# 2026 TREND REPORT



# **WELCOME** to Year 3 of the Al Inflection Point

Last year, the top 3 topics from our clients were AI, AI, AI, and while this year brings the same list, we have entered a new stage of implementation and experimentation. Brands continue to push on their AI capabilities, while still keeping their eyes on trends and opportunities in a chaotic world moving at record pace. This year's report attempts to balance some of the AI-enabled opportunities we are seeing, with a fresh dose of what has been trending in our key consumer categories.

#### Additional Resources to Enhance Your AI + Innovation Journey:

- OUR AI-THEMED FUTURE FESTIVAL Come see how much you can already be doing with AI, while networking, colliding, and learning the latest trends, at our epic Future Festival World Summit
- 2) AI KEYNOTES & AI WORKSHOPS Book me or one of our futurists for a custom AI keynote
- 3) AI READINESS PROGRAMS & MASTERCLASSES Some of our clients are using our 2-5 day masterclass programs to deeply tackle AI, automate their work, and enhance their offerings.

Let's Create The Future.

EREMY

Jeremy Gutsche CEO of Trend Hunter NY Times Bestselling Author & Keynote Speaker – JeremyGutsche.com





# HOW PRO CAN YOU GO? JOIN 1,000 OF THE WORLD'S TOP INNOVATORS AT OUR EPIC FUTURE FESTIVAL WORLD SUMMIT

### EARLY BIRD ENDS SOON FUTUREFESTIVAL.COM

**#1 IN TRENDS** We help smart people like you find better ideas faster









# **A PROBLEM WE SOLVE** is that it is difficult to filter all the chaos of the world into opportunity

## Our Changing World

- COVID-19
- Al
- Social media
- Globalization
- Big Data
- The Cloud
- East vs. West
- 3D Printing
- Millennials
- CRISPR
- VR + AR

- Robots
- Sustainability
- Personalization
- Uncertainty
- Influencers
- Lower Barriers
- Social Business
- Diversification
- Gender Equality
- Empowerment
- What Else???

#### **Inadequate Resources**



lots to filter & not custom



Trend Companies high-level & generic



Custom Research slow & expensive



Magazines & News too much & not custom



Manual Searching random & what ranks



Conferences inspiring, but not specific





## WE HUNT FOR YOU, TO HELP YOU FIND BETTER IDEAS...

"No service out there captures Consumer Behavior as well as Trend Hunter."

- Creative Ideation Manager Sr. Creative Trend Forecasting (>167 Custom Reports)







# .... AND WE USE AI TO HELP YOU FIND THOSE IDEAS MUCH FASTER

Traditional Innovation = Slow & Expensive

With Trend Hunter = Fast, Data-Driven & Cost-Effective



"The custom reports really speak out to us. There is a lot of information out there, but filtering is really difficult. What makes the difference is having somebody who begins to understand what we are doing, who can really help with that curation." - Creative Director

## **NEED TO FILTER CHAOS FASTER? GET TREND HUNTER GPT!**

From a text prompt, you can filter chaos and hunt hidden opportunity in any market:

Quickly deep dive curiosities
Auto-generate product ideas
Auto-create PPT trend reports

### TRY TH GPT TODAY



## WE COMBINE HUMANS +AI TO ACCELERATE YOUR INNOVATION PROCESS



## WE ALSO HELP YOU BRING YOUR INSPIRATION AND IDEAS TO LIFE

Our top-rated innovation keynote speakers and futurists will bring your event to life with our most popular speeches on innovation, trends, change and futurism.

We recommend using your keynote within the first 3-6 months of our partnership.



# AND YOU'LL STAY AHEAD OF THE CURVE

with ongoing custom reports

# "Trend Hunter Advisory is key,

because it opens your eyes. Take 20 minutes, go in another room and look at what's happening in the world, look at what Trend Hunter is feeding you, because that's going to be

## the most important 20 minutes of your week."

Global Head of Innovation ABInbev / Budweiser



# **HOW WE WORK** is that we pair you with a dedicated advisor to help design a custom program we'd fulfill over the year



# Get custom inspiration with our team's **CUSTOM AI, TREND & INNOVATION KEYNOTES**

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Future Festival Core Presentations Premium Presentations

Bring Innovation to Life & Inspire a Culture of Innovation

- 1. The Top 18 Megatrends
- 2. Future of Retail
- 3. Future of Work
- 4. Future of Marketing
- 5. Micro-Generational Desire
- 6. Future of Tech, AI & Big Data
- 7. Future of Consumer Behavior
- 8. Leisure & Play
- 9. Health & Wellness
- 10. Innovation Tactics

Explore a Custom Topic, Segment or Megatrends Impacting Your Market

- 1. Millennial Culture
- 2. Customization & Your Brand
- 3. Gamification & Rewards
- 4. Retail Innovation
- 5. Marketing Innovation
- 6. Boomer, Xs, Ys, Zs & Your Brand
- 7. Al, Robots & Big Data
- 8. Maker Culture
- 9. Instant Entrepreneurship
- 10. Flavor & Preference



Innovation or Assessment Workshops

Deep Dive Your Innovation Assessment or Prototype Products, Services & Your Future



"(The presentation) brought insights new vision and some ideas that are going to push our people to the next level. I couldn't feel better about the kind of thinking we are going to get." – CEO, Omnicom



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# Solve real problems with **CUSTOM WORKSHOPS**

Custom Workshops tackle company-specific issues and objectives with programming tailored to your needs.

**Prototyping (2+ hrs)** Prototype ideas and productionize creativity using the 6 Patterns of Opportunity.

Idea Discovery (2+ hrs) Identify your company's biggest areas for development and uncover new ideas.

#### **Disruption & Adaptation**

(2+ hrs) Anticipate upcoming threats to your business and prepare for future success.

#### Infectious Messaging

(2+ hrs) Rethink your value prop and marketing to more effectively speak to consumers.

#### Making Change Happen

(3+ hrs) Enact major change within your company in the most efficient way possible.

Culture & Change (2+ hrs) Understand and enhance your company's culture to fuel innovation.



# ACCELERATE WITH A 2-5 DAY CUSTOM AI+INNOVATION MASTERCLASS

#### MONDAY (DAY 1)

#### Enabling Change & A Culture of Innovation in an Al World

Learn: Learn how to make change happen when change is hard & how to foster a culture of innovation.

Takeaway: On this day, you will also come up with specific short-term and long-term tactics that would be relevant to implement at your own brand.

## EXAMPLE PROGRAM:

#### **TUESDAY (DAY 2)**

#### Immerse Yourself in AI & Hung Opportunity Chaos

Learn: Learn Al skills, master scenario planning, problem identification, and how to filter chaos intro opportunity. You will also learn how to overcome common traps to extract better thinking from yourself and your team.

Takeaway: You will end this day inspired, with new tactics, an immersive Trend Safari and our World Summit Technology party.

#### WEDNESDAY (DAY 3)

#### Learn The Future

Learn: On this day, you will partake in the crown jewel of our content, learning what the future holds, by category. You will learn the Future of Lifestyle, Technology, Culture, Marketing, Leisure and The Evolution of Each Micro-Generation and Al.

Takeaway: You will have a long list of ideas and feel like you drank from a firehose. However, while you will be part of the large room event on this day, you will have breakout sessions, lunch and a debrief with your private FuturistU team to filter through the noise and

#### Create the Future Framework



#### THURSDAY (DAY 4)

Prototyping & Idea Refinement Learn: You will spend the morning learning to filter chaos into opportunity, leading to your top 10 ideas. You will learn to battle-test those ideas, leading to 3 business cases and a favorite idea for pitching.

Takeaway: You will then have a business case with short term, long term and dream list next steps, ready to turn into your final pitch.

#### FRIDAY (DAY 5)

#### **Persuasion & Pitching**

Learn: Gain specific skills and tactics for infectious messaging, pitching, public speaking & leadership presence.

Takeaway: You will develop a final pitch, which will be performed for the FuturistU group, and ready to take back to your office. This day ends with your graduation as a Futurist!



## Join our intensive Innovation Foresight LEADERSHIP TRAINING

## With our 5-day FuturistU Masterclass @ Future Festival





Become a futurist, taking your skills to the next level with our immensive FuturistU program. You'll still get to be part of the World Summit epic trend day, tech party and networking events, but you'll be learning in a smaller group in a focused S-Day program that walks you through our full innovation strategy curriculum with a private stream of workshops and coaching from Jeremy Gutsche and our Futurist Team.



#### Want Higher ROI for your Brand? Bring 6 People

If you really want to convince your boss, push for 6 people and you will get a private table so that you can apply the learnings to actual solutions, tactica, next-steps and pitches for your company, instead of an assigned case study.

#### Your Curriculum & Outcomes

This program works through the full cycle of innovation, working through dezens of our best innovation workshops, best practices and tactics. You'll learn while applying each tactic to your capstone project. Half of each day is content and half is an applied set of structured workshops, leading to your new business case and perfect pitch.

## The 2026 Trend Report

1	Overview & Megatrends
2	Tech Insights
3	Design Insights
4	Fashion & Beauty Insights
5	Marketing Insights
6	Retail Insights
7	Food & Beverage Insights
8	Lifestyle Insights
9	Sustainability Insights
10	Appendix
4 5 6 7 8 9	Fashion & Beauty Insights Marketing Insights Retail Insights Food & Beverage Insights Lifestyle Insights Sustainability Insights



We categorize the world into high-level patterns, megatrends, insights and ideas.

