

New living trend wabi-sabi is spilling over from Japan

Back to the basics



An interior design trend from Japan has found its way into German living rooms: *wabi-sabi*. Its message: Clear out your clutter and focus on the essentials! This will bring more harmony and clarity into your home. The philosophy behind *wabi-sabi* is deeply rooted in Zen Buddhism, placing great value on authenticity, naturalness and sustainability. Light wood, wool and felt are the materials typical of this Far Eastern living style. Furniture and other everyday utensils are allowed to age and show small flaws or signs of use. This is why a natural wood floor, complete with knotholes or a vibrant grain, goes perfectly with the *wabi-sabi* concept. Also the building materials used for installation should be sustainable and healthy for the residents. They can be easily recognized by the EMICODE® quality seal.

Wabi-sabi is a centuries-old Japanese concept of aesthetics, closely associated with Zen Buddhism. At the heart of it is the appreciation of beauty found in imperfect, transient and incomplete things. There is no place for extravagance and playful decorative items. Followers of *wabi-sabi* limit their home furnishings to things that are really close to their hearts: unique items made of organic or natural materials, preferably handmade. This can be a piece of furniture handed down from your grandparents or your own pottery vase.

In its simplicity and straightforwardness, the new trend from the Far East is very similar to our purism and minimalism. But *wabi-sabi* style doesn't have to be cold and uncomfortable. Thanks to natural and subtle colors, it also brings a certain warmth and comfort into our homes. The preferred colors are cream, beige, grey, as well as muted shades of green, blue and pastel colors. Large windows and

glass doors allow plenty of light to stream into the rooms. Natural materials such as wood, wool, linen and bamboo are also important ingredients of *wabi-sabi* style living.

Nevertheless, the interior design doesn't need to be perfect. Furniture is allowed to have a certain patina, your favorite cup may be a little chipped, and the wear marks on the leather sofa simply belong. In other words: It's not appearance that counts according to the principles of *wabi-sabi*, but authenticity. In addition, the objects used inside our homes should be as durable as possible. The philosophy from the Land of the Rising Sun thus stands for the exact opposite of our soulless consumerist and throwaway society. The new living trend is also reflected in the choice of flooring. Instead of flawless high-gloss parquet, the demand is for natural wood floors with a vivid grain and small blemishes such as knotholes or cracks. Using a renewable and long-lasting raw material like wood is also an active commitment to environmental protection and sustainability. A tip from our expert: Always glue the flooring to the entire substrate surface so that it firmly stays in place and cannot shift. Since parquet can be renovated several times, the real wood floor will be a life-long companion that the family and their offspring will enjoy for many years to come – completely in line with the *wabi-sabi* living concept.

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