

# Get Crafty



# The Contemporary Cabin Look

This year has seen a notable shift toward contemporary cabin aesthetics when it comes to interior design trends.

What is this aesthetic? It's a redefinition of the traditional rustic style, often borrowing elements from '70s-inspired boho designs. The focus is on intricate, geometric woodwork and spaces that blend modern sophistication with rustic charm. It's a departure from the heavy, dark wood interiors typically associated with cabins. Instead, expect to see lighter wood tones, minimalistic design elements and an abundance of natural light.

Drawing inspiration from the boho design, contemporary cabin aesthetics incorporate earthy colors, textured textiles and a sense of free-spirited creativity. You'll find warm earthy tones like terracotta, mustard and olive green, as well as an abundance of tactile elements such as macrame, fringe and woven fabrics.

Etsy, the online marketplace known for its unique and hand-crafted products, has reported a significant surge in searches related to contemporary cabin aesthetics. Specifically, there has been a 332% increase in year-over-year searches containing "wall decor wood." This data suggests a growing interest in wood-based wall art and decor, a key component of the contempo-



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rary cabin aesthetics trend.

Contemporary cabin aesthetics are inspiring crafters to explore new creative horizons. Whether you're into woodworking, textiles or mixed-material crafts, this trend offers a wealth of possibilities. You can embrace the warmth, sophistication and versatility of contemporary cabin aesthetics in your crafting journey and let

your creations embody modern, cozy and natural-inspired design.

## GEOMETRIC WOODWORK AND TEXTILES

The focus on intricate geometric woodwork is a central feature of this aesthetic. You can explore creating wood-based crafts with geometric patterns. These might include

wooden wall art, coasters or intricately designed wooden trays. These items can add an instant touch of sophistication to any cabin-inspired space.

Woodworkers can craft wooden furniture, shelving units or storage crates.

The Etsy data show a high demand for wood-based wall art and crafters can capitalize on this demand by creating



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intricate wooden wall art pieces that incorporate geometric designs, nature-inspired motifs or personalized messages.

## TEXTILES AND MIXED MATERIALS

The earthy color palette and textured textiles characteristic of this trend present endless possibilities for crafters. Consider sewing cozy throw pillows, crafting macrame wall hangings or making fabric coasters using warm, rustic colors and tactile fabrics.

Another aspect of the trend is to incorporate natural elements into projects. Crafters can experiment with creating terrariums, succulent planters or driftwood candleholders. These crafts connect indoor spaces to the outdoors.

Don't shy away from mixing materials to create unique crafts. Blend wood with stone, leather or metal. Fashion multi-material coasters, jewelry or even wall mirrors to create eye-catching pieces that embrace the trend's versatility.

# Evil Eye: Mystique and Magic

The evil eye, a symbol of protection, has been an integral part of various cultures for centuries.

Its history is woven into folklore, superstition and tradition, making it a captivating and meaningful motif for crafters to explore.

Whether you choose to craft wearables, home decor or other forms of art, incorporating the evil eye motif into projects is a way to celebrate tradition.

## CULTURAL TAPESTRY

The belief in the evil eye spans across many cultures, from the Mediterranean to the Middle East, and even parts of South Asia. Its origins can be traced back to ancient Greece and Rome, where it was believed that malevolent glares could bring harm or misfortune. The symbol has evolved and holds different meanings in various regions.

In most cultures, the evil eye is seen as a protective amulet, believed to ward off malevolent intentions and negative energies. It's often depicted as a striking blue eye surrounded by concentric circles, with the blue symbolizing protection and the power to deflect harm.

It can be incorporated into many different forms, including jewelry, talismans and home decor items. In Turkey, the nazar boncugu, a blue-and-white amulet resembling an eye, is commonly used to protect against an evil gaze. In Greece, the mati is a popular symbol believed to safeguard against curses.

According to Bonheur Jewelry, while blue is the most traditional color for evil eyes, others are also used. White symbolizes spiritual awakening and purity and is thought to bring about clarity and peace. Green is believed to attract harmony and balance while pro-

moting healing and renewal. Red is a symbol of courage and vitality and strengthens resolve. Yellow promotes mental clarity, creativity and optimism while protecting against negative thoughts. Orange enhances social interactions while pink enhances self-love.

## CRAFTING WITH THE EVIL EYE

There are many projects that can incorporate this motif.

