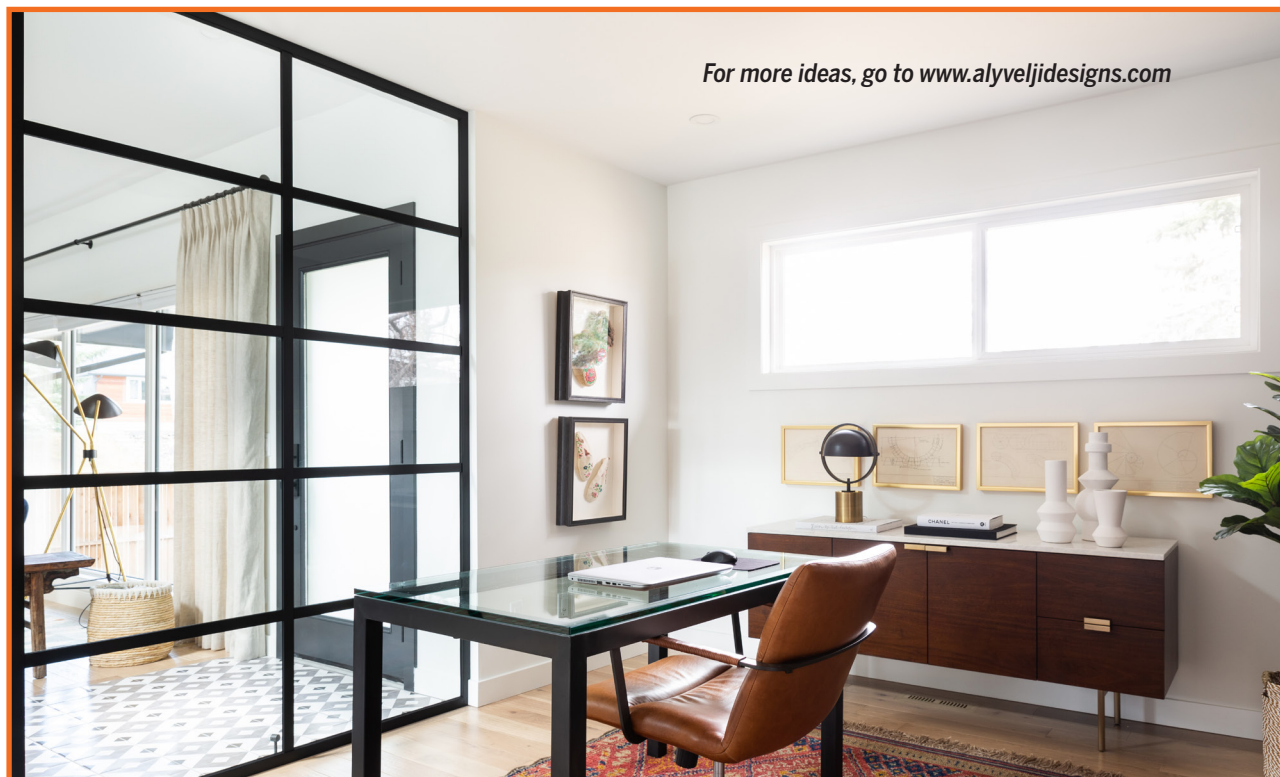
◀ BEAUTIFUL BANQUETTES ▶

“Banquettes are back. I am in love with them because they are such a great use of space. Incorporating them into kitchen designs is great because they are a great use of space. I find for casual kitchens, especially ones that have an eat-in nook, they work well because you can always have storage under the seats so you are not sacrificing any lost cabinet space. The best part is that you can really have fun with the upholstery and pillows that you can throw on them to add in more colour and texture.”



▲ MULTI-TONAL KITCHENS

“Designing kitchens that are bold and dramatic yet still timeless is something that we have striven to do in every interior. Creating impact by using different materials is where we are seeing kitchen trends going these days. Wood cabinets mixed with white or black creates a lot of contrast and when paired with a patterned backsplash, it creates just the right amount of drama without being overwhelming. Mix and match your textures to create kitchens that are layered.”



For more ideas, go to www.alyveljidesigns.com

▲ GLASS PARTITIONS

“Open-plan living is on the way out. Opt out of removing all walls in a space and think about using glass dividers instead. They offer up separation of spaces but still filter all the light. Glass partitions with metal frames also create a lofty vibe in a space and make for a stunning statement. The look is a little more industrial and commercial, but there are ways of warming up the look to ensure it works in residential settings. A cost-saving trick is to just build pony walls that go half-way up and then add in a glass portion for the top half, also creating a striking look.”