

Color & Style Trend Predictions for 2024 Mark Knight – Director of Design RM Coco Décor Ltd

OVERVIEW

It feels like just yesterday that the famed crystal ball dropped in Times Square to usher in 2024. It is hard to believe 2024 is already almost one month old! A month into a new year, most have adjusted to writing 2024 on documents and are ready to look forward to everything the year has in store for them.

The coming year will see a Presidential election. The psychology of color shows us that political election years are thought to be a time of renewed energy, optimism, and the promise of exciting times to come. The coming year may challenge this theory! We have never seen our nation so divided and civility so low.

There is always excitement by the winning party and the licking of wounds by the losing one. Americans have always pulled together for the good of our country (even when we don't always agree on how to get there). As we begin 2024 the divide in our country is greater now than ever.

When a new administration comes to power, hope for a positive future is prevalent, and color palettes for consumer products reflect this with clear and bright colors. If the country is concerned or fearful about our future, colors become dull, and tones are muted and drab. With such discord in America today, how will everyday products be colored? Bright and colorful, or dull and somber, or will a new color palette combine the two as we try to coexist? The answer will not be known until the end of the year. What color and style trends are predicted for the upcoming year? Here is a preview of the predictions.

In examining what products may trend in 2024, those in style-based industries will be mulling over color and style predictions for the next twelve months. While predicting color and style may seem like random musings, key indicators help predict what may drive color and style trends. No crystal ball that will make these predictions come true, and the whim of consumer's buying habits can change more quickly than one would think. Dress designers, for example, may bring out collections full of short hemlines, but that does not mean that women will buy them just because they are predicted to be in style.

Home trends have always been influenced by many things that we encounter in our daily lives. It used to be that apparel was the main gauge of what eventually would trend for the home. While apparel trends are still predictors of what colors and styles will make their way into our homes, many more visual factors play a part today. If we buy color and style in one product, will we not live with the same themes in our homes? More and more the answer is yes. If we plan a wedding, usually one of the most important days in life, and select a color(s) for that event, would we not feel comfortable living with this color(s) daily?

Again, probably so!

Let's look at the trends predicted for 2024 in several design areas to see if they seem on target or if consumer needs are also pushing additional trends to the forefront.

As each year begins, many wait with bated breath for Pantone[®] to announce its "Color of the Year" with the same anticipation given to the Oscar, Emmy, or Tony award ceremonies. This announcement from Pantone[®] is significant as its color formulations are the universally accepted standard for precise color matching worldwide. Pantone[®] is a force in the world of color, but as we will see with almost every other category that we will examine, the days of one source being the be-all-end-all authority on anything are really over. Consumers are the final decision-makers of what trends are universally accepted.

Color predictions by Pantone® are met with applause, thought to be ahead of their time, or Pantone® is loathed for their selection!

Several years ago, for example, they predicted an emerald green color that never really took off in home furnishing products, but today is a much sought-after color for interiors. The Pantone® Color of the Year for 2015

was probably the most controversial in recent history. The color Marsala was resoundingly disliked in all arenas. Blogs and Facebook pages dedicated to the dislike of Marsala were even created!

For 2024, Pantone® has selected a bright but gentle shade they call Peach Fuzz. Pantone® believes that this color can add softness to any room, helping create a space that is ideal for relaxation and reflection. It also has a modern edge to it, lending itself well to contemporary design styles.

Leatrice Eiseman, Executive Director at Pantone Color Institute, said in the brand's announcement of Peach Fuzz as 2024's Color of the Year, "In seeking a hue that echoes our innate yearning for closeness and connection, we chose a color radiant with warmth and modern elegance. A shade that resonates with compassion, offers a tactile embrace, and effortlessly bridges the youthful with the timeless."

Many manufacturers are already gearing up to produce at least a portion of their new product offerings in this spotlighted color. Will Peach Fuzz colored products be met with open arms by consumers? Is it ahead of its time, or will it be cast off as we saw with Marsala in 2015? Only the next twelve months will tell for sure!

What other influences will there be in style, trends, and colors that will impact our lives in the coming year? Here are some of the predictions.

PAINT

While timeless shades (think rich neutrals) will never go out of style, designers are seeing many adventurous paint hues for the coming year. Paint trends for 2024 do not agree with the prediction from Pantone[®], but large wall areas require a different approach than accent and trend colors in other product areas.

Benjamin Moore's paint color predictions have become a leading voice in paint trend predictions over the last decade. Benjamin Moore has selected a mid-toned blue they have named Blue Nova as its Color of the Year for 2024. This color combines violet and blue to create an elevated and sumptuous hue. Blue Nova is a rich, grounded blue that works just as well on an accent piece or covering a color-drenched room. This color was chosen to represent the blend of modern and traditional styles so popular in home interiors today.

While other leading paint manufacturers have their own takes on color trends for the coming year, expect shades of blue to take the spotlight for 2024. Moody medium tones of blues (not the deep navy blues of the past few years) are predicted to trend in the coming year. Blue is timeless and never really goes out of style, but will be especially popular in the next twelve months. Benjamin Moore, Sherwin-Williams, and Valspar have all named different shades of blue as their trend color for 2024. Here are the favorite color predictions for 2024 from leading paint producers.

<u>Sherwin-Williams</u>: Sherwin-Williams has selected Interesting Aqua as their Color of the Year. The color is an updated way to add some drama without a room feeling too dark and cave-like.

<u>Valspar:</u> Valspar has announced its 2024 Color of the Year is Renew Blue. The color is a chalky, greenish-blue shade that is refreshing, calming, and very pleasing to the eye.

<u>Behr:</u> For the coming year, Behr predicts that we will fall in love with their Cracked Pepper paint color. The soft black shade can transform and elevate any space. Cracked Pepper, whether used as an accent on doors or cabinets or to paint an entire room, is predicted to become a timeless hue.

<u>Dutch Boy:</u> Dutch Boy Paints hopes we will embrace the moody paint color trend as they have selected a deep olive shade called Ironside. This color is a grounding yet statement-making neutral that is perfect for cozy lounge spaces, bedrooms, dens, and living rooms. "We are taking a comforting approach that embraces restoration and nature while bringing harmony into the home," said Dutch Boy's senior brand manager Michelle Bangs.

<u>Glidden:</u> Glidden's color of the year is a warm, nearly yellow neutral that they call Limitless. It can be paired with almost any color scheme. The color experts at Glidden call Limitless an "anything-but-yellow honey beige," and say it was designed to blend with both warm and cool tones (though they are embracing the warm-tone trend).

Farrow & Ball: Farrow & Ball's Color of the Year for 2024 is really several shades that fall into the clay tones color family. Farrow & Ball predict that clay tones will take over in 2024. The company noticed that there has been a move away from cold tones like pale gray and stark white and an embrace of life's rich rainbow in response to global influences. Clay tones inject reassuring comfort and familiarity into an atmosphere, adding a warm ethereal quality to any room, and clay tones can trick the eye and make it seem as though your room is larger than it is. While timeless shades (think rich neutrals) will never go out of style, designers are seeing many adventurous paint hues for the coming year. Paint trends for 2024, do not agree with the prediction from Pantone® but large wall areas require a different approach than accent and trend colors in other product areas.