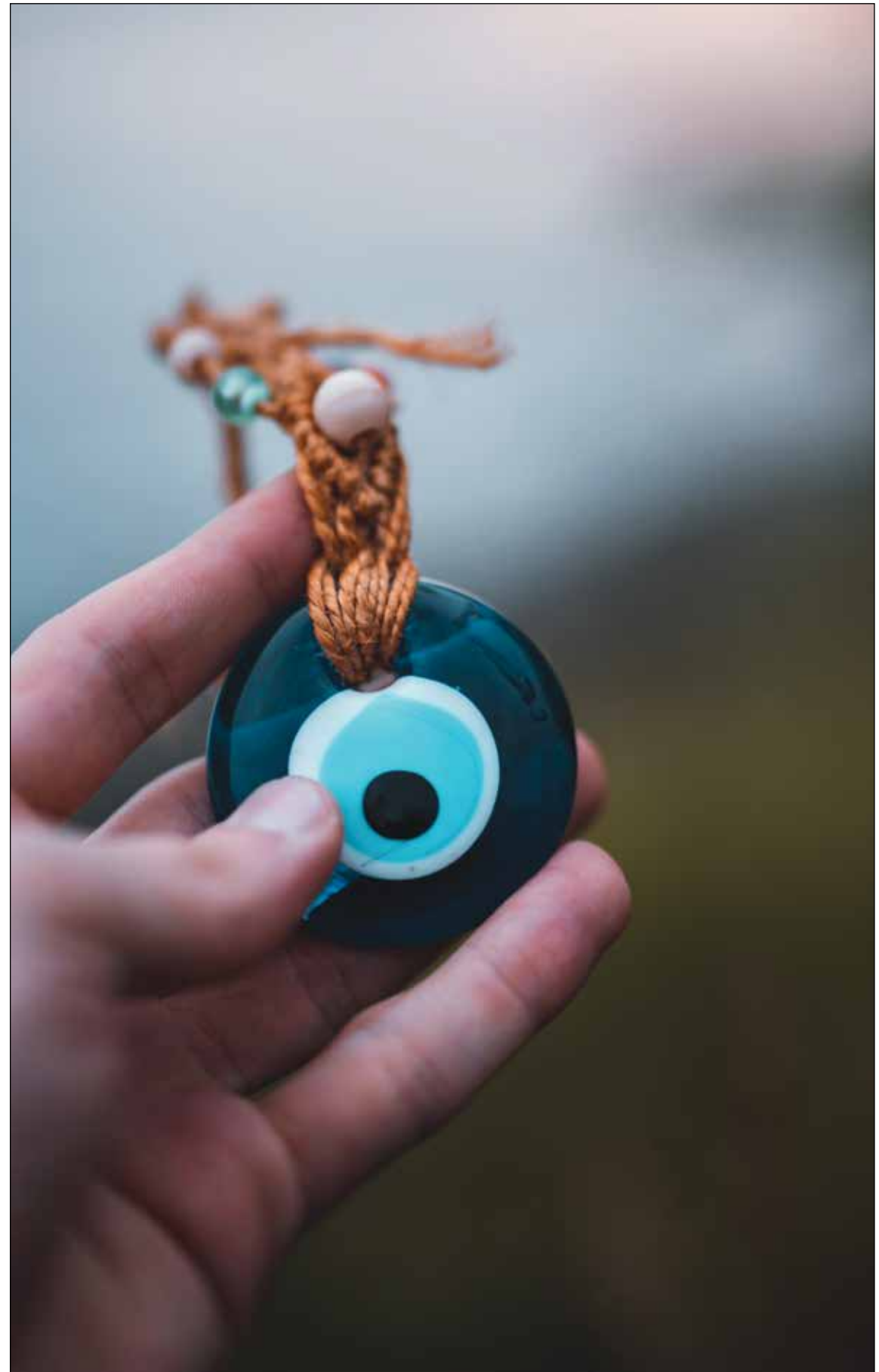
Crafting evil eye jewelry is a popular choice. Incorporate evil eye beads or pendants into bracelets, necklaces or earrings. Combine them with contemporary gemstones and metals to create personalized pieces with a meaningful touch.

For those with embroidery skills, consider adding the evil eye motif to clothing items like T-shirts, denim jackets or canvas sneakers. Hand-stitching the symbol can infuse your wardrobe with a distinct and protective flair.