## We believe if you study these patterns, you are more likely to **Predict & Create The Future**



**A key tool is our megatrend wheel.** You'll note that our 6 patterns are the highest level, and never change, trickling down to our megatrends, insights & ideas

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#### Patterns of Opportunity

Patterns of Chaos – All opportunity can be mapped to six patterns
Each Pattern Drives Several Megatrends

#### 18 Megatrends

- Long Term – Designed to predict 5-10 years out

#### 10,000 Insights (the "Sweet Spot")

- Medium Term – Predict 1-4 years out - Clusters of Opportunity – These are identified from studying ideas, looking for meaningful groups of examples that are related

#### 500,00 Individual Ideas

- Shorter term - Individual ideas or case studies that can be inspiring



Micro

#### We use our patterns & megatrends as a higher level guide of where the world is heading



$\oslash$	ACCELERATION 1. Perfecting One Thing 2. Aspirational Icon 3. Exaggerated Feature 4. Reimagined Solution		Prosumerism From user-generated content to maker culture, today's consumers expect professional tools & services.	J	<b>CYCLICALITY</b> 1. Retro + Nostalgia 2. Generational 3. Economic + Seasonal 4. Repetitive Cycles	8 8 · ·	Nostalgia Fond memories fuel a desire to bring the past into the present, especially with respect to one's formative years.
**	Catalyzation Brands have taken a role of accelerating the personal development of consumers.	alı	AI We are entering a transformative new era, denoted by an exponential growth in data, robotics and intelligence.	R	Naturality The desire for sustainable products, including local, organic, recyclable and pronounceable ingredients.	*	Youthfulness The world is becoming more playful, driven by generations not ready to grow up, including Boomers who desire a more active, enriched life.
$\bigcirc$	REDUCTION 1. Specialization 2. Fewer Layers + Efficiency 3. Crowdsourcing 4. Subscription	જે≍	Instant Entrepreneurship New services make it easier than ever to conceptualize, fund, launch and companies.	$\bigcirc$	REDIRECTION 1. Refocusing 2. Reversing 3. Surprising 4. Gamifying	<b></b>	Tribalism Allegiant groups are more readily formed around specific interests, causes and even brands.
ୖୖ	Curation Hyper-targeted offerings, services, subscriptions and recommendations to simplify lives with better things.	*	Simplicity In a fast-paced, cluttered world, simplicity stands out, resulting in focused businesses & clean design.	č	Gamification The application of game dynamics to real-world problems results in a world that's more competitive and engaging.		Experience In a world abundant with 'stuff,' experience becomes a more important currency and life priority.
$(\mathbf{c})$	<b>CONVERGENCE</b> 1. Combining + Layering 2. Adding Value 3. Co-Branding + Aligning 4. Physical + Digital	5	Multisensation Tech, AR, VR and interactive experiences are raising our expectations in the realms of entertainment, retail and even food.	$\otimes$	<b>DIVERGENCE</b> 1. Personalization, Customization 2. Status + Belonging 3. Style + Fashionizing 4. Generational Rebellion	Ø	Authenticity Social media and a resistance to traditional advertising have created a desire for authenticity and reality.
	<b>Co-Creation</b> Brands, products, services and customers are increasingly co- creating an interdependent world.	<b>&gt;\$</b>	Hybridization Lines are blurring as business models, products and services merge to create unique concepts and experiences	<b>Ö</b>	Personalization Small batch production technologies and more personalized media are creating an expectation for personalization.	<b>İ</b> İİ	Many-to-Many A mass proliferation of sellers and media creators has shifted the world to a many-to-many economy.

## We use our "insights" to identify pockets of opportunity. To us, an insight is a cluster of several ideas that stand out

#### e.g. Gene-Personalized Products 7 Ideas, 63 Related Examples, 197,000 Clicks



#### Gene-Personalized Products



Brands use customer genetics to personalize and market their offerings







newer Cierce Gibler's DNA

Marmite's DNA Testing Kit Determines Whether a Person to a Lover or Hater



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## When Reading This Report, Here's What The Icons Means



### Understanding Content Classification & Article Scoring

Below, you'll find an overview of the different types of content featured in our trend reports, as well as a breakdown of our scoring system that's used to evaluate the performance of the content in your report.



## Continued...



#### How to Read This Page

Consumer Insights are high-level, over-arching patterns that often span different industries in scope. They focus on external and internal consumer factors that are motivating trends.



## The 2026 Trend Report

1	Overview & Megatrends
2	Tech Insights
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4	Fashion & Beauty Insights
5	Marketing Insights
6	Retail Insights
7	Food & Beverage Insights
8	Lifestyle Insights
9	Sustainability Insights
10	Appendix



## AI Analog



#### AI technology integrated into traditional physical items marries the old with the new

**Trend** - Many consumers, especially younger Millennials and older members of Gen Z, are experiencing digital fatigue. Ironically, artificial intelligence can be the remedy to this as this technology does not require screen time to be effective. Al features integrated into analog objects are an example of this compromise.

**Insight** - Those who are considered digital natives are showing an increased interest in reducing their screen time, especially post-pandemic. However, this can be difficult given how dependent these generations are on technology for things like socialization or work. Counterintuitively, AI can help strike this balance if used correctly. This means positioning AI as an ally in human development and creativity, as opposed to a replacement for humans themselves.



## **Translating Earbud**



#### Al translation is used for bridging language barriers for seamless dialogue

**Trend -** Tech brands are integrating AI-powered real-time translation features into smart wearable earbuds, delivering seamless cross-lingual communication right from the device. Using speech recognition, neural machine translation, and low-latency processing, they automatically translate spoken language.

**Insight** - Consumers today are driven by the desire for frictionless communication in a diversifying world. Whether for work, travel, or social interactions, people look for solutions that simplify and enrich cross-cultural exchanges. The pressures of globalization—coupled with the limitations of traditional language learning methods and translation apps—have created a niche for AI-powered devices that enable real-time understanding without interrupting the natural flow of conversation.



### **AI Experience**



#### Brands increasingly use artificial intelligence to power live retail experiences

**Trend** - Brands are leveraging artificial intelligence to bring personalized, interactive shopping experiences to malls and brick-and-mortar stores. By integrating machine learning and augmented reality (AR), they create immersive, tech-driven demonstrations that connect consumers with branded products.

**Insight** - While many consumers are eager to invest in artificial intelligence-powered products, concerns about efficiency and cost often hold them back. In response, brands are incorporating AI into in-person events and pop-ups, creating immersive experiences that highlight the technology's potential and expose consumers to their product offerings. By merging innovation with real-world interactions, brands can break down skepticism, build trust, and attract shoppers who prefer physical retail spaces.



### **Healthcare Television**



#### Healthtech brands merge entertainment with smart healthcare solutions.

**Trend -** Healthtech brands are launching embedded smart TVs equipped with healthcare features, such as telemedicine access, health monitoring apps, and educational content on wellness, allowing users to monitor their health or consult medical professionals directly from their living rooms.

**Insight** - Consumers are increasingly seeking user-friendly technologies that support their healthcare needs, especially as remote care and telemedicine services gain popularity. The demand for convenient and accessible solutions has risen due to busy lifestyles, and overcrowded healthcare systems coupled with heightened health awareness. Additionally, pressures on healthcare systems and the shift toward personalized care experiences have encouraged innovation in at-home health technologies.





Wellness-Focused TV Setups JubileeTV Blends Connection and Care for Senior Living at Home



Home Healthcare-Ready Televisions WebMD TV is a Smart Health Support Application for TVs

Tech-Integrated Remote Home Healthcare Vantiva Has Introduced the HomeSight<sup>®</sup> Wellness Module



Embedded Healthcare TV Solutions Medix-Care's Healthcare TVs



4 Featured, 28 Examples

7,501 Total Clicks

URL: Hunt.to/567113

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#### **Companion Care**



#### Robotic devices are becoming more prevalent for senior care and companionship

**Trend** - Companies are creating robotic companions using artificial intelligence to provide companionship, monitor health, enhance safety for aging consumers. These robots often facilitate stimulating conversation while focusing on specific tasks that help assist and support individuals in their daily lives.

**Insight** - Family members and support workers often have their own unique schedules, making it difficult to provide consistent care to seniors. In response, a growing number of people are embracing technology-driven solutions that make senior care smarter and easier to manage, while providing the individual with autonomy over their life. Businesses that cater to the demand for intuitive, automated healthcare solutions can attract consumers who lack the time or resources to manage senior care on their own.





Companion Care Robots Lemmy is a CES 2025 Innovation Awards Honoree



Al Care Robots The Hyodol Doll Brings Al-Powered Companionship to Senior Care in the U.S.





AI-Powered Healthcare Solutions League Seeks to Boost Engagement and Health Outcomes



Popularity Activity Freshness





Experience

Catalyzation

Artificial Intelligence

4 Featured, 35 Examples

20,991 Total Clicks

URL: Hunt.to/567098

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## Open-Source Driving

#### Open source projects are being created to develop and train autonomous driving

**Trend -** Both companies and individual researchers in the autonomous vehicle industry are launching open-source tools to enhance self-driving capabilities. On both the hardware and software side, these tools are widely applicable and can be used to simulate errors in self-driving models, improving safety.

**Insight** - While autonomous driving is gaining popularity at an exponential rate, it is still far and away a minority of drivers that utilize these features. Even drivers with vehicles capable of self-driving often avoid the feature for safety concerns. However, as hardware and software become more advanced, the safety of autonomous driving continues to improve, mitigating safety concerns. Companies in the space are launching open-source self-driving tools to accelerate the improvement of these features.



## AI Upskilling



#### Businesses invest in educational programs to enhance employee proficiency in AI

**Trend** - Companies are launching new initiatives to help employees understand, work with, and optimize artificial intelligence (AI) tools and systems. These trainings provide the knowledge needed to harness the potential of AI technology, leading to improved job performance and organizational output.

**Insight** - The rapid integration of AI across various industries has driven many businesses to swiftly adjust their tools and policies to maintain a competitive edge. However, employees outside of technical or development roles often lack the expertise to effectively utilize AI to support their company's goals. By offering educational resources to help employees expand their AI skills, businesses can benefit from a more knowledgeable and capable workforce, ultimately enhancing productivity and innovation.



genpact

Upskilling AI Initiatives Genpact and Microsoft Have Joined Forces in a Strategic Collaboration

#### Announcing the Generative Al Nanodegree program



Al-Specific Education Courses Udacity Launches a New Artificial Intelligence Nanodegree Program



Popularity Activity



Instant Entrepreneurship Catalyzation

Artificial Intelligence

3 Featured, 36 Examples

21,732 Total Clicks

URL: Hunt.to/545297

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## **Ergonomic Mouse**



#### Computer mice are redesigned with ergonomic features and contours

**Trend** - Computer peripheral brands are increasingly designing mice with ergonomic benefits, opting for handshake-like positioning rather than the traditional palm-down orientation. These mice support natural posture, helping consumers minimize common hand and wrist issues like carpal tunnel or tendonitis.