In addition to these preeminent manufacture's Color of the Year selections, here is a look at other paint color palettes expected to trend in the coming year.

<u>Timeless Neutrals</u>: Comfy neutrals are here to stay, and not just white and cream. The palette is more relaxed and features mellow colors like light rust, olive, warm coral, and rich brown. Trends continue to shift from cooler gray tones toward warmer color palettes found in nature.

<u>Dusty Pink:</u> Prepare to see sophisticated shades of pink used less traditionally. Pink is making its way into the realm of contemporary style in 2024. Gone are the days when pink is seen as just a girly color. Pink shades for the coming year gain interest as softer hues and medium tones add undertones and hints of brown.

<u>Rich Browns:</u> The coming year is set to embrace a rich tapestry of warm earth tones, creating a design landscape that feels grounded and inviting. The spotlight will be on the bold entrance of rich brown, adding depth and sophistication to any room setting.

<u>Warm Red:</u> Look for the full spectrum of red tomes to be popular in 2024. We will see rusty red, burgundy, auburn, and muted mauve shades as popular paint choices for the coming year.

Dark Mauve: Dark mauve shades will be trending in 2024. Dark mauve colors can read neutral but still happy and bold.

<u>Wine Colors:</u> It is predicted that we will take more risks with color in our home in 2024. This means less grays and whites and more colors that pack a punch. With this in mind, look for more wine-colored paint hues to appear in homes in the coming year.

WALLPAPER

In recent years, wallpaper has seen a shift in designs, styles, applications, and even functionality. Wallpaper will continue to be in the limelight in the coming year and is expected to be a bigger trend in 2024 than we have seen in a while. The placement of wallpaper may also be in for a change in 2024, as it is predicted that they will be inspired by the patterned ceilings that are currently trending across Europe. Ceiling wallpaper is a trend that will gain popularity in the coming year. It is also predicted that wallpaper "accent" walls will see a comeback in 2024.

<u>Sophisticated Stripes:</u> It is predicted that we will see all sorts of stripes appear in rooms via wallpaper in 2024. This includes everything from classic, thick stripes with two alternating colors to modern wavy stripes. Stripes are always in style, but the latest trend is in colorful, enveloping stripes inspired by handwoven vintage textiles versus more graphic and preppy versions.

<u>Smell the Roses:</u> Floral prints are as classic as it gets. But the latest floral wallcoverings are full of exciting colors and curiosities, taking nature in an almost supernatural direction. In addition to traditional florals, expect abstract botanical motifs to continue to draw attention in 2024.

Super-Size It: A trend that emerged last year and is expected to be even more popular in 2024 is large-scale prints that can dominate a space. Expect to see these bold designs being used as the anchor in a room, and then decorating around them with medium and smaller-scale motifs and textures to keep the look from overpowering.

So Faux: While several varieties of heavily embossed wallpapers are currently being sold, a new trend of faux textures will take the wallpaper market by storm in 2024. These wallpapers create the illusion of unique surfaces taking over walls. Faux-textured wallpaper will trend in the coming year, allowing homeowners to achieve the illusion of texture, without the permanence of wood, concrete, linen, or paneling.

Old is New Again: Retro is back for 2024: Classic Art Deco and Baroque designs, large-scale geometrics, and abstract patterns to name only a few. Look for these in rich colors like orange, green, brown, and yellow. It is predicted this style will be seen across brands in the wallpaper market in the coming year. Consider adding these designs to unexpected places such as entryways and kitchens. Another trend making a resurgence in 2024 will be designs from the 70s. While retro wallpaper prints can be incredibly bold, new color palettes will help ground the bold designs.

Bring the Outside In: Another major interior design trend expected for 2024 will emphasize bringing the outdoors in via landscape scenes. Rather than commissioning a landscape mural, this look will be achieved with a wallpaper mural. Natural landscapes such as forests, jungles, rolling hills, and mountains receding into the distance will create powerful perspectives. These designs offer a sense of calm and escape and will be all the rage in the coming year.

Stately Murals: Look for wallpaper murals to flourish in 2024, ranging from elegant to modern. They can mimic Renaissance paintings or the scenic outdoors. Due to their large scale, they can be overpowering and are best suited to more open, communal spaces like the dining room or the living room. Mural ceilings will also be a big new trend in design in the coming year. Wallpaper will be used on wall and ceilings, and will also add design details to the interiors of built-in millwork and luxury freestanding cabinets.

Let it Shine: Metallics are dynamic by nature and have been a loved element in decor for eons. While gold panels have been around for some time, gold leafing in wallpaper is a trend that will receive a lot of attention in 2024. Metallic wallpaper adds intriguing contrast to traditional spaces and creates a sense of visual dimension and

texture. Gold gilded surfaces used on the ceiling of a living room, dining room, or bedroom will bring more light into the room.

FLOORING

The significance of flooring in influencing the aesthetics of a space cannot be denied. Flooring is the foundational element that sets the stage for the entire room design. Flooring trends, much like other aspects of interior design, evolve with time, reflecting changing preferences and design. It is predicted that sustainability, inclusivity, and an appreciation for nostalgia are some of the values that will inspire our choice of flooring in the coming year. Unsurprisingly, farmhouse flooring is not going anywhere, but you might not have expected retro carpets to make a comeback, which designers say is on the way. Here are the flooring trends you can expect to see in 2024.

<u>Tile:</u> For 2024, tile design trends point toward warmer tones in cream, beige, and grey. These will be paired with different size formats and tonalities to create patterns. Porcelain and ceramic tiles continue to dominate in non-shower flooring. Porcelain is a durable material that allows you to have the look of natural stone or even wood without the maintenance or the high price tag. It is also predicted that clay-colored and terracotta tiles will be on trend for 2024.

<u>Carpet:</u> Believe it or not, carpeting is making a comeback! Wall-to-wall carpeting has gotten a bad rap over the years, but since we all started spending more time at home in the past few years, there has been a return to the appreciation for the coziness of carpets. Carpet trends for 2024 are inspired by the renewed demand for vintage furnishings and colorways of retro soft goods like upholstery and fabrics.

In the coming year, we expect to see carpet creatively utilized in various interior design styles, offering unmatched comfort, warmth, and style. It remains a versatile choice that adds a cozy and welcoming ambiance to bedrooms, living rooms, and even offices. Patterned and textured carpeting are predicted to also be popular in 2024. These can add visual interest and depth to a room, even with neutral color palettes. Geometric patterns, herringbone, and cut-and-

loop designs are some examples of trending carpet textures for the coming year.

Carpet colors for 2024 are sure to accent most design styles. Here are a few of the color families we expect to gain attention over the next twelve months.

<u>Down to Earth:</u> Earthy and neutral colors like beige, taupe, and shades of gray have been popular choices for carpets in recent years. They provide a versatile backdrop for various design styles and are unlikely to go out of fashion in 2024.