Transform your living space with the enchanting allure of the evil eye. Craft throw pillows, wall hangings or decorative cushions featuring the symbol. Choose fabrics in shades of blue and white to enhance the protective aura of your decor.

Crafters with a passion for ceramics can experiment with incorporating the motif into pottery. Craft bowls, plates or vases adorned with the symbol, and use blue hues and stains to make your pieces stand out.

Delve into stained glass crafting to create window hangings or suncatchers featuring the evil eye design. When the light filters through, it can cast mesmerizing patterns that evoke a sense of enchantment and protection.



# Crafts From Nature's Bounty

Some creators forage, others wildcraft. Whatever the name, these creative artists search the outdoors to harvest materials that they can turn into beautiful and useful items.

The Craft Industry Alliance lists foraged finds as one of the major craft trends for fall 2023, a movement that taps into crafters' interest in sustainability, nature-based activities and the desire for unique, personalized creations.

One of the primary driving forces is a heightened awareness of environmental issues and a desire to reduce one's carbon footprint. Rather than using plastic or things that require fossil fuel to create, crafters are harvesting branches, pine cones, leaves and stones to create beautiful and functional items that don't contribute to waste or resource depletion.

Foraged finds are often imperfect and therefore more individual, distinguishing them from mass-produced items. Those who go foraging or wildcrafting report that it helps them to connect with nature on a deeper level. It encourages outdoor exploration and greater appreciation for the natural world. It's a way to bring the beauty of the outdoors into one's home or per-



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sonal style.

The rise of social media platforms such as Pinterest, Instagram and crafting forums has facilitated the sharing of ideas and creations related to foraged finds. Crafters from around the world now have a platform to showcase their projects, exchange tips and inspire others to join the movement.

## INSPIRING PROJECTS

Some wildcrafters forage for specific items for planned projects. Others venture forth and let their harvest inspire

them. Things that can be collected include seashells, driftwood, pine cones, seeds, mushrooms, moss, clay, stones or berries.

At The Druid's Garden, Dana O'Driscoll recommends putting together a foraging bag that includes such things as sunscreen, bug spray, a hat, compass, water, first-aid supplies, gardening tools, gloves and scissors.

Craft Invaders offers several videos in its "12 Fabulous Nature Based Craft Tutorials" that provide instructions on making such things as cards,

candles, living sculptures, dried clay leaves and flower pots. Other people make jewelry, home decor, soaps and fashion accessories.

## ETHICAL FORAGING

There is some controversy around wildcrafting, especially when done for profit, and it is important that crafters follow ethical foraging practices. This includes respecting natural habitats, not over-harvesting and adhering to local regulations and guidelines to ensure the sustainability of the environment.

Forage only where you have permission to do so and do not take things that are endangered or scarce. Do not disrupt an ecosystem. Many wildcrafters emphasize the importance of acknowledging the ancestral lands and traditions from which wildcrafting comes.

O'Driscoll connects wildcrafting with re-skilling, "developing the skills necessary to transition to a sustainable and earth-centered future. ... This is what our ancestors did — and this is what we will again do — if we can learn to do it correctly and in balance."

# DIY Disco Planters

This fall's trends include splashes of retro-inspired glamour.

DIY disco planters continue to climb in popularity. MadeUrban reports that “disco ball planter” went from a couple hundred searches per month in 2019 to more than 5,000 searches per month in 2022 with the trend carrying over into 2023.

These funky creations combine the charm of vintage disco balls with the beauty of greenery, giving any space a vibrant touch. They add a touch of nostalgia to your home and garden while providing a delightful conversation starter. There are several ways to make a planter from purchasing a disco ball to making one with reflective chips that you glue onto a plastic bowl.

Here is one way to make this fun craft.

## Supplies

**Disco ball:** Start with a disco ball. You can find these at party supply stores, online marketplaces or even thrift shops.

**Small potted plant:** Select a small, indoor plant that thrives in your chosen location.

**Drill with a diamond bit:** Make sure you have a diamond bit suitable for drilling through glass or mirrored surfaces.

## Plant holder/pot

**Adhesive putty or epoxy**

**Chain or twine**

**Potting soil and fertilizer:** For your plant's well-being, invest in quality potting soil and a slow-release fertilizer.

## Directions

**Step 1: Prepare your disco ball.** Clean the surface thoroughly to ensure proper adhesion.

**Step 2: Create a hole.** Carefully drill a hole at the top of the disco ball. This hole should be large enough to accommodate the plant's pot, so measure accordingly. Take your time, as drilling through glass can be delicate work. Drill two small holes on opposite sides of the opening so you can attach hangers.