**Insight** - The rise of remote work and the growing popularity of PC gaming have led to a surge in repetitive stress injuries (RSIs), often caused by improper or uncomfortable mouse use. In response, many peripheral brands are prioritizing ergonomic innovation, focusing especially on vertical mouse designs that mimic a natural handshake grip. These companies recognize that their users—whether working or gaming—need to rely on their devices for extended periods without compromising their health or comfort.



### Smart Manufacturing



#### Brands are releasing AI-powered tools to enhance manufacturing automation

**Trend -** Artificial Intelligence brands are releasing smart tools for various aspects of the manufacturing industry. These tools integrate all provided data with advanced algorithms to improve efficiency by detecting anomalies, providing engineering commands, and optimizing designs.

**Insight** - Businesses in various manufacturing industries are united over a pursuit for efficiency. The primary manufacturing-related challenges, namely quality control, maintenance, supply chain control, and overall operational organization, are each key areas whereby manufacturing can be made more efficient. As such, these businesses seek out external smart tools, typically powered by AI algorithms, that improve the performance of one or more of these areas.



### **Product Analytics**



#### Al tools are being used to assist managers with analyzing product insights

**Trend -** SaaS companies are launching Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based tools that gather and analyze both customer feedback and product information to provide recommendations for product managers. These tools are designed to automate monotonous tasks and free up time for managerial action.

**Insight** - Product managers face challenges in making data-driven decisions and handling large volumes of data. These users are often stretched thin, and gravitate toward organization and automation platforms, particularly those related to more monotonous tasks. In order to appeal to these users, brands are creating AI-based consumer and product analysis tools designed to provide actionable insights from datasets comprised of consumer priorities and demands, as well as product information.



#### **Automated Podcast**



#### AI tools that generate podcasts out of predetermined data sets are adaptable

Trend - AI companies are creating podcast-generating tools that interpret provided data and offer it in audio podcast form. This is used to make written news more digestible, to better convey one's personal thoughts, and more. These tools are designed to be quick and convenient for novice AI users.

**Insight** - Many consumers today live what they consider to be busy lives, finding it difficult to free-up time in their days for personal activities. This epidemic of busy lifestyles has caused hands-free entertainment avenues, such as podcasts or audiobooks, to rapidly gain popularity. This has caused these consumers to not only desire hands-free entertainment while multitasking, but also hands-free methods of absorbing important information, such as news or political events.


## AI Upscaling



#### Hardware brands advance digital visuals with intelligent enhancement tools

**Trend -** Computer hardware brands are launching AI-powered upscaling and frame generation applications that refine image quality and boost frame rates in real time. These tools utilize deep learning algorithms to sharpen low-resolution images, enhance textures, and generate additional frames for smoothing.

**Insight** - Consumers and professionals alike demand cutting-edge visual quality, whether in entertainment or content creation. The rise of 4K and high-refresh-rate displays has intensified the need for efficient upscaling and frame enhancement, particularly for legacy content and resource-intensive applications. Additionally, competition among hardware brands has fueled the development of AI-driven solutions to differentiate offerings and provide value beyond raw processing power.



## Mobile SSD



#### Clip-on mobile storage drives are gaining popularity as storage demands rise

**Trend -** Tech brands are creating compact solid-state drives (SSDs) designed to clip-on to mobile phones, adding increased storage capacities. The clip-on mechanism is designed to be convenient, preventing users from needing to remember to bring the device with them.

**Insight** - Each year, mobile storage becomes a greater concern for the average consumer. This is due to mobile games increasing in size and quality, cameras increasing in quality leading to larger photo and video files, and the improved utility of mobile phones causing far more files to be stored on them than ever before. While online file back-up solutions may be solutions for some, others may not want to pay fees to store data, leading to brands creating compact mobile storage drives.



Portable Smartphone MagSafe Add-Ons SanDisk Introduces the Portable MagSafe Creator Phone SSD



Lightning-Fast Smartphone SSDs The 'MagDisk' MagSafe SSD Offers Up to 4TB of Storage Space



Encrypted Smartphone Hard Drives The Lexar SL500 Portable SSD Has an iPhone-Friendly Form



Magnetic Smartphone Storage Drives The HACRAY MagDrive Connects onto the Rear of the iPhone



Compact Mountable Portable SSDs Lexar's Latest Professional SSD is Widely Compatible with Tech



Popularity Activity Freshness







Curation Experience Catalyzation 5 Featured, 39 Examples

79.630 Total Clicks

on URL: Hunt.to/557385

## **Branded Controller**



#### Brands are collaborating with hardware manufacturers on co-branded controllers

**Trend -** Brands from various industries, including non-gaming related ones, are collaborating with gaming hardware manufacturers on co-branded controllers. These controllers offer mutually-beneficial advertising for brands, while the unique designs function as statement pieces for the consumers.

**Insight** - Individuality and self-expression is a core priority for humans in general. Consumers do not want to have exactly what everyone else has, and instead are more likely to purchase products that reflect their own values or interests. This can materialize in the form of clothing and home decor, but also in terms of accessory and technology choices, with even earphones being a form of self-expression. To offer more expression options for gamers, brands are releasing co-branded game controllers.



## Al Diagnostic



#### Artificial intelligence tools are used as a starting point for medical care

**Trend -** Physical AI-powered tools, in conjunction with cameras and advanced AI models, are being used as a starting point for disease diagnoses. While these tools cannot legally diagnose someone of a condition, they can be used to more quickly point doctors in the correct direction, increasing efficiency.

**Insight** - While most consumers are aware that, when ill, simply looking up symptoms cannot accurately diagnose what the cause is, this is still a common first step for people when deciding whether or not to seek medical attention. Due to the popularity of these practices, and the introduction of AI in nearly every industry, AI brands are creating tools for consumers and for professionals that can more accurately determine medical conditions based on advanced models combined with physical testing tools.



## **Retro Wireless**



#### Audio hardware brands are releasing contemporary solutions for retro physical media

Trend - Hardware brands in the audio industry are releasing convenient, modern devices designed to reinvigorate retro forms of media. These devices add modern features to CD players, cassette tape players, or record players, removing much of the hassle from listening to these forms of media.

**Insight** - While many consumers in the modern era turn to subscription-based streaming services for all of their music needs, audiophiles and collectors still amass large collections of physical media. These consumers gravitate toward physical media whether for novelty or quality. However, many do not use their collections due to the hassle associated with outdated media players, such as requiring direct power and wired speakers. Brands are releasing convenient devices to target these consumers.



## **Automotive Peripheral**



#### Automotive and computer brands are partnering on co-branded products

**Trend** - Automotive brands are becoming increasingly involved in the consumer technology industry by releasing co-branded smartphones, computers, components, and accessories. These products come with the established credibility of both respective brands, leading to rapid growth within the space.

**Insight** - Brand identity plays a key factor for most consumers when searching for new products. Brands commonly regarded as household names often get preferential treatment when two products are perceived to be equal. For many consumers, this is true even for products outside of the respective companies' typical industries. In order to capitalize off the preference for established brands, automotive companies are partnering with consumer electronics companies on co-branded offerings in both spaces.



Collaborative Gaming-Brand Cars Lexus and Razer Teamed Up to Manufacture the Ultimate Gaming Car



Luxe Vehicle-Branded PC Cases Lian Li Announced a Special Edition Lamborghini Case



Luxe Automotive Computer Mice Thermaltake Created an Ergonomic Gaming Mouse with BMW Designworks



Elegant EV Brand Smartphones The Polestar Phone Will Run the PoleStarOS

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Elegant Automotive Gamer Laptops The MSI Stealth 16 Mercedes-AMG Gaming Laptop is Powerful

 Popularity
 Image: Constraint of the second seco

5 Featured, 45 Examples 57,347 Total Clicks URL: Hunt.to/537469

## Vibe Coding



#### Intuitive AI coding systems that respond to natural language rather than syntax

**Trend** - A new wave of programming tools is emerging that lets users create functional applications by describing what they want in natural language rather than writing traditional code. Platforms like Replit's Ghostwriter, GitHub Copilot, and smaller startups are developing AI-powered interfaces that translate conversational requests into working code, making development more accessible to non-programmers while accelerating workflows for experienced developers.

**Insight** - Contemporary programmers and entrepreneurs are increasingly frustrated by the technical barriers that stand between their creative vision and functional products. As artificial intelligence becomes more sophisticated, consumers are expecting technology to understand their intent rather than requiring them to learn specialized languages or syntax. This shift reflects a broader cultural movement toward democratization of previously specialized fields, as users seek tools that empower them to create without requiring extensive technical education.



## **Developer Assistant**



#### AI brands launch tools that assist developers with various coding projects

**Trend -** Al brands are launching innovative tools specifically designed to assist developers across a range of coding projects. These products leverage cutting-edge algorithms and machine learning techniques to help automate repetitive tasks, debug code faster, and provide context-aware suggestions..

**Insight** - Today's developers face mounting pressures to deliver high-quality, bug-free code within ever-shortening deadlines—often compounded by the need to master a broad array of programming languages and frameworks. This environment not only demands exceptional technical agility but also places a premium on efficiency and continuous learning. The rising complexity of codebases and the volume of projects have created a strong appetite for AI-powered tools that can act as reliable co-pilots.



## **Gaming Projector**



#### Brands introduce projectors tailored for immersive gaming experiences.

**Trend -** Brands are launching gaming-focused projectors designed with features such as high refresh rates, low input lag, and 4K resolution. These projectors aim to provide a large, immersive display experience optimized for modern gaming needs, offering alternatives to high-performance monitors.

**Insight** - Gamers are increasingly looking for equipment that enhances immersion, offering superior visuals and responsiveness. The rise of competitive gaming and the desire for large, high-quality displays have driven this demand. Additionally, the pressure to provide innovative solutions in the gaming industry has encouraged brands to develop specialized projectors. These products cater to consumers' desires for an immersive gaming setup that merges cutting-edge technology with convenience.





