

StyleRadar

THE FUTURE *of* DESIGN

What New York's tastemakers envision for post-pandemic design

Keita Turner

President and Creative Director of Keita Turner Design

"If anything, I find that the pandemic has motivated me to revisit and embrace the overarching principles of my original design mission from when I first launched my business. Using the client's lifestyle as my canvas, I am charged to continue creating environments that are clean and functional, warm and inviting, suitable and inspirational, but, most importantly, that uplift the human spirit. After the unsettling year that we experienced and are still going through, it is vital more than ever to design interiors that both adapt to and convey the motivations, ethos, and habitudes of my clients."

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Fernando Wong

Landscape architect and co-founder of Fernando Wong Outdoor Living Design

"The pandemic deprived people of so much, and I think that resulted in a greater appreciation for what was always there. Homeowners are making more green spaces for moments of tranquility during our busy days. Whether you're adding large plants to your yard or a window box herb garden, you're able to experience these multi-sensory micro-moments: little vignettes of destinations all within your home."



David Sprouls

President, New York School of Interior Design

"At NYSID we've been successfully teaching online courses and programs for quite some time, but the past year forced us to accelerate ideas and implement others that we had been discussing. As we return to studios now equipped with the latest 'pandemic' technology, a student may be Zooming work with others in the room, or even to those across the country or around the world.

"As our students evolve into designers, they know they can adapt, they know how to use technology to their advantage, and they know they can access practically everything online, hold meetings via screens, and develop and send projects via a variety of applications. While nothing will truly replace the experience of being in the room with clients or visiting showrooms where merchandise can be touched, many of the walls have come down and there is a willingness or expectation that technology will play a greater role in these experiences."



Young Huh

Founder of Young Huh Interior Design

"I've always leaned more toward compartmentalization within the home as opposed to large, open rooms. With COVID-19, we saw a shift in this direction from our clients. People want areas to have space from the rest of the family, while still having places they can gather. This is more conducive to privacy and quiet for remote work in multiple locations throughout the home, not just the home office. Cleanability of materials also continues to be top of mind, and it is our job to educate our clients about beauty and function."

Dr. Sue Stuart-Smith

Author of *The Well-Gardened Mind*

"There is no question that we need to cultivate our connection with nature in order to thrive. As the pandemic recedes and the pace of life begins to speed up, it will be more important than ever to find ways to experience nature in everyday life. Some of this is about allowing time to make that inner mental shift, but the type of space we are in can help promote it in various ways."

"In terms of our urban environments, I think that gardens need to be made more accessible through encouraging the cultivation of small unused plots of land that could become community gardens, workplace gardens, and school gardens. People could pause for a moment in an oasis of green and harvest their supper on their way home."



Matt Berman

Founding principal at Workshop/APD

"Surprisingly, there are a lot of positive things we'll take forward from the pandemic. For one, an understanding of digital infrastructure and how to make use of it. We entered with a lot of assumptions about remote work: that we couldn't present to a client over Zoom or form real connections over a digital interface."

"We've emerged in a different headspace, less charged, with a sense of unity and humanity - after all, we've seen each other's basements, pets, and crying toddlers - and felt that we are all in this together. We agreed to suspend judgment and work together toward the best result, and there's something very empowering about that. I hope we won't lose sight of that post-pandemic."

"We were also given the gift of time, which ultimately produces better results. Time for exploration, studying, and dreaming produces better work, and I for one feel infinitely more productive and organized."