Environmental Influences: Nature-inspired colors are gaining traction for the coming year. Soft greens and serene blues can bring a sense of tranquility and connection to the outdoors. In 2024, we will see more muted or pastel shades of these colors that will create a calming ambiance for our homes.

<u>Seeing Red:</u> Warm, rich reds can add a sense of luxury and coziness to a room. Deep burgundy or terracotta tones make a bold statement while still being timeless.

Look for all of these shades to be trending for 2024.

<u>Dark and Deep:</u> Dark carpet colors, such as deep charcoal, navy, or forest green will be popular choices for home theaters or areas where a dramatic effect is desired in 2024. In a spacious room, deeper shades can help create an opulent and inviting atmosphere. In smaller spaces, they can craft an intimate and cozy ambiance.

<u>Wood and Laminate Flooring:</u> The rustic and familiar modern farmhouse style will continue to dominate in 2024, so it is no surprise that floor trends will follow suit. The farmhouse style's raw textures and organic forms will adopt Scandinavian minimalism styling through lighter-hued, smooth-surfaced design with fewer knots and distinguishing characters, creating a visually clean backdrop to a home. Here are some additional trends in wood and laminate flooring that we can expect to see in 2024.

<u>Patterns Everywhere</u>: Move over, plain wood floors. Patterns will be big in the coming year. In 2024, it's all about making a bold statement

with your floors. Hardwood floors will continue to take the lead in kitchen designs in 2024. It is expected that 25% of both new and renovated kitchens will sport stained and unstained hardwoods in the coming year. The classic herringbone pattern is trending for 2024, creating visual movement and texture and forging an overall elegant and classy appearance. Patterned wood floors are a classic way to make a bold statement in a kitchen, hallway, or dining room and provide a unique, decorative base for the rest of the room's design.

<u>Textured Vinyl and Resilient Flooring:</u> Vinyl and resilient flooring continue to trend, and last year they came in a close second to hardwood flooring. Look to see smooth surfaces, raw wood tones, and wide planks being popular for 2024, and although lighter-hued wood is seeing a big uptick, the earthy look of rustic wood complete with saw marks, knots, and lots of graining, will remain a sturdy favorite.

<u>Mix-and-Match Styles:</u> The trend of combining different wood tones in flooring designs is set to continue gaining momentum in the coming year. This creative approach allows homeowners to infuse a personalized and visually striking element into their spaces. The artful combination of diverse wood hues offers a unique and dynamic appearance, allowing for a floor that is not only functional but also a distinctive design feature.

A Stone's Throw: Natural stone tiles are poised to be a dominant force in the flooring trends of 2024, showcasing their enduring elegance and luxurious appeal. As homeowners seek timeless options that exude sophistication, natural stone emerges as a go-to choice. The beauty of natural stone lies in its diversity, with a range of options such as marble, granite, travertine, and limestone. Each type of stone brings a unique character, veining, and color palette, adding a touch of individuality to floors. Beyond aesthetics, natural stone offers exceptional durability, making it well-suited for high-traffic areas and spaces that demand both style and resilience.

<u>Earth Friendly:</u> The trend towards sustainable flooring will gain momentum in 2024 as homeowners increasingly prioritize ecofriendly options. This shift reflects a broader awareness of environmental concerns and a desire to make conscious choices that contribute to a greener future.

BATH

Bathrooms are no longer purely utilitarian spaces, Homeowners are increasingly looking to create aesthetically pleasing and functional bathrooms, which means that bathroom design trends are just as important to consumers as trends for other rooms in the home. Here are some additional trends we should expect to see in 2024 for bathrooms.

Exciting Neutrals: Warm neutrals are in for bathroom design in 2024. Rather than stark all-white bathrooms, think warm white, cream, and beige tones; lighter wood tones like maple, white oak, mushroom, taupe, warm brown, and camel tones throughout.

<u>Color My World:</u> Just because neutrals are in does not mean color is out. Expect pops of saturated color to be on trend in the coming year. Earthy greens and dark tones like raisin, purples, and blues are all increasing in popularity, particularly for cabinetry and tile. These deep, saturated tones have a calming and grounding effect that lends well to a relaxing, spa-like bathroom space.

Spa Day: Outfitting primary bathrooms with spa-like features has been trending for a couple of years now, and this trend will not go anywhere anytime soon. Steam showers, towel heaters, massaging shower heads, soaker tubs, and heated floors are features homeowners will be wanting in 2024.

<u>Claymation:</u> With a penchant for natural materials over the last couple of years, the design world will continue to embrace terracotta materials in 2024, and this trend will be spotted in bathrooms, whether through the use of tile or decorative pieces.

<u>In the Spotlight:</u> Whether the design aesthetic is contemporary or traditional, statement lighting will be a focal point in the bathroom design in 2024. Backlit mirrors and mirrors with anti-fog qualities and smart or connected capabilities will trend in the coming year.

<u>If Walls Could Talk:</u> Making a big statement in bathrooms for 2024 will be wallpaper. Wallpaper is the easiest way to incorporate new statement colors into the bath.

Shut the Front Door: Doorless showers will be trending in 2024 with no door or open (and curb-less) transition between the shower and

the rest of the space. Also, any glass panels surrounding the shower will be frameless and crystal clear.

<u>Just Chill:</u> Refrigerators will make an appearance in the bath for 2024. Yes, you read that correctly. In 2024, beverage stations and mini-refrigerators for beverages, medications, creams, and makeup will be part of the well-equipped bathroom.

<u>Heavy Metal:</u> The use of mixed metals in the bathroom will be popular in 2024. As it turns out, a pewter mirror and a bronze faucet look great together. Mixing metals also adds visual interest, keeping the eye moving between fixtures.

KITCHEN

It has been said that the kitchen is the heart of the home, and for good reason. Life is lived around meals, which all originate in that one space. For many it is where their day begins, the first stop after coming home from work or school, and the last place they visit before heading to bed. The point? We spend a lot of time in the kitchen, so it is no wonder they impact our moods and the resale value of our homes. Here is a preview of what we expect to see trending for kitchens in 2024.

White Out: All-white kitchens had their moment to shine, and now it's time for rich, dark hues to have a turn. In 2024, expect cabinets in greens, reds, and midnight blues and countertops in black, green, and burgundy tones. In the coming year, it is predicted that greens will likely be our favorite color choice for kitchens. From calming sage to power-packed emerald, greens are only gaining strength and are not going away anytime soon. Green is easy to incorporate into kitchen color schemes and can make kitchen cabinets stand out.

<u>Full Metal:</u> For several years black hardware has taken the leading spot in terms of hardware and fixture finish colors. In the coming year, gold will be the top finish choice for faucets, followed by stainless steel and black. Matte, brushed, or satin finishes will continue to be popular since they hide smudges and fingerprints better than polished finishes.

<u>Fashionable Appliances:</u> Stainless steel will still dominate kitchen appliance colors for 2024. There was a slight uptick of other

appliance finishes (like glossy white and matte black) in recent years that hinted at a possible shift, but we were mistaken! Stainless steel is still the number one choice.