Low-Lag Gaming Projectors The Philips GamePix 800 Smart Gaming Projector is Ultra-Bright



Immersive Gaming-Targeted Projectors The Philips GamePix 900 is Limited to 1,000 Units to Start

High-Resolution Gaming Projectors The ViewSonic LX700-4K RGB Boasts 5,200 Laser Lumens



Gaming-Ready Laser Projectors The Optoma UHZ35 Achieves Low-Lag 4K Performance







Multisensation
 Hybridization

4 Featured, 23 Examples 31.975 Total Clicks

URL: Hunt.to/564153

## **AI Projector**



#### Projector manufacturers are adding AI-based image enhancement features to add value

**Trend -** Projector manufacturers are now incorporating Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based features to improve the feature set for projectors. These AI features include image upscaling and sharpening, reduced image distortion, brightness management, with more features coming as the products receive updates.

**Insight** - When searching for a new T.V for nearly any purpose, whether it be for the living room, for travel, or for the office, more consumers are opting for projectors each year. Both products have fallen in cost over the past few years, which further complicates the decision for consumers, as both offer different sets of benefits. However, when particular concerns such as durability, longevity, or portability come into play, brands are better meeting the needs of these consumers with modern projectors.



## Cozy Technology



#### Gaming setups evolve into immersive personal sanctuaries

**Trend -** Tech companies and consumers are crafting immersive "digital cocoons" that blend physical comfort with technological engagement. This movement goes beyond basic workspace optimization, incorporating ambient lighting, textured accessories, and synchronized audio-visual elements to create complete sensory environments.

**Insight** - As traditional markers of stability and comfort become increasingly out of reach for younger generations, consumers are creating idealized microsanctuaries within their digital spaces. This reflects a deeper tension between the desire for domestic comfort and the challenges of achieving it in the physical world. Through games that simulate everyday achievements - from homeownership to farming to community building - and environments that mirror this digital coziness, individuals are crafting attainable versions of the comfort they seek.



Winter-Ready Gaming Setups The Bauhütte Kotatsu Futon BHK-2500KF Has a Traditional, Cozy Design



Adorable Sequel Mobile Games Netflix's Cozy Grove: Camp Spirit Game is for Mobile



2 Featured, 36 Examples

46,230 Total Clicks

URL: Hunt.to/552272

## **Opulent Audiophile**



#### Audio hardware brands are releasing premium turntables for hobbyists

Trend - Audio hardware manufacturers are designing high-end turntables that blend modern conveniences with the analog audio quality of turntables. These premium devices are also designed with unique aesthetics to serve as a design piece as much as a functional piece of audio technology.

**Insight** - Audio professionals and audiophile hobbyists alike typically have higher standards than the norm when it comes to selecting technology. Important factors often include frequency ranges of the audio, compatibility with different forms of media, the overall quality of the components, and more. In order to appeal to these consumers, while offering devices that are an experience as much as a functional piece of technology, brands are launching premium turntables for higher-income consumers.



Opulent Audiophile Turntables The Pro-Ject Signature 12.2 Turntable is Priced at \$14,999.99



Updated Colorful Premium Turntables The New Pro-Ject EVO 2 Boasts a Sleek Modern Look



Premium Direct-Drive Turntables This Turntable Deftly Blends Sonic Specs & Aesthetic Attributes



Premium Modular Transparent Turntables Per Brickstad Designs the New Clear Audio Device



Sustainable Premium Turntables House of Marley Presents the Sir It Up Lux Turntable







Hybridization
Curation
Experience

5 Featured, 43 Examples

48,030 Total Clicks

URL: Hunt.to/549453

## Barcode-Free Checkout



#### Artificial intelligence is used to identify barcode-less items at checkout

**Trend -** Artificial intelligence has been adapted to enable barcode-less product scanning, facilitated by algorithms that analyze images and videos of objects to identify unique features. This technology accurately accounts for retail items in real time, providing shoppers with seamless checkout experiences.

**Insight** - As artificial intelligence shapes consumer shopping experiences, brands increasingly rely on automation to address friction points and ensure high rates of fulfilled purchases. Adopting automation technologies minimizes wait times and maximizes throughput, allowing customers to complete shopping trips in shorter amounts of time. This approach helps businesses prioritize seamless experiences and reduce errors, aligning with consumer preferences for convenience.



AI-Powered Smart Trolleys Instacart Unveils a New AI-Powered Shopping Cart Partnership with Aldi



Al-Powered Payment Systems Mashgin Introduces a New Al-Powered Checkout System with Verifone



Al-Augmented Retail Checkouts This Checkout Solution Helps Prevent Theft and Scanning Errors



Computer-Vision Self-Service Kiosks Toshiba's Vision Kiosk Identifies Items Without Barcodes



Barcode-Less Product Scanners SeeChange Taps Diebold Nixdorf to Create Al Checkout Tools











5 Featured, 45 Examples

30,192 Total Clicks

URL: Hunt.to/540325

## Al Host



#### Entertainment companies innovate audio experiences with intelligent digital hosts

**Trend -** Entertainment companies are integrating AI-powered radio hosts into mobile apps, creating dynamic and interactive audio experiences. These digital hosts leverage artificial intelligence to curate playlists, provide commentary, and even engage listeners with personalized content.

**Insight** - Consumers are increasingly looking for personalized entertainment options that fit their schedules and interests. The desire for intelligent curation, paired with the convenience of on-demand audio apps, has driven demand for AI-driven hosts. Additionally, pressures to differentiate in the competitive streaming apps and radio markets have motivated companies to adopt AI-powered solutions that provide real-time adaptability and interactive elements.



Al-Voiced Radio Hosts CADA's Workdays Host Thy Was Created with Al Voice Technology



AI-Enhanced Smart Speakers xboom by will.i.am Elevates Listening Experiences with AI Capabilities



Al Radio Hosts OFF Radio Krakow Reaches Younger Listeners with Virtual Personas



Al-Enhanced Audio Content Apps Auddia Unveiled faidr 3.1 with Advanced Al Capabilities









Experience Catalyzation Artificial Intelligence 4 Featured, 36 Examples 13,334 Total Clicks

URL: Hunt.to/568305

## AI Hedge



#### AI brands introduce tools to optimize hedge fund management

Trend - Al brands are launching hedge fund assistants powered by advanced algorithms and machine learning. These tools are designed to analyze vast datasets, optimize trading strategies, and provide predictive insights, while aiming to improve efficiency and offer an edge in the hedge fund management.

**Insight** - Hedge fund managers face increasing pressure to deliver superior returns while navigating complex markets. The demand for tools that can process large volumes of data and uncover actionable insights has grown significantly. Additionally, the need for real-time analysis and adaptive strategies has driven the adoption of AI-powered assistants. These tools cater to the desires of hedge fund managers for precision, efficiency, and innovation, while staying competitive in a data-driven industry.



## Modular Mini-PC



#### Compact PCs with replaceable components are gaining popularity

Trend - The traditional benefits of Mini PCs are low costs and low space requirements. Brands are now adding modularity and swappable components to this list, with mini PCs focused around upgradable RAM, SSDs, CPUs, and more, gaining popularity on the consumer-focused side of the industry.

**Insight** - When choosing a personal computer, customers are faced with a wide array of options for form-factor before they even consider specifications. Form-factor options include laptops, full-size desktops, mini-PCs. Customers that opt for Mini-PCs often do so because of the compact, portable design, the low cost of entry, and the greater performance when compared to a laptop. However, one drawback that prevents more consumers from choosing mini-PCs are their short lifespans and non-upgradeable parts.



## AI Photography



### Al tools that generate professional product photography are gaining popularity

**Trend** - Al companies are creating photography-mimicking tools that generate professional product photos for eCommerce and marketing materials. These photos are positioned as more affordable options to professional photography, without compromising on quality or quantity.

**Insight** - Newer startups, particularly those with minimal funding, often search for ways to cut operation costs wherever possible. One area that is particularly expensive for most startups is advertising, with everything from strategizing to reachouts to generating marketing materials costing a large sum. In order to cut-down on some of these costs, startups are seeking Alpowered tools that automate and streamline these processes. Al companies are responding with marketing photo generating tools.



AI Model Image Generators Vmake AI Turns Flatlay Product Images into Realistic On-Model Photos



Al Photo Generators Hippist Al Creates Stunning, Custom Product Photography in Minutes



eCommerce Al Photos PhotoHero Provides Free Images and Editing Abilities



Al Fashion Photography Adstronaut Al Creates Stunning eCommerce Images for Fashion Brands





Hybridization Plnstant Entrepreneurship Artificial Intelligence 4 Featured, 36 Examples

20,681 Total Clicks

URL: Hunt.to/553810

## Al Emotion



#### Al systems are being developed to recognize and respond to human emotions

Trend - Companies are integrating emotion recognition capabilities into their AI systems, allowing machines to detect and respond to human emotional states through facial expressions, voice patterns, and physiological signals. This technology is being implemented across various sectors, from healthcare diagnostics to customer service platforms.

Insight - The increasing digitization of daily interactions has created a desire among consumers for more humanized technological experiences. While automation offers efficiency, many individuals find purely algorithmic interactions unsatisfying and impersonal. This tension has created demand for AI systems that can recognize and respond to emotional nuances, particularly in sectors where empathy is crucial – from healthcare to customer service. For consumers, emotionally intelligent AI represents a bridge between convenience and human connection.





Popularity	
Activity	
Freshness	





Catalyzation

Artificial Intelligence

URL: Hunt.to/548952

5 Featured, 45 Examples

63.435 Total Clicks

## Al Laptop



#### Laptop brands are designing devices for professional AI-based workloads

**Trend -** Laptop companies are creating devices with Neural Processing Units (NPUs) dedicated to processing artificial intelligence (AI) workloads. These are combined with numerous AI tools built into the software for these devices, resulting in laptops designed for professional AI-accelerated use cases.

**Insight** - Some of the most promising aspects of the recent increase in AI tools relate to computing efficiency. Most professionals that work on a computer engage with one or more AI services on a daily basis. As a result, these workers, and their respective companies, desire hardware designed for AI workloads, as these would improve overall workplace efficiency. Laptop brands are responding to these pressures with AI-focused NPUs built into laptops for improved AI processing.