**Step 3: Attach hangers.** Thread a chain or colorful twine through the small holes on the top of your disco ball planter. Securely fasten it as the weight of the disco ball and plant can add up.

**Step 4: Attach the plant holder.** Apply adhesive putty or epoxy around the hole you just created. Press your plant holder (the pot) into the adhesive, ensuring it sticks firmly. Allow it to dry and set according to the product's instructions.

**Step 5: Pot your plant.** Fill the pot with potting soil and insert your plant, adding more soil as needed. Water the plant thoroughly and add slow-release fertilizer per the package instructions.

**Step 6: Find the perfect spot.** Choose a location that allows your disco planter to catch the light. Sunlight or spotlights will bounce off the mirrored surfaces, creating mesmerizing reflections around your space. Indoor areas near windows or outdoor spots with dappled sunlight are ideal.



# Gender-Neutral Crafting Trend

In a world evolving towards inclusivity and diversity, the realm of crafting is no exception.

One significant trend that reflects this evolution is the move towards gender-neutral crafting. This movement recognizes the importance of creating inclusive and open spaces for people of all genders to express themselves creatively and provides gifts and items for those whose gender identification may be nontraditional.

MadeUrban, an authority in crafting trends, highlights the rise of gender-neutral and self-identity art as a sign of this evolving landscape. The site points out, gender neutrality is not just a fleeting trend; it's a significant movement toward inclusivity.

Platforms like Pinterest have witnessed a surge in searches related to gender-neutral parenting, self-identity art and unisex names, MadeUrban reports.

It reflects society's growing awareness of the need for gender inclusivity in all aspects of life.

## WHY IT MATTERS

Gender-neutral crafting ensures that everyone, regardless of their gender identity feels welcome and represented in the crafting community. It also ensures that everyone, regardless of their gender identity or expression, can



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find products and projects that resonate with them. It challenges traditional gender stereotypes by encouraging a broader range of colors, themes and styles in crafting projects.

Traditional gender roles have sometimes limited creative expression. Creating gender-neutral crafts expresses respect for individuals and that their likes and style are independent from their gen-

der. It encourages self-expression and authenticity and supports individuals in exploring a wider range of colors, themes and styles without feeling confined by societal norms.

If you sell your crafts, expanding your crafting repertoire to include gender-neutral items can broaden your customer base. You open new market opportunities and strengthen your business.

with patterns, choose those that are unisex or abstract, such as polka dots, stripes or simple geometric shapes.

Use versatile crafting materials that can be adapted to suit various styles and preferences. Neutral fabrics, wood, paper and recyclable materials are excellent choices.

## WHAT TO CRAFT

Craft nursery decor items that steer clear of traditional gender clichés. Consider creating wall art, mobiles or soft toys featuring neutral colors and designs that can fit any nursery theme.

Design and craft children's clothing and accessories that appeal to all genders. Think about classic styles, neutral colors and comfortable fabrics.

Craft personalized items like name banners, wall hangings or custom art pieces that can be tailored to suit anyone's preferences without being limited by gender stereotypes. Design home decor items like throw pillows, table runners and candles with inclusive colors and patterns.

Create jewelry pieces featuring versatile designs and colors suitable for all.

Develop DIY games and toys that encourage inclusivity and cooperation. Simple board games, puzzles and building sets can provide hours of entertainment without boxing anyone into play based on gender expectations.

Craft greeting cards for various occasions that avoid gender-specific pronouns, with designs for a broad audience.

## CREATING GENDER-NEUTRAL CRAFTS

Opt for a palette that includes a wide range of colors, avoiding overly stereotypical pink or blue. Earth tones, pastels and vibrant primary colors can all be part of your gender-neutral crafting arsenal.

Select themes and motifs that are not overtly gendered. Nature-inspired, geometric or abstract designs can be universally appealing. When working

# Indoor Murals Are on Trend

Traditionally reserved for outdoor spaces, murals have found their way into homes, offices and even small-scale DIY projects.

This trend transforms blank walls into personalized works of art, giving individuals the opportunity to express their creativity in a larger-than-life fashion.

Murals have a long and storied history, dating back to ancient civilizations where they were used to convey stories, beliefs and cultural heritage. Over time, murals have evolved, becoming a means of artistic expression and a tool for beautifying public spaces.