<u>Look to the Hood:</u> Statement range hoods will take the spotlight, or focal point, in kitchens for the coming year. These functional elements offer a unique way to make a kitchen feel truly custom.

Barista Corner: Beverage stations like coffee cabinets, smoothie centers, and wine bars will be a trending choice for kitchen remodels in 2024.

<u>Light My World:</u> One of the hottest trends in kitchen design for 2024 will be layered lighting that creates a versatile ambiance. We will see a shift away from bold statement pendant lights over kitchen islands and dining areas, in favor of integrated under-cabinet, wall sconces, toe-kick, and even night mood lighting to add functionality and layered lighting effects to our kitchens.

Eco-Friendly: Eco-friendly practices come first in 2024's interior design, and trending kitchens follow suit. Sustainably produced products have little or no environmental impact and can also have a distinct look. Think reclaimed timber, linoleum, bamboo, cork, and recycled plastic or glass. They make an undeniable feature in a kitchen in their exposed form, from statement countertops to unique backsplashes.

TABLETOP

The past few years have been rocky for dinner parties. In 2020, they were forbidden gatherings. In 2021, open-air restaurants felt more appealing than crowding people into your home. Things began to feel semi-normal in 2022 and 2023, but having been homebodies for so long, we were still getting used to flexing our dormant social muscles. In 2024, however, the dinner party is back bringing reimagined tabletop trends along for the ride. Here are a few trends to look for in 2024.

<u>Color, Color, and More Color:</u> No longer eschewed in favor of playit-safe neutrals, bright hues will be welcomed on 2024 tabletops. Glassware, in particular, is embracing its colorful side. Expect more

brands to revive designs of vintage-styled glassware, like etched glass, cut crystal, and beautiful ornate designs and shapes.

Going Big: Overall, Maximalism is the trend for 2024, from English country to colorful, playful '70s motifs to not-so-quiet luxury. Expect a celebration of detail and design going into tabletop collections for 2024. Today's table settings are full of character via a mixture of glazes, materials, and patterns. Look for lots of hand-painted looks, bejeweled or gold trim, and scenic floral motifs. The coming year will see a return to old-world style and sophistication, but this time with an emphasis on modern colors and organic materials.

FOOD AND BEVERAGE TRENDS

Food and beverage trends go in and out of style similar to design, color, and fashion. The food and beverage industry now sets as many trends each year as the fashion and home furnishing industries. It has been said that "we are what we eat," however, the last decade has proven that consumers will not just eat anything that restaurants want to put on menus or whatever the local grocery store has on the shelf. We demand the highest quality in all aspects of our nutrition, and we are constantly searching for new trends in food and beverages that we order or prepare at home. While at first glance, trends in the food and beverage industry may not seem to impact our homes, our relationship with food and drink has redesigned our home kitchens in just the last few years. Here are the predictions of what will be hot in the food and beverage industry in 2024. Will you eat or drink any of these in the coming year?

Food Trends

Italian-American Dishes: Chicken Parmesan, Italian chopped salads, sandwiches, and baked ziti are all trending. The hearty cooking of these classics uses affordable staple ingredients like canned tomatoes, dried pasta, onions, and garlic, and with groceries becoming more expensive, these entrees are even more enticing. While nothing about these dishes is new, they will gain popularity in 2024. In the coming year, the pasta world is predicted to fall in love with a new pasta shape called Creste di Gallo. Translated from Italian, it means crest of the rooster or coxcomb. The noodle

resembles the ruffled crest on top of a rooster's head. In pasta form, these ridges and folds are prized for how well they hold the sauce.

<u>Charcuterie/Snack Boards:</u> Charcuterie/Snack boards are here to stay. A collection of small snacks consisting of fruit, dips, or cheeses is an easy way to feed guests when hosting or preparing a quick grazing dinner for families on the go. In 2024 a new trend will merge "tinned" fish and traditional charcuterie board items. This new creation will be known as Seacuterie boards.

<u>French Toast:</u> This breakfast dish might be nothing new, but everything old is new again. In addition to the classic preparation, there will be creative new takes on the custard-soaked bread dish.

<u>Wedge Salads:</u> Look for the resurgence of wedge salads in 2024. While iceberg was once out of favor as romaine and spring mixes became more popular, look for the crunchy classic to reemerge in a big way in the coming year.

Ramen Noodles: Every college student is familiar with cheap packaged ramen, but 2024 will take the economic dish to new heights! Being hot and cold is now a very, very good thing, thanks to spicy cold ramen (aka Tsukemen). This noodle dish combines a cold noodle base plus the spicy heat of brothy noodles, crisp toppings (like corn and squash), and proteins like chicken and pork. No need to blow on your bowl to get it to cool off. Just dive right in.

<u>Mushrooms</u>: Make room for mushrooms because they will be everywhere_in 2024. Shoppers and chefs are moving away from alternative meats and focusing on putting the "plant" back in "plant-based" foods by using the savory-meaty capabilities of mushrooms. One of the newer culinary applications for mushrooms is mushroom coffee. This is regular coffee blended with medicinal fungi such as lion's mane. Enthusiasts claim that mushroom coffee reduces stress, boosts immunity, and supports heart health.

<u>Garleek:</u> The coming year will shine a spotlight on a new, hot vegetable: garleek, a cross between garlic and leeks that has been created through responsible seed breeding.

<u>Tamarind</u>: Major spice brands predict we will use more spices and spice blends in 2024. Most agree that one spice that we will fall in love with in the coming year will be Tamarind. Many know and love the spice stirred into Pad Thai or Indian curries. Tamarind has a sweetness and a tang that makes it ideal for marinades, BBQ sauces, or classic drinks like Mexican Agua de Tamarindo.

Spices: Ever since "Hot Ones" became one of the biggest shows on YouTube, the food industry has been inundated with a range of new, spicy products. Demand for, and interest in, spicy foods is not predicted to slow down anytime soon. For the average consumer, 2024 will present a growing interest in foods defined by a spicy and sweet flavor combination known in some circles as "swicy".

Flavors like smoked vanilla, chocolate sriracha, mango habanero, and chili pineapple will offer consumers a break from traditional flavors. Spicy flavors have been on the rise for years, and 2024 will be no different. Specialty global chili and pepper varieties such as scorpion pepper, gochujang, and harissa will heat up our taste palettes in 2024.

Consumers will enjoy sweet and spicy dishes at home and in restaurants thanks to the abundance of condiments and sauces on the market. Thanks to products like these, home cooks will only have to exert minimal effort to produce the "swicy" dishes of their dreams.

Buckwheat: As a naturally gluten-free, prebiotic food, buckwheat is well suited to current consumer demands, and it is expected to become one of 2024's biggest food trends. The chances of this happening are greatly improved by the similarities buckwheat has with widely consumed grains.

Although it is actually a seed, it can be used in much the same way as wheat with buckwheat flour being used to make everything from waffles to bread. Whole buckwheat groats are similar to quinoa in uses, appearance, and flavor. This means that buckwheat, in both its forms, can be easily adapted into daily cooking and eating practices.