**Next-Generation AI Laptops** Acer Has Introduced the Swift 14 AI, Its First Copilot+ PC



High-Performance Business Laptops The ASUS ExpertBook CX54 Chromebook Plus Enterprise is Advanced

**Next-Gen Al Laptops** ASUS is Augmenting its Vivobook Lineup with New Snapdragon Processors



Business-Ready Hybrid Laptops Microsoft Unveiled the 'Surface Pro 10' for Professional Use



4 Featured, 34 Examples

28,543 Total Clicks

Artificial Intelligence URL: Hunt.to/536325

## AI Tarot



### Al services that provide tarot card readings for users' situations are gaining popularity

**Trend -** Startups are using advanced AI algorithms to modernize the process of tarot card reading through advanced interpretation. These AI tools take into account necessary information from the user, as well as the implications of each tarot reading, to provide detailed readings and feedback.

**Insight** - While one consumer may doubt the legitimacy of spiritual readings, such as tarot cards or fortune telling, another consumer may be heavily invested in this field. Consumers interested in spiritual readings often do so either for peace of mind, for guidance when they are unsure of what to do, or for mere recommendations in complex situations. However, tarot readings are often expensive, and may not fit within these consumers' budgets. Brands are responding with AI-powered tarot card readers.



## AI Kiosk



#### Smart kiosks that provide recommendations and point-of-sale support are being deployed

**Trend** - Retailers are deploying in-store kiosks powered by artificial intelligence (AI). These AI kiosks interpret and make recommendations for consumers interacting with them, thus streamlining the retail process. The advent of AI kiosks also reduces the required staff and, thus, costs for retailers.

**Insight -** Smart technologies are arguably the largest contributor to the ever-increasing number of retailers with seamless, stress-free in-store experiences. Consumers who shop in-stores enjoy the benefits of assistance from employees, as well as the ability to demo items that they may not have known about prior to entering the store. To further improve these experiences for consumers, brands are launching smart kiosks that use AI to assist, make recommendations to, and process payments from, consumers.



**AR Retail Kiosks** 

BIG Digital and DeepAR Bring Mobile & Desktop Try-Ons to Store Settings

Pa M Ch

AI-Powered Payment Systems Mashgin Introduces a New AI-Powered Checkout System with Verifone

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Intuitive Self-Service Order Kiosks The GoTab Self-Ordering Kiosks Support Quick Service and More



Automated Hot Food Kiosks Sodexo and Automated Retail Technologies Teamed Up for New Kiosks



Robotic Smoothie Kiosks Thor's Skyr by Blendid Kiosks Serve Nutritious Skyr Smoothies On-Demand

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C	Popularity
	Activity
R	Freshness





Experience
 Artificial Intelligence
 Personalization

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5 Featured, 52 Examples e 45,609 Total Clicks URL: Hunt.to/541174

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## **Dual Laptop**

Freshness



### Laptops with two primary displays are gaining popularity for portable productivity

**Trend -** Hardware manufacturers are creating laptops with two built-in screens. The added screen enhances productivity when needed, which is valuable for remote or hybrid workers. The second built-in screen also subverts the need for additional displays or accessories, adding convenience and portability.

**Insight** - Remote and hybrid workers often turn to laptops as their primary devices. Often for simplicity and portability, such as the ability to work in coffee shops, laptops are preferred over desktops for these workers, despite the relative loss to productivity. Brands are now aiming to blend the productivity of desktops with the portability and convenience of laptops in order to better market to these consumers, leading to the creation of laptops with built-in secondary displays.



Prosumerism

URL: Hunt.to/539555

## Al Mundane



#### Millennials are turning to AI tools that automate simple day-to-day tasks

Trend - Tech startups are creating AI-powered apps and companion devices that serve to complete more downsized, simple tasks. These tools do not generate complex creative work or serve as replacements for professional tasks, and instead are used to make regular day-to-day life more efficient.

**Insight** - Some of the most impressive consumer use cases for generative AI tools relate to creative and professional fields. Tools that can generate lifelike images, videos, stories, or automate workplace tasks took the internet by storm due to their impressive promise. However many consumers believe these creative fields should primarily remain human-created. Brands are catering to these consumers by releasing downsized AI tools that save time in other areas to enable more focus on creative, tasks.



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9	Sustainability Insights
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## Automotive Decor

#### Furniture collections are launching with designs inspired by luxury automotives

**Trend -** Designer furniture brands, sometimes in collaboration with automotive brands, are launching furniture collections inspired by popular luxury vehicles. These furniture collections are designed to blend the quality of luxury furniture with the familiarity of vehicle design notes for car fans.

**Insight** - When higher-income consumers consider interior design products, they consider various factors, including quality, brand recognition, status symbolism, personal connection, and aesthetics. While there are near-limitless options for interior design, there is a distinct lack of high-end branded pieces inspired by hobbies or adjacent industries. For consumers with an interest in luxury cars, furniture brands are now enabling these consumers to further express themselves with co-branded collections.



Automotive Brand Decor Collections The Bugatti Home Collection Was Unveiled for Milan Design Week



Automobile-Focused Home Designs Ralph Lauren Home Unveils Modern Driver Collection



Supercar-Inspired Lounge Chairs The Racing & Emotion Prova MO-53 Lounge Chair is Ferrari-Inspired



Automotive-Inspired Sculptural Furniture SANAYI313 Launches the Lounge Collection of Furniture



Popularity



Hybridization
 Prosumerism
 Personalization

4 Featured, 44 Examples

66,367 Total Clicks

URL: Hunt.to/542011

## **Ambient Speaker**



#### Home speakers are being upgraded with lightning effects to improve comfort

Trend - Home electronics manufacturers are creating speakers with colored lighting effects. These lighting effects are designed to replicate times of day, such as bright orange colors in the morning, or soft gray colors at night, which is shown to improve sleep quality, morning comfort, and happiness.

**Insight** - Many consumers fall into repetitive habits in their daily lives, with not every habit being beneficial to ones health. Long work hours make it difficult for individuals to find time for social lives while still maintaining healthy sleep habits, causing insomnia or seasonal depression. These consumers are willing to invest in natural products that make sleeping easier, leading to brands releasing speakers with ambient lighting effects designed to replicate the sun and restore circadian rhythm.



## **Rumpled Romance**



#### Ultrafeminine style evolves with intentionally imperfect, carefree elements

**Trend -** A more casual, carefree evolution of the ultrafeminine aesthetic is gaining momentum, characterized by intentionally imperfect styling and relaxed glamour. This "rumpled romance" look incorporates nostalgic elements from turn-of-millennium pop culture with contemporary casual wear, featuring haphazardly tied ribbons, statement bows on everyday apparel, and accessory-heavy styling.

**Insight** - Today's fashion-conscious consumers are increasingly attracted to style movements that blend sentimental references with contemporary interpretations, enabling personal expression through lighthearted styling choices. Where previous iterations of ultrafeminine aesthetics demanded meticulous presentation, many are embracing more approachable, effortless variations that feel genuine and within reach.



Book-Themed Home Decor Collections June St. George Debuts the Eloise Collection



Adorable Pimple Patch Designs dearcloud<sup>™</sup> Combines Effective Skincare with Playful Designs



Hyper-Feminine Hairbrushes Wet Brush + Goody x LoveShackFancy Made a Limited-Edition Collection



Romance-Inspired Functional Socks MoveActive Debuts the True Romance Collection



Popularity





Multisensation
 Hybridization

4 Featured, 36 Examples 30,475 Total Clicks URL: Hunt.to/568575

## Micro Luxury



#### Consumers are investing in affordable luxury products as a cost-benefit analysis

**Trend -** Luxury home furnishing brands are releasing more affordable product lines to appeal to a wider range of consumers. These products blend the aesthetics and build quality of luxury brands with more affordable materials to offer products with few compromises, thus appealing to younger consumers.

**Insight** - The average Millennial and Gen Z consumers may not have the amount of disposable income required to invest in luxury products in all aspects of their life. However, many such consumers are embracing the 'Micro Luxury' trend, investing in select luxury products that they can afford in areas of life they prioritize. These consumers invest in higher-end furnishings, appliances, or artworks that emulate luxury living on a budget, curbing the need for constant purchases, and leading to money saved.



Art Deco Recliner Seating The Atlanta Recliner Seating Fuses Art Deco Glamour with Modern Living



Luxuriously Modern Coffee Tables The Adrien Coffee Table by Lemieux Et Cie is Stunning



Premium White Oak Furniture Restoration Hardware Debuts Byron Reeded Collection



Multifaceted Luxury Linens Pom Pom at Home Debuts Versatile Bedding for Diverse Aesthetics



Modular Bubble-Like Sofas Stella McCartney x B&B Italia Just Dropped the Camaleonda Sofa Collab





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Hybridization Experience Catalyzation 5 Featured, 53 Examples 107,800 Total Clicks URL: Hunt.to/545903

## Eco Thermostat



#### Smart home brands are releasing smart thermostats designed to reduce energy used

**Trend** - Brands in the smart home and AI spaces are creating smart thermostats, often powered by advanced AI, designed to reduce energy consumption in the home. These thermostats automatically adjust heating or cooling to stay within a set temperature range while consuming the least energy possible.

**Insight** - One of the most promising effects stemming from the introduction of artificial intelligence in nearly every sector is increased efficiency. Al can be used to allocate resources more efficiently, such as reducing waste in the restaurant and CPG fields. This is one of the most desirable effects of Al for eco-conscious consumers, who are now looking to co-opt these tools for their own kitchens and homes. Brands are responding with smart home tools that reduce unnecessary wasted energy or resources.



## 80s Opulence



#### Gen Z revives 80s corporate aesthetics office culture during productivity boom

Trend - As economic instability and remote work reshape the workplace landscape, younger generations are paradoxically romanticizing corporate culture. Gen Z, who largely missed traditional office experiences, is embracing productivity aesthetics inspired by 80s Wall Street opulence, characterized by a fascination with corner offices, business attire, and stimulantdriven workdays.

