



# 2026 INTERIOR DESIGN TRENDS: A Midwest Perspective on Wood and Enduring Craftsmanship



Door: Solid Core, Flush Red Oak with 1/4" x 1/8" Grooves  
Photo Credit: Art Home Photo

**Trends come and go.** But good design - the kind that feels right five, ten, even twenty years down the road - tends to stick around. As we look ahead to 2026, we're seeing a clear shift in home interiors here in the Midwest. While design trends emerging from California and New York often lean into bold experimentation, Midwest homeowners and designers are asking a different question: **"How do we create homes that feel refined and livable - warm, intentional, and built to last?"**

The answer shows up again and again in one place: **authentic materials, purpose-driven design, and real wood details that do more than just "finish" a space.** They're the details that quietly guide how a home looks, feels, and functions for years to come.

**Here's what we're seeing, and how hardwood mouldings, doors, and millwork are shaping Midwest interiors in 2026.**

## Earthy Palettes Replace Stark Whites

All-white interiors had a long run. In the Midwest, that shift is happening.

For 2026, we're seeing:

- Warm whites instead of bright whites
- Clay, taupe, and muted green tones
- Rich wood stains that highlight natural grain

Well-designed homes feel curated and collected, not overly dominated by a single material. In response, designers are leaning into balance, pairing softer paint tones with stained wood doors, layered trim profiles, and natural finishes that bring contrast without competing for attention.

These rich palettes work especially well with hardwood millwork, creating interiors that feel warm, comfortable, and livable year-round - not stark or one-dimensional.



Ceiling: 24160-QRK-TAG, Red Oak  
Photo Credit: Art Home Photo



Door: G08011, Clear Glass, Panel Mould: 2664-PR, Poplar  
Photo Credit: Art Home Photo

## Defined Spaces Make a Comeback

Open-concept living isn't disappearing, but it is being refined.

Midwest homeowners are asking for:

- Better room definition
- Defined transitions between spaces
- Architecture that helps spaces feel purposeful

**The result:** Architecture that reinforces function and flow, often through thoughtful transitions, openings, and detailing.



Door: KC30MD, White Oak,  
Custom Beaded Center Panel  
Photo Credit: Karolina Pora Photography

## Interior Doors Step Out of the Background

Interior doors are no longer just pass-throughs. In 2026, they're being treated more like focal points for your openings.

Homeowners are gravitating toward:

- Unique panel designs
- Groove and reeded details
- Accent doors that introduce contrast or become focal points in key spaces

**The Midwest difference:** We are seeing doors that make a statement – but not at the expense of durability or function. They feel intentional, substantial, and built for real life. When doors are designed to complement the architecture instead of disappearing into it, the entire home feels more connected.

## Warm Modernism Takes Center Stage

The Midwest version of modern design is evolving.

Clean lines are still very much in play, but stark, ultra-minimal spaces are giving way to warmer interiors that feel more inviting, especially in regions where winter is part of the lifestyle.

In 2026, modern homes are defined by:

- Warm neutral palettes
- Visible wood grain
- Understated profiles with depth

**Poplar mouldings, stained oak and walnut doors, and streamlined trim packages** bring warmth to modern layouts without over-complicating the design. This is modern design that feels livable – not cold, not trendy, and definitely not disposable.



Wall Covering: 24160-KWK-WC, Poplar



Door: G08611, Reeded Glass, Red Oak  
Casing: 24112-R-CA w/3436-BB  
Photo Credit: Art Home Photo

## Soft Curves Make a Strong Impression

In 2026, interior design is embracing curves with purpose. Rather than rigid, all-linear spaces, homes are incorporating arched openings, softened profiles, and radius details that add warmth and movement.

Arched doorways and curved transitions create a natural flow between spaces, while subtle millwork details help soften the overall look. These shapes bring a sense of craftsmanship and refinement, without relying on ornamentation or excess.

It's a design move that feels especially at home in the Midwest: intentional, balanced, and built around architecture that lasts.

In the Midwest, the most successful interiors aren't driven by trends alone, they're shaped by materials, proportions, and details that stand the test of time. **Doors, mouldings, and millwork shape proportion, movement, and material balance throughout an interior.** By offering a broad selection of hardwood species, profiles, and door designs, our products help designers and builders execute these trends with architectural intent and lasting performance.