

Japandi Style

Words By Sarah Petersen



Japandi Lifestyle.

More than just an interior style, Japandi colour scheme



can be described as a philosophy. At its heart, Japandi focuses on simplicity, which is a core element of both Japanese and Scandinavian styles. It draws on the Japanese idea of 'wabi-sabi', translating to finding beauty in the imperfect. It also incorporates aspects of "hygge", the Scandinavian style trend which focuses on creating an atmosphere of warmth and comfort.

If you're as fascinated by Japandi as we are, read on. This piece will explain in more depth what Japandi is, why it works so well and how to make it work in your own home. Yes, this trend has been around since 2017, but in the last 12 months it has really come into its own, with more brands taking on the different elements of Japandi in their new product lines.

It's not hard to see why these two styles have been combined. Though each individual elements hail from opposite sides of the world, they share similar principles. Both are exercises in the art of minimalism. Each style accentuates the importance

of creating primarily functional spaces defined by a scattering of statement pieces rather than an abundance of décor.

It's the differences between the two styles that help make this mash-up particularly interesting. While Japanese spaces run the risk of being too minimal and sleek, the rustic details in Nordic design add variety. Where Scandinavian interiors tend to be highly neutral, the rich colour palette of Japanese design gives the room a cosy glow.



Abstract Grey Line Rug from EZ Living Furniture

I always say that contrast is vital in creating visually interesting interiors, and Japandi is no exception. In this case, the colour palette is the easiest way to see how blending the two styles defines this trend and creates an appealing look. This is a new take on minimalism that I can get on board with!

You're probably wondering how to create this look in your own home? The first step is to grasp the colours and shades that define each particular style. Nordic design is distinguished by a mix of light, neutral hues, natural woods and pops of pastel accents. Japanese style, on the other hand, is known for richer tones. More often, we see stained woods surrounded by eye-catching additions of black and red and gold.

Most Japandi room makeovers start with a darker base colour on the walls, usually a saturated, neutral shade. Balance is then created through combining a mix



Ava pink rocking chair from Meadows and Byrne

of light woods and simple, black tones. Even the accents are usually monochromatic. You could try a classic black, white & light-coloured wood for a beautiful modern and cosy room.

However, a few vivid colours can also be added through natural sources such as house plants. Japandi is the perfect common ground between the bright and cold colour scheme of Scandinavian style, and the warm and natural one from the Japanese. You may also find cooler hues of



Bundy Pegboard Green from Foxford Woollen Mills



Dot Coat Hanger from Meadows and Byrne

muted pink, blues and green, warmed up with earthy details and wooden elements. Pops of colour should be introduced but always without distorting the minimalistic consistency of the design.

In both Scandinavian and Japanese interiors, one detail is accurate: the furniture is instantly identifiable. Neutral fabrics, simple shapes and lines and slim tapered legs all feature within the furniture ranges of this style. Keeping this in mind, it only makes sense to ground Japandi spaces by using a mixture of pieces from both.

Both furniture styles are defined by clean lines and an emphasis on practicality, but there are a few key differences. Scandinavian furniture mostly consists of light woods and has a casual, almost farmhouse feel to it. Japanese pieces, on the other hand, are a bit more polished and elegant. They feature stained or painted woods and come in splendidly curved shapes.

Combining both aesthetics in your design allows you to bring home that

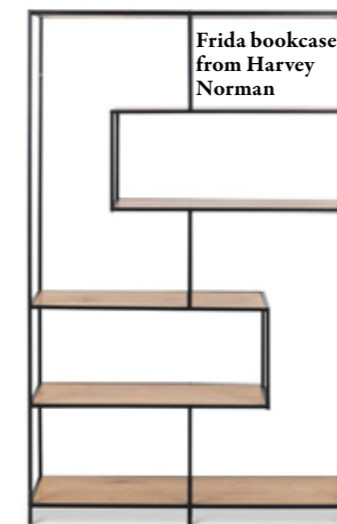


Elise 3 Seater Sofa from Meubles



Dining Chair with Natural Wood Seat from Meubles

sense of both harmony and contrast. Mix your wood tones, incorporate pieces with both curved and straight lines and achieve



Frida bookcase from Harvey Norman

a good balance in the space. This adds a unique sense of texture to the space, making it more attractive to the eye. We all love a nice accessory, but here they have less importance in the overall scheme of things. This design idea has more emphasis on functionality, so items that are strictly decorative take a bit of a backseat. But, you do need a certain level of accessories and accent pieces to pull the scheme together. Scandinavian accent pieces focus on relaxation and warmth. This means luxury rugs, lavish cushions and cosy blankets to give their interiors a homey feel. Japanese accents tend to be more practical items such as vases or screens. Japandi rooms ideally include a mix of both, though still feel simple and trim.

Within both styles, one element is very common. Japanese and Nordic interiors rely heavily on natural elements such as



Lamp from Coffeewerk



Pink Pixie Desk Lamp from Foxford Woollen Mills

plants to breathe a sense of energy into their décor. Be sure to include some plants into your Japandi interiors to inject some natural colour and bring the whole scheme together. Blurring indoor and outdoor is one of the foundations of this style and bringing green outdoor materials inside is the best way to achieve this. Choose tall plants with silky, delicate leaves and simple form, such as an orchid or peace lily.



Stockholm Carver Dining Chair from Meubles

Although Japandi is regarded as a relatively new design trend, it has the potential to become a classic staple. Combining the best of two popular styles, it conveys the ultimate minimalist look. Beyond that, it brings an inspirational philosophy to your home and life – welcome imperfection, celebrate authenticity, commend craftsmanship and live simply.

If you're interested in creating a Japandi-style feel in your home, but you're not sure where to start – contact Dan-Éire Designs (sarah@daneiredesigns.com, 0851464318) for more information.