

FREE TREND REPORT

Modern Quilting Trends Lookbook

8 of the biggest quilting aesthetics right now — what they look like, who's leading them, and how to make them yours.

▣ 8 Major Trends

▣ Fabric & Pattern Guidance

▣ Display & Styling Tips

▣ Leading Quilters to Follow

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Trend 01: Japandi Minimalism

Where Japanese wabi-sabi meets Scandinavian hygge — this trend is defined by extreme restraint. Neutral colors, natural textures, geometric simplicity, and deep intention in every seam. No fuss. No clutter. Quiet beauty.

FABRICS TO USE	Undyed linen, shibori-dyed cotton, minimal grey solids, soft white-on-white prints
COLOR APPROACH	Neutral — oatmeal, mist, stone, soft charcoal, aged white
BEST PATTERNS	Improv rectangles, organic shapes, slow-stitch inspired blocks, minimal geometric
HOW TO DISPLAY IT	Draped over a natural wood bed frame, folded on a cream linen sofa
MAKERS TO FOLLOW	Libs Elliott, Luke Haynes

Trend 02: Dopamine Maximalism

The joyful, unapologetic opposite of minimalism. This trend is bold color, unexpected combinations, and the delightful chaos of more-is-more. It's quilting as pure self-expression — and it photographs beautifully.

FABRICS TO USE	Bright solids, graphic prints, color-saturated designer fabric lines, neon accents
COLOR APPROACH	Maximum contrast — primary brights mixed with unexpected companions
BEST PATTERNS	Rainbow rows, color-sorted half-square triangles, improv blocks in every color
HOW TO DISPLAY IT	Hung as wall art, used as a bold sofa throw
MAKERS TO FOLLOW	Anna Maria Horner, Kaffe Fassett

Trend 03: Improvisational Quilting

No rulers, no precise measurements — just fabric, intuition, and the joy of creative freedom. Improv quilting produces one-of-a-kind pieces that no pattern could replicate. It's the art quilting world's fastest-growing trend.

FABRICS TO USE	Any and all fabrics — this is about the process not the material
COLOR APPROACH	Scrappy, intentionally varied — the mix IS the point
BEST PATTERNS	Wonky log cabin, free-form curves, slice-and-insert, improvisational string piecing
HOW TO DISPLAY IT	Framed on a wall, hanging from wooden dowels as fiber art
MAKERS TO FOLLOW	Gwen Marston, Sherri Lynn Wood

Trend 04: Vintage Reproduction

A nostalgic return to the quilts of the 1800s–1930s — but with modern making techniques. Reproduction fabrics mimic the prints of the past while modern sewists use today's tools to create heirlooms that feel genuinely timeless.

FABRICS TO USE	1800s reproduction prints, double pink prints, turkey red, chrome orange, indigo blue
COLOR APPROACH	Aged red, navy, double pink, brown, chrome orange, double blue
BEST PATTERNS	Traditional blocks with historical names — Ohio Star, Log Cabin, Bear Paw, Album
HOW TO DISPLAY IT	In a farmhouse bedroom, in a reading nook with antique furniture
MAKERS TO FOLLOW	Kim Diehl, Barbara Brackman

Trend 05: English Paper Piecing Revival

The ancient technique of hand-sewing fabric over paper templates is having a major millennial moment. EPP produces satisfying, portable, and meditative handwork that fits into busy modern life — a few hexies on the commute, a few at lunch.

FABRICS TO USE	Liberty Tana Lawn, shot cottons, designer solids, fine quality quilting cotton
COLOR APPROACH	Floral-forward — soft multicolors that work beautifully in small pieces
BEST PATTERNS	Hexagons (always), La Passacaglia, Grandmother's Flower Garden, EPP diamonds
HOW TO DISPLAY IT	As a throw on an armchair, as a decorative wall piece with the papers still in
MAKERS TO FOLLOW	Lucy Boston Patchwork, Jen Kingwell

Trend 06: Gradient & Ombre Quilts

The visual satisfaction of color flowing seamlessly from light to dark, or one hue to another, has made gradient quilts one of the most-pinned quilt styles on Pinterest. The effect looks complex but requires only careful fabric selection.

FABRICS TO USE	Color-sorted fabric bundles from a single designer line; ombre fabric cuts; solid solids in gradients
COLOR APPROACH	One color family from lightest tint to deepest shade, OR two harmonizing colors
BEST PATTERNS	Half-square triangles arranged in gradient, improv bricks by value, diagonal color wash
HOW TO DISPLAY IT	As a large throw, hung vertically as wall art – the gradient reads beautifully
MAKERS TO FOLLOW	Lils Elliott (digital design), various Moda bundle quilts

Trend 07: Cozy Cottagecore

Wildflowers, linen, lazy Sundays, and the romance of rural life — cottagecore quilting celebrates the handmade, the imperfect, and the beautiful. This aesthetic feels like a warm hug from your grandmother's guest room.

FABRICS TO USE	Liberty florals, vintage floral reproductions, French general fabrics, linen, eyelet
COLOR APPROACH	Dusty rose, sage, cream, lavender, butter yellow, soft robin's egg blue
BEST PATTERNS	Grandmother's flower garden, flower basket blocks, simple florals, double wedding ring
HOW TO DISPLAY IT	Draped over an antique iron bed, folded in a wicker basket, hung on a vintage quilt rack
MAKERS TO FOLLOW	Alexia Marcelle Abegg, Fig Tree Quilts

Trend 08: Modern Geometric

Clean angles, bold shapes, graphic precision — modern geometric quilts look like they belong on gallery walls. The aesthetic is architectural, confident, and produces statement pieces that stand up in any contemporary interior.

FABRICS TO USE	High-quality solids (Kona Cotton, Moda Bella Solids), minimal prints, bold brights
COLOR APPROACH	Two-color (high contrast), monochromatic, or bold primary combinations
BEST PATTERNS	Flying geese in graphic arrangements, bold HST patterns, modern star blocks, cube illusions
HOW TO DISPLAY IT	Hung as large-scale wall art, on a Scandinavian-style bed with white linens
MAKERS TO FOLLOW	Elizabeth Hartman, Alison Glass