Insight - Having grown up during periods of economic uncertainty (Great Recession, pandemic), younger generations are developing a surprising nostalgia for an era of perceived prosperity and workplace stability they never experienced firsthand. These consumers are attracted to the glamorized portraval of corporate success from films like "American Psycho" and "Wall Street," creating a countermovement to the work-life balance narrative championed by millennials.



**Executive Workwear Collections** 12th Tribe Partners with Corporate Natalie for Modern Office Attire



**History-Inspired Apparel Collections** The Scorpion & The Frog is Denim Tears Thoughtful Collection





**Shimmering Sun** Care Oils





Chic Corporate-**Inspired Capsules** 



Nostalgia

Winter Getaway Candles

The Royal Pine Deluxe Candle by Vacation Reminds

of an 80s Ski Chalet

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6 Featured, 51 Examples 43.209 Total Clicks URL: Hunt.to/562121

## Printed Home



#### Housing development companies are turning to 3D-printing for efficiency

Trend - Housing development companies are more heavily investing in 3D-printing solutions. 3D printing offers more energy and cost-efficient methods of producing houses, while also making it easier to make compact houses, or develop houses in remote locations.

Insight - Housing development companies produce mass amounts of homes in a wide range of locations. These companies are interested in prioritizing cost and energy-efficiency. Combining these desires with the need to reduce construction time, minimize waste, and offer design flexibility, these companies are being led to embracing 3D printing solutions. In awareness of this, 3D-printing companies are creating sustainable yet reliable materials for housing-related tasks.



**Energy-Efficient 3D-Printed Homes** Haus.me Introduces Premium Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)

Popularity

Activity

Freshness

...........



Affordable 3D-Printed Houses Serendix's Fujitsubo is Remarkable in the Realm of Affordable Housing



**3D-Printed Mobile Homes** LEMKI Robotix Created a 3D-Printed Home with iScale3D

Co-creation

Hybridization

Catalyzation



Modern 3D-Printed Model Homes



Inaugural 3D-Printed Social Housing .........



**3D-Printed Sturdy** Homes

6 Featured, 47 Examples 75.740 Total Clicks URL: Hunt.to/553811



## **Revived Analog**



#### Audio hardware brands are releasing nostalgia-inspired CD players

Trend - Audio hardware brands are now looking to the 90s and 2000s for tech inspiration, rather than the 70s-inspired record players, leading to the revived popularity of both desktop and portable CD players. These devices blend 90s nostalgia with modern features.

**Insight** - Nostalgia is an evergreen motivator for consumers making purchase decisions. This is due to many consumers seeking comfort, familiarity, and safety rather than taking risks. Combining this motivator with the fact that millennials and Gen Z consumers are now reaching their 30s and 40s, there is a growing market for nostalgic products that harken to the 90s and 200s. In order to market to and appease this subset of consumers, brands are releasing retro-inspired CD players with modernized features.



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## Cartoon Care



#### Personal care brands are partnering with cartoons to boost product adoption

**Trend** - Self-care brands are partnering with popular cartoon properties to increase the appeal of their products with younger consumers. The collaboration also functions as advertising for the cartoon brand, leading to a mutually-beneficial partnership.

**Insight** - Young children are often disinterested by personal care. Certain children do not enjoy bath time, and do not yet understand the importance of brushing their teeth or washing their face. Parents of these children seek ways to make personal care more engaging and fun for their kids in order to build good habits early. One such method these parents seek out is co-branding, searching for products with branding familiar to their kids, leading to personal care brands partnering with cartoons.



Cartoon-Inspired Body Care Lush Debuts a Humorous Shrek-Inspired Body Collection



Eco Cartoon Body Care This Lush Cosmetics x SpongeBob Collab is Plastic-Free & Supports the Sea



Nostalgic Superhero-Inspired Soaps Dr. Squatch Debuts the 'Cowabunga Cleanse' Inspired by TMNT



Cartoon Anniversary Soap Bars Dr. Squatch Drops the SpongeBob SquarePants 'Nautical Nonsense' Soap



Popularity Activity

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Multisensation
 Experience

Naturality

4 Featured, 30 Examples 32,586 Total Clicks

URL: Hunt.to/553809

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## **Gamified Beauty**



#### Cosmetics brands are partnering with video games to further engage consumers

Trend - Cosmetics brands are partnering with video game developers to create co-branded beauty products and in-game beauty-themed experiences. These collaborations introduce exclusive makeup collections inspired by gaming franchises, while also integrating virtual beauty options into gaming environments.

**Insight** - Gamers and beauty enthusiasts alike are embracing self-expression through personal style, both physically and virtually. The increasing influence of digital culture, along with the rise of customizable avatars in gaming, has fueled demand for beauty-themed collaborations. Additionally, the pressures for brands to diversify marketing strategies and connect with younger, digitally native audiences have encouraged this fusion of gaming and cosmetics even within the cosmetics industry.



Game-Themed Beauty Kits Charlotte Tilbury x Genshin Impact Shares Exclusive In-Game Rewards



Video Game-Inspired Makeup Ranges The Pat McGrath Labs x Candy Crush Saga Range is Limited-Edition



Gamified Kindness Challenges e.l.f. x Beekman 1802 on Roblox Kicked Off on World Kindness Day



Wintry Beauty Metaverses Essence's Kingdom of Essentia Engages Players on Roblox





Gamification

4 Featured, 30 Examples

19,072 Total Clicks

URL: Hunt.to/569118

## Peptide Pout



#### Brands are launching anti-aging lip care products with skincare-grade peptides

**Trend -** The skincare-makeup hybrid movement continues to evolve as peptide technology migrates from facial skincare into the lip care category. Brands are formulating lip balms and treatments with peptide complexes that promise more than just hydration, offering anti-aging benefits, collagen stimulation, and enhanced lip volume without invasive procedures.

**Insight** - Contemporary consumers are increasingly knowledgeable about skincare ingredients and their specific benefits, creating demand for more sophisticated formulations across all beauty categories. This ingredient literacy has led to higher expectations even for seemingly simple products like lip balms. As the "skinification" of beauty continues, individuals are seeking products that address both immediate concerns (dryness, chapping) and long-term issues (fine lines, loss of volume).


# Skincare Wand



### LED light therapy devices bring professional-grade skincare treatments into the home

**Trend -** The beauty industry's latest darling isn't another miracle cream or serum - it's a high-tech wand that harnesses the power of LED light therapy. These sophisticated devices are transforming bathroom counters into mini med-spas, using specific light wavelengths to boost collagen and calm inflammation.

**Insight** - Today's beauty enthusiasts aren't just looking for products - they're seeking the confidence of clinical-grade results in their own bathrooms. This shift stems from a growing sophistication among consumers who understand that consistent, science-backed treatments often trump occasional professional visits. The rapid adoption of beauty tech signals a broader cultural shift: consumers are becoming their own aestheticians, armed with tools that blur the line between professional treatment and daily skincare ritual.



# Hair Tool Convergence



#### Heat styling tools combine multiple functions into all-in-one devices

Trend - Haircare brands are launching multi-functional heat styling tools that combine blow-drying capabilities with straightening, curling, or styling features. These all-in-one devices aim to streamline the hair styling process while reducing overall heat exposure.

Insight - Time-pressed consumers are increasingly seeking efficient solutions that help them maintain their personal care routines without compromising on results. This drive for efficiency extends beyond just saving time – it also reflects a growing awareness of the damaging effects of repeated heat styling and a desire to minimize exposure to high temperatures. By combining multiple functions into single devices, brands are appealing to consumers who want to simplify their routines while still achieving salon-quality results at home.



Personalized Connected Stylers Dyson Airwrap i.d. Multi-Styler & Dryer Customizes **Curl Styling** 





**Multi-Functional Hair Styling Tools** The Shark FlexStyle® Styling & Drying System is Useful



Versatile Hair Styling Tools The Shark<sup>®</sup> FlexFusion<sup>™</sup> Air & Ceramic System is Performance-Driven



Ultra-Multi-Functional Hair Styling Tools Sally Beauty Debuts Ion Luxe Eight-In-One Airstyler Pro



All-in-One Hair Stylers Bondiboost Releases Its Everlast Airstyler the All-in-One Hair Styler











5 Featured, 32 Examples

27.590 Total Clicks

URL: Hunt.to/553695

### **Masculine Eyecare**



#### Skincare brands redefine self-care with eye masks tailored for men.

Trend - Skincare brands are launching masculine eye masks designed specifically for male consumers. These products are crafted to address common concerns such as puffiness, dark circles, and signs of fatigue while featuring packaging and branding that appeal to a male aesthetic to normalize male skincare.

**Insight** - Male consumers are increasingly embracing grooming and skincare as part of their self-care habits, driven by a desire to look and feel confident. However, traditional skincare products often fail to resonate with men due to a lack of targeted marketing. The pressures of modern life, including work and stress, have heightened the need for solutions that deliver quick, visible results. By introducing masculine eye masks, skincare brands address these desires while breaking gender stereotypes.



Minimalist Masculine Skincare Sets The Jaxon Lane Anti-Aging Skincare Routine is Gifting-Ready



Masculine Under-Eye Gel Masks Jaxon Lane Bro Mask Eye Gels Have 3% Niacinamide

Masculine LED Skincare Masks The Lumin Luminator Tackles Puffiness, Fine Lines and More



Masculine Eye Moisturizers The Cardon Dark Circles Eye Rescue Reduces Puffiness and More



Popularity Activity Freshness

Curation

4 Featured, 32 Examples

14,541 Total Clicks

Youthfulness

URL: Hunt.to/565044

# Sensory Sunscreen



#### Personal care brands are releasing specialized sensory sunscreens

**Trend** - Brands are creating sensory sunscreens designed to enhance the user experience through luxurious textures, pleasant fragrances, and easy absorption. These formulations go beyond basic UV protection, offering benefits like hydration and a silky finish to elevate sun care routines.

**Insight** - Consumers are seeking sun protection that integrates seamlessly into their skincare rituals, combining efficacy with aesthetic appeal. The desire for products that deliver a premium experience, alongside functional benefits, reflects a growing emphasis on self-care and mindfulness. Additionally, pressures to differentiate in a crowded market, while addressing concerns about skin damage and sun exposure, have driven brands to innovate with sensory features.



