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## 5 Living room trends

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### Living room trends

"The latest living room trends are chic, inspiring and, most importantly, liveable and practical – and they are comparatively easy to achieve," says Claire Gibson, from leading furniture manufacturer, La-Z-Boy.

Here is her summary of what's trending in the design world:

#### 1. Dynamite in small packages

In many of today's newly built homes, space is often at a premium. As a result, the creation of

smaller furniture with streamlined elegant design lines is in big.

"When you're living in a small space, it becomes even more important than ever that the things you own are not only functional and space-saving, but they are beautiful as well," says Gibson, "The Launch of La-Z-Boy's new Urban Attitude range is the perfect example of this – not only does this range offer all the comfort, quality and elegance that is expected from La-Z-Boy, but it is also in a much more compact size so that it doesn't take up too much valuable floor space. The range also comprises incliners, which means that the seating can be placed much closer to the back wall, and that you can recline without using any more space."

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## 2. Lovely and chunky

Although homes are getting smaller, there are still lots of larger, spacious homes in South Africa, which need larger furnishings.

For the last two decades or so, living room furniture has been inspired by the design trends of the '50s and '60s – full of straight and streamlined lines. However, this took a major swing in the '70s and '80s, where there was more of a focus on comfort and big, rounded styles. The latter is making a modern comeback in a big way says Gibson.

"I am not saying that mid-Century is out – I don't think it will ever be, but big is most certainly back! Large, chunky sofas that beg you to sink in for optimum comfort and hours of Netflix-marathons have never been more in demand. However, the modern designs have a twist – they look and feel comfortable and inviting, but they also offer more sophisticated lines than their predecessors and better reclining technology. Now you can have the best of both worlds – comfort and style in one package!"

## 3. Nature-inspired

Organic inspiration has remained popular over the years and seems to gain momentum annually.

"As a society, we have never been more in touch and in tune with the world around us and our love affair with nature seems to be growing exponentially. A fact that is clearly evident in how we like to decorate our homes," says Gibson.

Not only are we including lots of natural materials, such as leather, wood, stone and metals, but colour palettes also reflect those inherent in Mother Nature.

"Earth tones remain a key design trend – adding warmth, depth and comfort to our indoor spaces. Shades of browns, greens, greys, and off-whites have never been more popular. Accents in brighter natural hues such as sky blues, grass greens and coral reds are used widely to create pops of brightness juxtaposed against the more relaxing, muted natural tones," says Gibson.

## 4. Marvellous metallic

The design world is seriously in love with all things metallic at the moment.

"Metallics go a long way to adding a sense of heavy glamour and industrial weight to any space they grace," says Gibson.

"Look for brushed, satin or matte finishes to add extra visual texture. Aged copper, brass, gold or stainless steel can be used to great effect in the living room to take the décor to another new level of chic – but only touches of it. The trick is to include noticeable metallic accents and not being too heavy-handed here."

## 5. Less is more

Minimalism has always been trendy, but the ethics behind this kind of décor are set to make a big stand in 2017.

"There is a big move towards valuing quality over quantity, which is evident in the way we decorate our homes," says Gibson.

"Today, it is all about including a few select statement pieces that mean something to the owner or that stand out because of the fact that they are so well crafted – and not drowning them in a clutter of beautiful items, but letting them shine and stand proud on their own."