Lastly, buckwheat is packed with antioxidants and fiber. Two further reasons why 2024's health-conscious consumers are predicted to gladly add it to their diet.

<u>Plant-Based Foods:</u> The plant-based category has been growing exponentially for years now. In 2024, plant-based products will return to their roots by launching products with more whole-ingredient protein sources like mushrooms, walnuts, tempeh, and legumes. One food segment plant-based foods have not explored in past years is set to be in the spotlight for 2024.

Plant-based seafood is predicted to be on the rise in a huge way in the coming year. Look for snow crab, whitefish, and salmon steaks made from mushrooms, carrots, celery, and other plant-based ingredients to take seafood to a new level in the coming year while tasting well, like seafood!

Beverage Trends

Spritzes: You may have noticed spritz cocktails being added to local menus near you. One trend that started in the summer of 2023 that shows no decline in popularity is the Hugo Spritz, also known as a St. Germain Spritz. This refreshing drink is made from elderflower liqueur, sparkling wine such as Prosecco, and a splash of club soda. Even the classic Aperol spritz, the Italian version of this cocktail, will continue to be increasingly popular in the coming year. It is predicted that you will see all sorts of bubbly twists on this cocktail formula in 2024.

Mezcal and Sotol: Move over tequila because these two spirits are poised to be more popular than their well-known relative, tequila in 2024. Mezcal is made from a variety of agave plants (unlike tequila made only from Blue Weber Agave), and the complex spirit is set to appear in a variety of familiar cocktails. The agave used in Mezcal is also roasted, imparting a smokier taste to drinks than tequila. Also gaining popularity is Sotol, an earthier cousin to tequila hailing from northern Mexico. It's made from a shrub commonly known as a desert spoon. Like Mezcal, the plant is roasted, but the resulting spirit is brighter and grassier than Mezcal.

<u>Carajillo</u>: Never heard of it? You soon will, as 2024 will be all about this coffee-based cocktail. Think of it as a more simplified espresso martini, as the Spanish-Mexican Carajillo only requires two ingredients espresso or coffee and Licor 43.

Swicy Drinks: Beverages will also see the infusion of sweet spices in 2024. Look for cinnamon sugar, clove, ginger, cardamom, nutmeg, allspice, cocoa, star anise, and vanilla to provide a tasty treat for consumers seeking a moment of enjoyment in their busy day.

Shiso: As you will find out soon enough, ingredients from your favorite savory dinner items will have crossover potential in your 2024 cocktails. One of the more popular ones? Shiso, an aromatic leaf you'll likely be familiar with in Japanese dishes like sushi, as a flavoring when pickling plums (umeboshi), or fried in tempura batter. Shiso is prized for its bitter-lemony qualities (it is a cousin of mint and basil).

Non-Alcoholic Beverages: For the last few years we have seen a sharp rise in the prevalence of mocktails, non-alcoholic spirits, beer, and wine. As more people look for refreshing drink options without alcohol, restaurant menus, and small producers have developed a plethora of tasty options. In 2024 we should see no letdown in this beverage trend.

WEDDING TRENDS

Wedding trends are one of the best microcosms of design, color, and style trends we can delve into as a wedding incorporates apparel, color, food, floral, lighting, and tabletop into one category. Although wedding trends are powerful predictors of what may translate in other parts of our daily lives, the latest event trend will never sway someone away from what they have dreamed about since childhood. Most brides choose their wedding colors based on what they love, and if they have always wanted a pink wedding, that is the color they will select for their wedding whether Pantone® agrees or not!

When top event planners were asked to share their predictions for 2024 wedding trends, one term mentioned the most was the trend for the "non-wedding" wedding. So what makes a "non-wedding" wedding exactly?

Menus that focus on casual family-style food, fly-on-the-wall photography, and intimate ceremonies with larger, separate parties the next day.

By separating the sacred aspects from the party aspects of a wedding, couples open up unlimited possibilities for the party themes, decorations, dress codes, menu possibilities, and the anxiety most couples feel on the wedding day can be dismissed on day two when the focus is on the celebratory reception party. This allows the couple to mingle and enjoy their reception with their guests rather than the traditional wedding reception. For example, the trend of exclusive sweetheart tables is waning. Couples are opting to celebrate with friends and family, choosing communal dining experiences over an isolated table for two. Let's look at specific trends that we should expect to see for the 2024 wedding.

<u>Venues:</u> From a dreamy château in France to a sun-kissed beach in Jamaica, couples and their guests are jetting off to say "I do" more than ever. Destination weddings will be popular in 2024. Want to leave the land, but not too far? Try a party boat as the venue for your wedding. These floating settings are great for nautical soirees or sailing-loving couples. They are the perfect "non-destination" destination wedding venue!

Wedding Colors: Everyday fashion trends are cyclical: What we see today is a reiteration of what was once popular in past decades, and the same concept holds true for wedding fashion. Muted and pastel palettes have been popular over the last few years, but look for 2024 to be the year of eye-catching bright hues and bold colorful palettes. In the coming year, it is predicted that there will be a swing toward warm, hot colors like poppy red and sunset colors. Without shying away from color, we will see a rise in tonal color palettes for weddings as well. Think of a shades-of-blue color scheme. In the coming year expect to see a renewed interest in maximalist aesthetics. Let's look at the color trends to watch in 2024.

<u>Timeless Black and White:</u> Although classic black and white color palettes will always stand the test of time in the wedding world, we are expecting 2024 couples to push the traditional wedding-color boundaries further than ever before when using this classic color combination by accenting the look with bold pops of color.

<u>Barbie Dreams:</u> With the success of last year's box office hit Barbie movie, is it any surprise that magenta-inspired wedding color palettes will be on trend for 2024? It will be the perfect choice for brides

looking to channel their inner princess dreams. Being the color of love, gorgeous shades of pink mixed with vibrant crimsons, magentas, fuchsias, cerise, and reds will create an exciting and romantic color palette for any 2024 wedding.

<u>Nature's Best:</u> Nature's beauty will be a source of wedding color inspiration for 2024. Cool blues, vibrant greens, and muted salmons (think Peach Fuzz the Color of the Year from Pantone®) are just a few of the thousands of color options that will mesh to create a garden-party wedding day theme.

Let the Sun Shine In: Taking inspiration from another breathtaking element of nature, a sunset-inspired wedding color palette will be the talk of the town in 2024. This trend will sport shades of energetic peaches, tangerines, and rusty oranges to douse the wedding day with the feeling of warm sunshine.

<u>Classic Navy:</u> Navy blue continues to be a staple in the wedding world as it is classic and timeless. Pair it with blush pink, yellow, gold, or burgundy (depending on the season) for a chic combination.

<u>Coastal Inspirations:</u> If a couple is planning a destination beach wedding or even a trendy party boat celebration, they may want to consider a blue and yellow color theme for their big day. This islandinspired wedding color palette encapsulates what a New England summer feels like with the warm touch of sunshine on your skin, cool sunset swims in the Atlantic, chilled lemonade on an August afternoon, and the smell of blooming flowers and freshly cut grass.