Peach-Inspired Mineral Sunscreens NATIVE's Sunscreens are Offered in Summery Fragrances



UV Protection Developments L'Oreal Research & Innovation Japan Unveils Self-Repairing UV Tech



Watermelon-Infused Daily Sunscreens Glow Recipe Launches the 'Watermelon Glow Dew Shield SPF 30'

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Sunscreen-Toting Sunglasses

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Sensitive Whipped Sunscreens



Sensory-Focused Sunscreen Products Melan Debuts the SPF 30 Sunscreen Lotion with Rosemary + Basil



Airy Sunscreen Foams Sun Dreams by Pacifica Beauty is Illuminating & Skincare-Infused



Scented Body Sunscreens

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Multisensation
 Experience
 Naturality

9 Featured, 76 Examples 40,474 Total Clicks URL: Hunt.to/567327

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# Skin Scent



### Brands craft perfumes that blend with the wearer's unique body chemistry

**Trend -** Perfume brands are increasingly experimenting with skin scents—minimalist fragrances designed to complement human skin. These formulations enhance the wearer's natural scent, creating a personalized olfactory experience that is uniquely tailored to the individual's body chemistry.

**Insight** - Many consumers want to find their "signature scent" but struggle to find one amid a market dominated by overpowering and commonly worn fragrances. In response, brands are harnessing scientific innovation to create unconventional fragrances rooted in minimalism, aligning with recent consumer trends. This approach meets consumer demand for a more subtle yet personalized fragrance experience, fostering stronger brand loyalty and reducing production costs commonly incurred by complex formulations.



Sultry Skin Fragrances Soft Spot by Phlur Explores the Duality of Softness and Strength with Scent



Natural Scent-Paired Perfumes Skylar Nude Skin Eau de Parfum Blends with One's Natural Scent

Shape-Shifting Fragrances Me by Snif Enhances the Unique Chemistry of the Wearer's Skin



Artfully Scientific Perfumes Scentologia's Immortal Potion Takes a Technological Approach to Scent



Popularity Activity



Simplicity

Experience

Personalization

4 Featured, 34 Examples

27,163 Total Clicks

URL: Hunt.to/559738

# Mindful Skincare



### Skincare products are increasingly sold with journals for self-reflection

**Trend -** The concept of psychodermatology has gained traction in the skincare industry, resulting in products that address skin health and mental well-being. This has led to the inclusion of journals alongside skincare products, helping address potential psychological factors contributing to skin concerns.

**Insight** - Consumers who embrace holistic health practices are often fascinated by the mind-body connection and its effects on skin health. Recognizing this trend, skincare brands are prioritizing the creation of integrated wellness solutions that allow users to seamlessly incorporate these practices into their daily routines. Businesses that cater to the demand for holistic wellness products can appeal to consumers who value products that address both physical and mental well-being.



Mind-Body Care Kits The Sensual Self Kit Joins selfmade's Psychodermatology Collection



Psychodermatology Lip Products Eyeam's Love Language Lip Bloss Turns Gloss into a Self-Love Tool



Curated Neurobeauty Sets selfmade's Neurobeauty Bundle Brings Ease to the Skin and Mind



Mindful-Shopping Campaigns The Ordinary's 'Slovember' Campaign Promotes Intentional Shopping



Popularity Activity Freshness





4 Featured, 32 Examples

40,884 Total Clicks

URL: Hunt.to/544114

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### **Vagus Stimulation**



### Medical devices are being designed to stimulate the vagus nerve for pain relief

**Trend** - Devices are being created to stimulate the vagus nerve—which runs from the brainstem through the neck into the chest and abdomen—either through implantation under the skin or external use. This stimulation helps regulate various bodily functions, including mood, inflammation, and pain perception.

**Insight** - As chronic and acute pain conditions have become more widely recognized, there is a growing demand for non-pharmaceutical interventions. The creation of different therapies embodies the cultural shift toward holistic and integrative health, with consumers prioritizing natural approaches to pain relief. Businesses that cater to this demand for innovative, non-invasive health solutions can capitalize on the growing consumer preference for technology-driven wellness and pain management strategies.



Noninvasive Headache Relief Devices The gammaCore Sapphire Stimulates the Vagus Nerve



Performance-Driven Health Gadget Lines Kineon Debuts Heal+ & Calm+ in a New Crowdfunding Campaign



Mini Nerve Stimulation Devices The Hoolest VeRelief Collection Nerve Stimulators are Relaxing



Next-Generation Diabetes-Managing

Innovations ReShape Lifeciences is Enhancing Its DBSN™ System



Popularity Activity







Experience Naturality

, Catalyzation 4 Featured, 45 Examples

59,623 Total Clicks

URL: Hunt.to/545427

# The 2026 Trend Report





# Seamless Engagement



#### Pop-ups that require minimal time to engage consumers are gaining traction

**Trend** - Brands are creating passive pop-ups, such as billboards or signposts, that beget consumers to engage with only a brief action. These are more engaging than regular billboards while not requiring much time from consumers. Additionally, brands do not need to staff these pop-ups, thus reducing costs.

**Insight** - The average person living in a major city faces hundreds of advertisements a day. To this extent, most simply filter out regular ads, leading to brands not leaving a lasting impression. While some brands try to launch full-scale pop-up events that invite consumers to explore a detailed activation, not all consumers have spare time for such activities, leading to brands finding a middle ground for pop-ups that beget enough interaction to leave an impression, but do not intrude on daily schedules.



Hug-Activated Marketing Machines UNIQLO France and The Pull Launch the Hug to Unlock Ad



Illusory Fry Billboards KFC is Promoting Its Fing Fing Cajun Chips with a Clever Billboard



Record-Breaking AR Mirrors Maybelline New York & FFFACE.ME Debuted a Large Interactive Experience

Multisensation

Gamification

Experience



Deserted Island Billboards Silk & Spice Set Up a Billboard for Fans to Go and Find

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4 Featured, 45 Examples 60,880 Total Clicks URL: Hunt.to/540980



opularity	
Activity	
reshness	





# Vibe Marketing



### Brands shift from demographic targeting to emotional resonance

Trend - Brands are shifting away from traditional demographic targeting and trend forecasting toward emotion-led "vibe marketing" that emphasizes mood, feeling and cultural resonance. This approach spans multiple sensory touchpoints, from visual aesthetics to music, and prioritizes creating an emotional atmosphere over direct product messaging.

**Insight** - As consumers grow increasingly resistant to traditional marketing tactics, they're gravitating toward brands that can authentically tap into and cultivate specific emotional frequencies. This shift reflects a broader cultural move away from fact-based decision making toward intuitive, feeling-based choices. While previous generations of marketing relied on clear demographic targeting and concrete benefits, today's consumers seek brands that understand and reflect their emotional wavelength.



# Postcard Pop-Up



### Brands are hosting personalized postcard-making events for consumers to gift

**Trend -** Postcard-making workshops are becoming a popular feature at pop-up events, offering guests a creative, hands-on way to connect with the brand. These interactive sessions allow participants to create a tangible, personalized product that delivers a message and introduces a new brand to the recipient.

**Insight** - Consumers seeking unique shopping experiences are increasingly drawn to events that facilitate personal connections with brands and encourage sharing the experience with loved ones. In response, brands are designing pop-ups that allow consumers to create personalized keepsakes for those in their lives and invite these individuals to experience the brand. By focusing on consumers' desire for shareable moments, brands can attract an audience that values community throughout the product journey.



Parisian Airport Pop-Ups Moët Hennessy's Paris Concept Event Featured Travel Exclusives



Customized Valentine's Cards Angel's Envy is Sharing Personalized Cards for Valentine's Day



Creative Play Pop-Ups The Sharpie Studio Offered Opportunities for Creativity at SXSW



Immersive Digital Experiences

Kraft and Nexus Studios Join on the Immersive Mayoverse



Popularity	
Activity	
Freshness	





Co-creation
 Experience
 Personalization

4 Featured, 36 Examples 124,648 Total Clicks URL: Hunt.to/540902

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# **Paired Playlist**



### Brands increasingly pair their product launches with curated playlists

Trend - Brands are enhancing product launches and customer experiences by curating playlists that capture the essence of an item's vibe, purpose, or aesthetic. Designed to be played while using the product, these soundtracks engage multiple senses, creating more immersive and memorable consumer experiences.

Insight - Modern consumers are drawn to products that engage all their senses, allowing them to experience the product's unique character with a fully immersive experience. These individuals gravitate toward multi-sensory products to enhance their environment, helping them relax through visual, auditory, and tactile stimulation. Brands that embrace this trend by pairing products with complementary sensory elements can appeal to those looking to elevate everyday items into something more experiential.



Sriracha-Inspired Music Campaigns Lee Kum Kee Presents a Saucy Summers Playlist and Music Collabs



**Playlist-Paired Candle Launches** Nose Best Offers Candles with Their Own Playlits and Cocktails



**Passenger Skincare Kits** The Teddi Mellencamp x Bliss Passenger Princess Kit Shares To-Go Skincare



**Playlist-Paired Puzzles** Piecework Puzzles Come with Curated Songs to Match the Vibe



Popularity Activity Freshness



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Multisensation Curation

Experience

4 Featured, 36 Examples 33.238 Total Clicks URL: Hunt.to/560923

# **Kitty Confection**



### Hello Kitty is increasingly used for marketing desserts and confectionery items

**Trend** - Sanrio's Hello Kitty is venturing into the snacking space through a number of innovative brand collaborations. From candies to ice cream, these treats combine the character's charm with delectable flavors, allowing fans to express their love for the cartoon cat in a delicious and adorable way.

**Insight** - Consumers of all ages are naturally drawn to products that evoke feelings of nostalgia and playfulness, often as a way to escape the routines of everyday life. The universal charm and adorable aesthetics of Hello Kitty make her an ideal choice for treat branding that resonates with both adults and children. These products offer more than just flavor—they create a genuine emotional connection, allowing consumers to indulge in a sense of whimsy and youthful joy through everyday purchases.





