

So, how do you BOHO?

The stylish trend remains dominant
in fashion and home decor

by amanda dolter • photos by the telegraph herald

In fashion and home decor, the trend known as boho continues to hold strong.

If you're new to it, here is a little more about boho and how you can incorporate it, from wardrobe to home:

Who is boho?

Boho is short for bohemian, which is defined as "a person, as an artist or writer, who lives and acts free of regard for conventional rules and practices."

Boho fashion icons include Sienna Miller, Mary Kate and Ashley Olsen, Florence Welch (lead singer of Florence + The Machine), Zoe Kravitz and Vanessa Hudgens.

Authorities in boho home trends include Justina Blakeney (interior designer, artist



Rebecca Sevens, of RF2 Furniture Warehouse.

and New York Times best-selling author of “The New Bohemians” and “The New Bohemians Handbook”, Emily Henderson (home style expert and designer) and Emily Henson (interior stylist, blogger and author of “Life Unstyled” and “Bohemian Modern”).

Rebecca Severns, owner of RF2 Furniture Warehouse in Dubuque, is a fan of boho style and embraces it in her home.

“It takes a certain kind of person, more of a free spirit, to embrace the boho style,” she said.

Severns also pointed to the New York apartment where legendary actress Lauren Bacall lived for 53 years as a great example.

If you don’t care for structure, are drawn to free expression and enjoy colorful, unconventional accouterments, then you could be boho, too.

What is boho?

More than a style, boho is a way of life that originates from the post-French Revolution counterculture but is exemplified by the free spirit, hippy lifestyle of the 1960s and 1970s.

Boho style has had appeal for decades, and as a result, has made an impact in both fashion and home décor. It also has many offshoots: Industrial boho, new bohemian, boho-chic and artful bohemian. But the fundamentals remain the same.

Whether it’s in fashion or home décor, boho style has layers of colors and patterns, textures and natural materials, with an emphasis on comfort and individual expression. Other features include “found” objects and art, different textures, global influence and plants.

When is boho?

“Boho is a style that’s always in,” said Tracy Ann Gloeckner, owner of Dirt Road Darlings Boutique in Dubuque and this month’s Her cover girl. “It can be mixed and matched easily with other trends.”

And, with its no-rules approach, the boho style likely will remain popular.

Where is boho?

There are several places to find boho-styled items in the tri-states. A few include:

- RF2 Furniture Warehouse, 900 Jackson St.
- Willows Gift Shop, 471 W. Fourth St.
- Boho Style Me, a Dubuque-based Etsy Shop, www.etsy.com/shop/BohoStyleMe.
- Dirt Road Darlings Boutique, 2600 Dodge St., and Millwork Marketplace, 333 E. 10th St.
- Your home. “Shop” your house first. Items



RF2 Furniture Warehouse features an eclectic array of boho style throughout. Photo by Jessica Reilly.

stored in a closet, basement or attic can find new life in your boho-inspired style.

How to boho?

Boho style comes down to personal aesthetic and comfort. It’s about bringing all the things you love together to create a unique look or space. This can be overwhelming and potentially lead to a chaotic mess. So, here are a few tips to keep in mind:

- Fill your space and layer your look, but don’t go overboard. Too many layers, accessories or pieces quickly can become cluttered and look sloppy.

“Implement smaller profile items like pillows, rugs, runners, baskets, vases with bright colors, patterns and textures to achieve the layered look,” Severns suggested.

Paring it back just a bit provides a more composed appearance that isn’t overwhelming.

“When you think of boho, you think of long layers, but you don’t want too many,” Gloeckner said. “It’s all about balance. If you’ve got a flowy top, pair it with fitted bottoms or the reverse. A flowy skirt or pants should be worn with a fitted top.”

- Decorate or accessorize with pieces that have meaning to you: Your favorite books, the art print you found on vacation or that silk scarf from your great-grandmother.

“Boho is really about individual style and surrounding yourself with the things you love most,” Severns said.

- Mix old with new. Blending new pieces with



Tracy Ann Gloeckner, of Dirt Road Darlings Boutique. Photo by Nicki Kohl.

what you have is a key to keeping the style fresh.

“Take a little bit of each trend, like boho and contemporary, and mix them up for your own unique look,” Gloeckner said.

- Be creative, and express yourself. The style is all about you. Fill your space with plants, old family photos, velvet pillows and Moroccan rugs, or flaunt your look with a ruffled skirt, a wide-brimmed hat and leather bracelets.

As Gloeckner pointed out, “Originality is always in style.”

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