<u>Calming Lilac:</u> While bold palettes dominate the top wedding colors for 2024, look for softer lilac palettes to be an extra-romantic and sweet option. A lilac-inspired wedding will be perfect for a spring wedding in 2024. While many wedding color combinations evoke warm tones typically associated with feelings of excitement and energy, this cool-toned lilac color palette projects a sense of serenity and peace. Hydrangeas, delphinium, allium, wisteria, and lilacs would be perfect to incorporate into floral arrangements if opting for this beautifully calming color family.

Wedding Dress Trends

<u>Classic but New:</u> Nothing is more timeless than a traditional wedding dress, and they are back in a big way for the upcoming year. The classically bridal fashion trend is expected to soar in 2024. That said, designers will add modern elements to these iconic designs to prevent this aesthetic from feeling dated.

A Separate Piece: Another trend that is predicted to be big in 2024 will be dress separates. The bridal fashion runways have been full of skirts, tops, and dresses with removable layers. Two looks without having to waste precious wedding day minutes changing outfits completely. Wedding suits will also be a trend for 2024 as they fall into this category too.

Sheer and Glitzy: Though classic bridal designs will dominate, bold party pieces will appear in the wedding fashion space in 2024. Think two-piece sets, sequined, sheer maxi dresses, or a white jumpsuit. All are perfect for brides looking to make their special day different. These choices will make a statement, allowing brides to showcase their individuality while still looking incredibly chic and sophisticated.

<u>A Thing of Blooming:</u> Florals aren't a revolutionary concept in the wedding fashion space, but in 2024, bloom-patterned fabrics will make a defining statement,

<u>Buttons and Bows:</u> From large statement-making bows on wedding dresses and oversized bows on cakes to more delicate or subtle ribbon forms such as on stationery and table settings, beautiful bows are predicted to be big in 2024.

Attendant Styling: In the coming year, look for a move from uniform bridesmaid gowns to the individualized gown trend. While matching dresses is more traditional, it provides less visual interest in the overall aesthetic. By assigning bridesmaids a specific color or pattern, they can add a bit of their personality to the attire.

Mismatched bridesmaid dresses are a trend that has been popular for weddings over the last few years. This trend is set to be even bigger in 2024. It first began with dresses that were all the same color and just different styles. In the coming year, expect to see a variety of shades, silhouettes, textures, patterns, and hemlines making their way into the world of bridesmaid dresses.

<u>Groom Styling Trends:</u> Look for 2024 to be the year when men fully invest in their big-day looks. Gone are the days when it was acceptable to "just show up." Expect to see men opting for suits that are expertly tailored, as opposed to options that are rented or worn off the rack. More colorful menswear pieces, like green, pink, and floral-patterned suits, will also reign supreme with well-crafted shirts, ties, and shoes. Lastly, lapel pins and unique and modern variations of boutonnières are expected to become even more prevalent in 2024.

<u>Flowers:</u> The influence of Dutch Masters-inspired floral design will dominate wedding floral designs in 2024. People are catching on to the trend of artful, fruit-dripped tablescapes with creative, often darker arrangements. Flowers have always been at the forefront of wedding decor, and among 2024 wedding trends they are shining brighter than ever. The coming year will focus on floral magic with a delightful twist, from bold, vibrant arrangements that make a statement to delicate, romantic bouquets that steal your heart. Here are some of the other trends that are expected to be popular in 2024.

<u>Tonal Sophistication:</u> One 2024 trend in wedding flowers is monochromatic blooms. Surprisingly, single-color stems pack a punch in small posies and massive arrangements. Opt for shades of the same hue (light pink, magenta, deep reds) for an ombré effect.

Green Expectations: Over the last few years, greenery has played a huge role in wedding flowers, emphasizing greenery almost more than the flowers themselves. In 2024, greenery will take a backseat to flowers as the focus shifts to bouquets, centerpieces, and other structural and impactful arrangements. Greenery has long been a goto for filling out floral designs, especially for Boho and garden-style arrangements. In 2024, florists will not rely on it as much as flowers will do most of the talking, with statement blooms and bright color palettes steering designs.

Flowing Elegance: Cascading bouquets have always been popular. In the coming year, look for one specific wedding flower to be key in recreating the waterfall-inspired look. Amaranthus was a popular wedding flower trend in 2024. This flower, which grows in long, hanging strands (depending on the variety) will be everywhere from bouquets and centerpieces to ceremony arches and accent arrangements. Since Amaranthus naturally blooms in bright, statement colors like fuchsia and bright green, bouquets can tap into two wedding flower trends simultaneously. That is what you call a win, win!

<u>Cakes:</u> Who doesn't love great deserts, wedding and groom's cakes are no exception! Over the past few years, couples appear to be more experimental when choosing the flavor of their wedding cakes. Red velvet, carrot, and chocolate fudge with ganache have all been popular choices. In the coming year, many couples are predicted to select separate flavors for each tier. Brides and grooms want a cake to suit their own taste while remaining mindful of friends and family who may prefer a more traditional route and ask for an elegant white cake with luscious buttercream icing. Here are some trends in wedding cakes that are predicted to be popular in 2024.

New Heights: In 2024, minimalism is taking a back seat as couples opt for grand wedding cakes that reach towering heights. These multi-tiered creations are not only visually stunning but also a symbol of abundance and celebration.

<u>Shimmer and Shine:</u> Wedding cakes with gold details look and feel decadent and luxurious. Gold works well with handmade sugar flowers in any color, from pale pastels to dark jewel tones. Metallic accents add a touch of glamour to wedding cakes in 2024 as will edible silver ganache drips and edible gold leaf.

<u>Updated Nudes:</u> Naked wedding cakes have been trendy for a while, but in 2024, bakers are getting more adventurous style-wise by adding drips, interesting toppers, multiple cake flavors, and different colors to the mix. Drip designs are probably one of the hottest wedding cake trends currently. They can be applied to just about any base style, be that naked, semi-naked, celestial, or floral, and topped with a drip to elevate the look.

<u>Put a Bow On It:</u> Bows are already trending for hair accessories and wedding fashion, and they'll be making their way onto wedding cakes too in 2024.

<u>A Modern Take:</u> For modern or minimalist wedding themes in 2024, a geometric design may be the best wedding cake trend to embrace. Think patterned tiers decorated with pentagons and parallelograms or layers cut into interesting shapes like hexagons and octagons, your baker can probably make your confection dreams come true.

<u>Pressed Blossoms:</u> Move over, fresh blooms! Pressed dried flowers are becoming popular choices for decorating wedding cakes in 2024. Couples will select delicate pressed flowers like roses, pansies, and fiddlehead ferns to adorn their cakes. Dried flowers add a unique, rustic charm and provide longevity, making them an excellent choice for preserving the memory of your special day.

<u>To-Go Cake:</u> Skip the actual table service and pass slices to those guests who want them, and for the rest, place them in custom to-go boxes to grab on their way out. This ensures the dance floor stays full and the late-night revelers satisfy their midnight cravings.