In recent years, especially when the pandemic had people spending more time in their homes, there has been a shift towards bringing this centuries-old art form indoors.

People are now turning to their own living spaces as blank canvases, embracing the opportunity to infuse their homes with color, personality and visual storytelling.

With limitless possibilities for customization and artistic expression, indoor murals are inviting crafters of all levels to turn their living spaces into breathtaking canvases of self-expression. Whether you're a seasoned artist or a novice looking to release your creative side, consider giving indoor murals a try.



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## FACTORS BEHIND THE TREND

Indoor murals allow individuals to tailor their living spaces to their unique tastes and preferences. Whether it is a wild jungle scene in a child's bedroom or an abstract masterpiece in a living room, these murals are a reflection of the creator's personality.

Murals can instantly transform a room from drab to dynamic. They serve as a focal point, drawing the eye and cre-

ating a sense of drama and intrigue within a space.

Thanks to technological advances, it's now easier than ever to create custom murals. Crafters can design their murals digitally, incorporating personal photos, artwork or messages. For those with a passion for art, indoor murals provide a large-scale canvas to unleash their creativity. Crafters can experiment with different styles, techniques and mediums.

## CREATING A MURAL

Here are some steps to get you started:

**1. Design your mural.** Sketch your design on paper or digitally. Consider the colors, composition and style.

**2. Choose your surface.** Common choices include living room walls, bedroom ceilings or even furniture like cabinets or tables. If it isn't already, clean and prime the surface to get it ready for painting.

**3. Gather your supplies.**

Depending on your medium (acrylic, watercolor or even digital), gather the necessary art supplies. These may include paintbrushes, paints, masking tape and stencils.

**4. Paint!** Take your time and don't be afraid to make changes or add details as you go. The process should be enjoyable and fulfilling.

**5. Protect and preserve.** Consider applying a clear sealant or varnish to protect your artwork from wear and tear.

# Paper Crafts: A Timeless Trend

A versatile art form, paper crafts continue to capture the hearts of enthusiasts across the globe.

From delicate origami creations to intricate quilling art and charming paper rings, this age-old craft has experienced a resurgence of popularity in 2023, as evidenced by the increasing number of searches on platforms like Pinterest.

They offer a blend of precision and artistic expression, provide an avenue for relaxation and mindfulness, and cater to the growing demand for sustainable crafting options. Whether you are a beginner looking to start your paper crafting journey or a seasoned pro seeking new ideas, the world of paper crafts has something to offer everyone.



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## ORIGAMI

Originating in Japan, origami is perhaps one of the most well-known and beloved paper crafts. It involves the intricate art of folding paper into various shapes and forms, often without the use of scissors or glue. This minimalist approach to crafting emphasizes precision and patience while encouraging creativity. The word origami is derived from the Japanese Ori (folded) and Kami (paper). Its predecessor was orikata — folded shapes.

Origami allows crafters to transform a sheet of paper

into intricate designs such as delicate paper cranes, flowers, and even complex modular structures. Its popularity stems from its accessibility. All you need is paper and a set of folding instructions.

Origami promotes relaxation and mindfulness, making it a favorite pastime for those seeking an escape from the daily hustle and bustle.

Fun facts about origami: Nov. 11 is Origami Day and the Guinness Book of World Records has dozens of origami entries. Paris Corporation,

which sells specialty origami paper, says that origami was originally restricted to only ceremonial occasions because of the scarcity and expense of paper.

## QUILLING

An art form that dates back to the Renaissance period, quilling involves rolling and shaping thin paper strips to create intricate designs. These coiled paper shapes are then arranged to form decorative pieces, often framed as wall art, greeting cards or jewelry.

It has grown in popularity in recent years as crafters have experimented with different paper colors, shapes and techniques.

## PAPER RINGS

Pop singer Taylor Swift croons that while she likes shiny things, she'd marry her lover with paper rings.

Not just inspired by the mega-star's song "Paper Rings," it is an emerging trend within the world of paper crafts. Crafters are now using paper to create elegant and

eco-friendly alternatives to traditional metal and gemstone rings. These rings are often adorned with paper flowers, patterns or even personalized messages.

Crafters can experiment with various types of paper, including recycled materials, to create one-of-a-kind pieces that reflect their personal style.

The website, I Always Pick the Thimble, provides tutorials for how to make 25 different paper rings for anyone from beginners to experts.