<u>Textures and Ruffles:</u> A new trend in wedding cakes is the textured cake. Look for an array of texture options to personalize the 2024 wedding cake from pleats to lace. Texture is taking center stage in cake design. From intricate ruffles and lace patterns to abstract textures that resemble everything from water to marble to tree bark, cakes in 2024 are all about tactile experiences.

For those seeking a sophisticated and elegant look for their wedding cake, the "tone-on-tone with stencil" trend is perfect. This technique involves using various shades of the same color to create a subtle gradient effect on the cake layers. Intricate stencils are then used to add beautiful patterns or textures in the same color palette.

<u>The Artisan Touch:</u> Hand-painted wedding cakes will be gaining popularity for their uniqueness and artistry in 2024. Talented cake artists can create custom designs that reflect the couple's love story, interests, or wedding theme. From watercolor washes to intricately piped palette knife flowers, hand-painted cakes allow couples to

showcase their individuality and creativity in a delicious and visually stunning way.

<u>One of Each:</u> In 2024, couples are embracing interactive dessert tables as an alternative to traditional tiered cakes. These tables feature a variety of sweet treats such as cupcakes, mini cakes, mini doughnuts, and more. Guests can mix and match their favorite desserts, creating a personalized experience that adds an element of fun and exploration to the wedding celebration.

<u>Food and Drink:</u> From fun food trucks and shared feasts to tasty food stations and food cooked right in front of guests, couples will be looking to switch up the traditional sit-down dinner in 2024. It is predicted they will turn to **food and drink experiences** to give their guests a unique and memorable immersive wedding dining experience.

Pop a Cork: In 2024 everything old is new again, so cue the Champagne tower! Champagne towers offer a glimpse of glimmer and glam and a catalyst for a good time! They are a visual spectacle and an opportunity to capture epic photos. There is something very glamorous about Champagne Towers. They give wedding celebrations that truly decadent celebratory moment, with some couples even choosing a Champagne tower pour in place of cutting a cake.

For Rehearsal Dinners: Couples will use the rehearsal dinner as an opportunity to deliver a highly personalized guest experience by leaning into a specific theme. Highlight your Italian heritage with an authentic pizzeria experience, complete with make-your-own-pies. Love playing *Clue* on cozy nights in? Host a murder mystery dinner for a truly memorable experience.

<u>Upward Trends:</u> Look for 2024 to be the era of the drone show! This innovative spectacle offers a fresh, elevated take on the traditional fireworks display. Drone shows are more environmentally friendly, thanks to the absence of smoke associated with fireworks. They also provide greater customization and choreography options to reflect the couple's unique story.

<u>Photography by Guests:</u> Today's wedding photographers are leaning into "docu-style" portraiture, capturing candid moments alongside posed

pictures. These realistic shots capture the energy of the moment as much as the moment itself.

<u>Digital Guest Books</u>: In 2024, the conventional guest book will make room for an innovative digital experience. The digital guest book offers the bride and groom a more immersive journey through the well-wishes of their guests. Imagine reliving your special day with the ability to revisit heartfelt photos, engaging videos, and touching audio messages, all weaving together the narrative of the special day.

<u>Making it Personal:</u> Couples will get creative with their married monograms and custom heraldry. In 2024, look for monograms and crests on everything from stationery and signage to wedding welcome boxes and cocktail napkins. Monograms weave extra personalization into the wedding day.

FASHION, ACCESSORIES, AND JEWELRY

Fashion has almost always preceded, dictated, and predicted what would be popular in the home furnishings arena. Fashion was months to roughly a year ahead of the home. Over the last few years, the timing from the runway to interior design has decreased considerably. Let's look at what style and color trends have been popular at fashion weeks around the world, and how easily these styles can, and in some cases, have already made an impact on the American home. What inspirations will come from the fashion runways in 2024? Here are the trends that are being predicted.

Womensware

<u>With a Bow on Top:</u> Everything is currently covered in bows, and it is predicted that this trend will become popular as 2024 fashion trends take shape. Fashion runways are ablaze with countless rosettes, ribbons, and ruffles, meaning the coming year will be all about feminine, girlish fashion.

Sparkle and Shine: Another repeated motif on the 2024 runways has been high shine, especially sequins. Once relegated to New Year's Eve outfits, paillettes will appear in looks destined for the dance floor and the office in 2024.

Preppy Returns: While the "Covid years" encouraged lounge dressing, fashion pros say the industry is now experiencing a direct pushback on ultra-casual styles. In the coming year, the polished preppy style will emerge. Look for refined shapes and touches of prep and polish in the coming year. The voluminous suit in statement colors and the return of the polo shirt will signify a desire for this classic, crisp aesthetic.

Quiet Luxury: Coinciding with the polished preppy aesthetic is a quiet luxury, which is all about wearing pieces that look and feel super expensive but are not blazingly so. Think perfect tailoring and high-quality materials versus blingy branding. Also referred to as "old money style," you can also dive into this 2024 fashion trend with accessories like bags, jewelry, and shoes. Timeless pieces can be an investment in terms of financial commitment, but the longevity they bring makes it all worth it. The re-established love for quiet luxury will continue to trend in 2024.

Curating a capsule wardrobe filled with non-logo elevated basics allows you to mix and match to create several outfit combinations. Quiet luxury pieces look and feel expensive and are perfectly tailored and made with high-quality materials. Capsule dressing for 2024 will see updated basics in crisp neutrals like black, gray, camel, and white. These pieces will be accented by pops of color, the most popular being millennial pink, lavender, purple, canary yellow, and pistachio green, and grounded by deep navy.

<u>Gender Bender:</u> It's officially time to bid adieu to coastal grandma and instead usher in a new icon: eclectic grandpa. Think retro streetwear, chic cardigans, and customized clothing. Internet search terms like "grandpa style" and "eclectic clothing styles" are surging, and 2024 has just begun!

Relax Your Legs: In place of ultra-tight skinny jeans and cropped jackets, 2024 fashion is all about experimenting with volume, length, and shape. You can expect exaggerated lengths to show up on all types of apparel, with long dresses, oversized long-line jackets, and even drop-waist dresses becoming mainstream again.

Big Ol' Bag: Your portable charger, book, laptop, makeup routine, gym clothes, and a pack of gum finally have a place to go in the

coming year! Mega bags are here to crush all of the other handbag trends.

<u>Low-Down Heel:</u> A wide variety of fashion brands feel that 2024 will be the year of very low heels, meaning many will be in for a walking-friendly year. This is seen as the perfect way to stay on trend and give your feet a break.

<u>Seasonless Lilac:</u> In the coming year, look for the color lilac to be popular in weddings and everyday wear. Lilac is a color that looks good on everyone and works in many forms. The soft hue looks inviting when woven into a chunky winter sweater and is whimsical as a lace summer dress. This shade is seasonless, meaning there is no excuse to wait to wear it.

Gold Rush: This fashion trend is gunning for a first-place spot in your closet. Metallic gold is sure to win you over in 2024. Gold automatically makes any outfit appear more formal. This trend can have a gladiator look if overdone but is easily toned down by pairing it with alternate materials like denim or leather. Metallic gold is also predicted to be seen as a trend in wedding apparel, florals, and cakes.

Recycled Style: As consumers become more familiar with the downsides of fast fashion. Look for a rise in interest in pre-loved and "thrifted" items and brands championing sustainable materials, practices, and transparency. Look for recycled materials made from ocean plastics or regenerative materials such as bamboo, seaweed, or other natural fibers to become important in the coming year.

<u>Menswear</u>

<u>Living Large:</u> From bags to jeans and jewelry, menswear silhouettes and accessories will be bigger and baggier in 2024. Men are predicted to even supersize their accessories in the coming year. Look for voluminous totes and shoulder bags to be popular in men's luxury bags in the coming year.

Jelly Life: Jellyfish aesthetics will be bubbling up across home décor, couture, and beauty ideas for 2024. This look for both

menswear and womenswear will sport puffed-up silhouettes and accessories, lilac and blue tones, iridescent fabrics, and fluid lines.

<u>Close to the Vest:</u> Vests are predicted to be everywhere in 2024. Vests will be seen in all shapes and sizes, and look for them to even be paired with tank tops for spring and summer looks.

<u>Tweed-lee Dee:</u> In 2024, it is predicted that there will be a need for tweed in menswear and home décor! Tweed was originally a practical fabric for farmers in Scotland and Ireland. In the coming year, tweed will be a favorite in menswear and home furnishings.

<u>Enmeshed with Mesh:</u> Mesh tanks, sweaters, tops, and dresses have been dominating womenswear for a year now. In 2024 the trend is expected to make its way into menswear. The style has an inherently bohemian feel but can take on a grungier identity with some styling. Mesh or finely knit pieces are a great way to add texture and dimension to an outfit as they layer easily and can always take the place of a classic white T-shirt or tank.

<u>Cardigan Renaissance:</u> Cardigan sweaters for men will be all the rage for 2024. Crewnecks have dominated fashion trends in recent years, with V-necks sometimes appearing a bit stuffy when layered over a collared shirt and sloppy with a T-shirt underneath. Enter the cardigan sweater. A Cardigan maintains an enduring style and deserves recognition as a timeless menswear essential. What sets cardigans apart is their versatility. They appear equally stylish with a T-shirt or an Oxford shirt paired with a knit tie.

<u>All Tied Up:</u> For the last five years wearing a tie was considered uncool. If you stood by your tie collection and continued to wear them to weddings, the office, and date nights, congratulations, you were right all along! The tie is back for 2024, and designers are pairing ties with tunics, trench coats, and ski jackets, or you can wear a tie with a classic button-down and call it a day.

<u>Leg Room:</u> If men want to be on trend for 2024 they will avoid skinny jeans. That ship has sailed. Specifically, men should avoid jeggings or jeans that look like they could be peeled off their legs. When jeans are too tight, not only is comfort sacrificed, but they are also reminiscent of what dominated jeans shelves about ten years

ago. Instead, men will opt for a slim or straight relaxed fit throughout the leg that gives some space, allowing for a more stylish silhouette.

<u>Loaf Around:</u> There was a time, not too long ago when all you saw on men were pointed-toe Chelsea and Monk strap boots (often paired with skinny jeans). Both have a timeless style about them, but in the current relaxed and easy-going fashion climate, they may appear a bit too refined and posh.

In the coming year, look for men to consider opting for leather loafers, but not just any ordinary pair. A rounder toe and chunkier sole shoe will provide a more robust and casual look and experience a fashion resurgence in 2024. Shoes of this style are versatile and pair well with relaxed and straight-leg jeans or trousers, not to mention they will be more durable in inclement weather.

<u>Understated Bling:</u> When it comes to men's accessories, less is usually more. For most men, that principle especially applies to jewelry. For 2024 the "one of each" rule (one bracelet, one ring, and one necklace) will sum up men's jewelry trends quite well. Accessories should add character, personality, and originality to a man's overall look without overpowering it.

AUTO COLOR TRENDS

Auto colors reflect personal style statements, and in 2024, there are predicted to be a few new colorations on the horizon from which to choose! Research shows that nearly 60 percent of consumers identified color as one major factor in their vehicle-buying decisions.

Typically, automotive colors stay in narrow lanes, from the classic white to grays and blacks, with some reds, blues, and other colors mixed in. It is predicted that in 2024, there will be a refreshing change in this trend. Non-classic automotive hues will emerge in the coming year, propelling colors through a series of shifts reflecting a positive mood. There will be a focus on lighter shades, and an exploration of new expressive color spaces. Here are the colors to look for in 2024.

Blue Mood: Electric blue hues will be taking center stage, reflecting the growing popularity of electric and hybrid vehicles. These blues will

range from deep and rich to bright and vibrant and will evoke a sense of modernity and environmental consciousness.

<u>Back to Nature:</u> In an era of sustainability and eco-awareness, earthy tones like soft greens, warm browns, and muted terracottas will gain traction. These colors symbolize a connection to nature and a commitment to a greener future.

Neutral Spark: Neutral shades with a twist are predicted to make waves in 2024. Think classic grays and beiges with a subtle metallic sheen or a hint of a unique undertone. These colors strike a balance between sophistication and innovation.

Red Rover, Red Rover: Red never truly goes out of style, but 2024 will see a resurgence in high-impact, attention-grabbing reds. Bold and intense, these shades make a statement that cannot be ignored.

<u>Dramatic Hues:</u> Influenced by futuristic aesthetics, colors like neon greens, electric purples, and deep cyber blues are becoming a bold choice for those who want their vehicles to stand out in a digital world.

<u>Color Illusions:</u> Color-shift paints, which change appearance depending on the viewing angle and lighting conditions, are expected to be a unique trend in 2024. These chameleon-like finishes provide an element of surprise and intrigue.

<u>Metallic Glimmer:</u> From futuristic silver to shimmering copper and titanium, metallic finishes will remain favorites among automotive enthusiasts. These metallics exude a sense of luxury and cutting-edge technology.

Shine Off: Satin and matte finishes are gaining popularity, adding a touch of elegance and uniqueness to vehicles. These finishes reduce glare, offer a sleek appearance, and are less prone to visible scratches.

CONCLUSIONS

There you have it. We have covered the trend predictions for 2024 that we are expected to see in the design and style industries. Will you decide to live with the color Peach Fuzz from Pantone® in the coming year? Will you eat more plant-based seafood? The only way to really know what the trends of 2024 will be is to wait twelve months and review your purchases!

Style and color predictions are carefully studied, and hours of effort are poured into making them timely, accurate, and relevant. However, at the end of the year, consumers are the ultimate decision-makers and the only authorities that can predict what "rings the cash register" in the coming year.

Whether these predictions turn into reality or fail miserably, everyone at RM COCO wishes you a very happy and prosperous 2024. RM COCO, fabrics and furnishings for living, style for life!