Cartoon Kitty Cookie Confections The Hello Kitty Assorted Cookie Tin is Made in Japan

4 Featured, 36 Examples 31,623 Total Clicks URL: Hunt.to/552754

# **Collaboration Candle**



#### Legacy food brands invest in candle collaborations to leverage novelty

**Trend** - Established food brands are partnering with candle companies to venture into the home goods space. Offering decadent scents and premium ingredients, these collaborations aim to inject the brand's identity into everyday life, providing consumers with a new way to experience its products.

**Insight** - Consumers often seek novelty in their purchases, gravitating to exclusivity and the opportunity to engage with brands in a fresh, unique way. Brands are responding by teaming up with leaders in adjacent industries, leveraging their shared reputations to attract consumers drawn to their designs or signature scents. Leveraging partnerships allows brands to expand into unconventional sectors, connecting them with consumers who may not typically interact with their products in the grocery store.



Food-Inspired Candle Collections The Campbell's® Releases Its Report Alongside Cheeky Candles



Summer Treat-Inspired Candle Collections Goose Creek Has Teamed Up with Popsicle® and Good Humor®



QSR Coffee-Based Fragrant Candles Homesick x Dunkin' Donuts Offer Espresso-Infused Products



Snack Cake-Scented Candles Little Debbie x Goose Creek Candles Come in 12 Variations



Popularity Activity





Co-creation
 Hybridization
 Experience

4 Featured, 30 Examples 20,605 Total Clicks URL: Hunt.to/551737

# Hyperlocal Evolution



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#### Brands strengthen community connections through enhanced physical experiences

**Trend** - As consumers flock to physical retail spaces, both established and emerging brands are reimagining their local presence through enhanced experiential offerings. This shift extends beyond traditional retail to include direct-to-consumer brands creating innovative physical touchpoints.

**Insight** - Contemporary consumers are seeking more than just transactional relationships with brands - they want meaningful connections and experiences that add value to their purchasing journey. This desire for authenticity and community engagement has created opportunities for businesses to establish deeper local roots, whether through permanent locations or temporary activations. The success of these initiatives stems from consumers' post-pandemic appetite for tangible brand interactions that can't be replicated in digital spaces.



Exclusive Upscale Holiday-Edition Pop-Ups The Magical House of Chanel Opens its Doors at Harrods



Immersive Fragrance Retail Locations The Perfume Shop Experiential Store is Located in Stockport



Tranquil Retail Environments NEOM Wellbeing Has Launched Its First U.S. Storefront in New York



In-Store Dating Experiences IKEA and Breeze Partnered for Valentine's Day Date Experiences







Experience

4 Featured, 36 Examples 33,159 Total Clicks URL: Hunt.to/559296

# Visual Aid



### Brands are designing packaging to be accessible for consumers with visual impairments

**Trend -** Brands are creating packaging designs with smart solutions for consumers with visual impairments. These solutions include scannable codes or symbols that interact with smart applications to provide either easier-to-read or audio-based information, more effectively supporting shoppers.

**Insight** - Consumers with visual impairments often face struggles when shopping in-person. Whether faced with overstimulating aisles in the grocery store, or difficult to read labels with fine text on products, these consumers find it difficult to obtain comprehensive information on products, such as ingredients lists. In order to better support these consumers, packaging brands are partnering with technology companies to create smart labels that convey information in alternative, more accessible, ways.



Accessibility-Focused Packaging Designs Müller Debuts Accessible Packaging Designs



SMA Nutrition Introduced NaviLens Codes into its Product Packaging



Al-Assisted Cooking Partnerships Unilever and Be My Eyes Partnered to Support Shoppers



 Artificial Intelligence
 3 Featured, 42 Examples

 Personalization
 39,181 Total Clicks

Authenticitv

URL: Hunt.to/543222

# The 2026 Trend Report





# Sensory Retail



### Immersive slime experiences transform play into multi-location experiential retail

**Trend** - What began as an online DIY phenomenon during the pandemic has evolved into a thriving sensory retail industry. Businesses like The Sloomoo Institute are expanding beyond digital spaces to create immersive in-person experiences centered around slime play, with physical locations in multiple cities and plans for global expansion.

**Insight** - Young consumers increasingly seek tactile experiences that complement their digital lives. Having grown up with online sensory content, Gen Z craves physical spaces that turn virtual trends into hands-on play. By employing young creators discovered online, these businesses create authentic community spaces that transform simple sensory play into premium experiential retail.



# **Gamified Storefront**

### Brands are gamifying brick and mortar stores for the retailtainment trend

**Trend** - Brick-and-mortar storefronts are adding elements of gamification and entertainment to improve the in-store shopping experience. These 'retailtainment' initiatives add immersive experiences and interactive elements to increase consumer engagement and pull the focus away from simply spending money.

**Insight** - It is undeniable that the convenience and accessibility of online shopping leads to more consumers opting to simply shop online each year. While some who prefer in-store shopping value being able to physically touch, or try, an item before purchasing it, others are attracted to the social aspect of in-store retail. These features alone do not add enough value to pull online shoppers back to physical stores. This is leading to 'retailtainment,' brands debuting immersive in-store experiences.





Digital Snowball Competitions The LEGO Snow Throw Pits NYC and London Stores Against One Another

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Interactive Cosmetics Retail Stores Watsons Upgrades its Stores for Gen Z and Gen Alpha Consumers

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Leisure Activity Grocery Stores The FreshTake Concept Grocery Store Blends Experiences



Gamified Custom Kidswear Supermix Studio Empowers Kids to Create Their Own Apparel & Accessories



Popularity	ನ್ <i>ನ್</i> ನ್ನ ಕ
Activity	
Freshness	- el <b>11</b>



Multisensation
 Gamification
 Experience

5 Featured, 62 Examples 166,638 Total Clicks URL: Hunt.to/541162



# Retail Lounge



### Retailers are launching experiential events to enhance connections to consumers

Trend - Retailers in various industries, such as department stores, luxury brands, and more, are launching in-store lounges and experiential events. These events are designed to enhance the comfort of shoppers while deepening the connection between the shoppers and the brand.

Insight - While many consumers made a strong shift toward online shopping over the past decade, in large part accelerated by the pandemic, there are still cases to be made for in-store shopping. Some consumers prefer to be able to touch a product before purchasing it, while others value the inherit socialization of in-store shopping, and prefer to interact with others and immerse themselves in the retail environment. Capitalizing off of this feeling, retailers are opening experiential lounges in-stores.



**Experiential Intimates Spaces** Knix Opens Immersive Retail Location at Premium Shopping Centre

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Zen-Inspired Experiential Retail Concepts One Golden Thread Opens Its Innovative Space



**Immersive Lifestyle Stores** Gelato Pique Has Inaugurated Its Standalone Store in South Korea



**Tranguil Retail** Environments **NEOM Wellbeing Has** Launched Its First U.S. Storefront in New York

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Luxury Jeweler Boutiques Château D'ivoire Renovated Its Downtown Montreal Location & It's Stunning



5 Featured, 44 Examples Experience 32.875 Total Clicks URL: Hunt.to/550924 Authenticity

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Tribalism

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### Automated eCommerce



#### Brands are leveraging AI tools to simplify online storefront creation

Trend - Brands with online storefronts are turning to AI-powered tools to streamline the creation and maintenance of these websites. AI tools are being used to write copy, generate photos, recommend products to customers, and generate promotional content. These tools aim to reduce operational costs.

**Insight** - Each year, more consumers are gravitating toward shopping online rather than in-stores. In part due to the pandemic, this shift caused retailers to place more focus on optimizing their e-commerce storefront experiences. Retailers want to ensure their websites are as frictionless as possible leading to converted sales. To appeal to these retailers, and to offer a potential solution that does not raise operational costs, AI companies and new startups are launching generative tools for storefronts.



### **Smart Grocery**



### Meal kit companies are using AI to optimize customers' grocery purchases

Trend - Meal kit brands are launching various forms of smart meal kits. These kits use artificial intelligence algorithms to ensure both that no ingredients are leftover, and that consumers only purchase products that they know they will eat. This helps reduce the stress and cost of grocery shopping.

**Insight** - With the rising price of groceries and the increasingly busy nature of working adults in North America, many find it difficult to find time to grocery shop properly without overspending. These consumers are often drawn to premade meal services. However, many of these services have limitations related to variety, and often only provide enough ingredients for their prepared meals. For those looking to grocery shop beyond a curated list of dinners, brands are launching AI grocer tools.



### Artistic Retail



#### Retail companies team up with artists for immersive in-person events.

**Trend -** Retail companies are increasingly collaborating with artists to host in-person events and activations. These initiatives aim to create immersive and engaging experiences that draw consumers to physical retail stores. By integrating art installations, retailers seek to offer unique experiences.

**Insight** - Consumers are seeking unique and memorable experiences that can't be replicated online. The desire for social interaction, cultural engagement, and experiential shopping is driving this trend. Additionally, the pressure on retailers to revive foot traffic in physical stores has led to innovative strategies that blend art and commerce. These artistic collaborations cater to consumers' craving for enrichment and entertainment, while also enhancing brand loyalty and encouraging in-store visits.



Illusionary Ice-Hotel Beauty Pop-Ups Lancôme Hosted an Exclusive Rose Ice-Hotel Activation



Artist-Centric Networking Events Adidas x SNIPES Unveil The NYC Superstar & Empower Artists



Localized Retail Experiences UNIQLO Sherway Blends Japanese Tradition with Toronto Culture



Premium Peach Vodkas Sprinter Launches Single-Flavor Pack in Peach State Celebration



Popularity Activity





Co-creation Hybridization Experience 4 Featured, 36 Examples 30,849 Total Clicks URL: Hunt.to/562261

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# eCommerce Assistant



### Online retailers are using generative AI to create natural-sounding assistants

**Trend -** Brands with online storefronts are launching assistants powered by generative AI to improve experiences for customers. These assistants can interpret natural language, and have intimate knowledge of the business' product portfolio, enabling them to suggest well-suited products for consumers' needs.

**Insight** - One of the prevalent barriers that slow the adoption of online shopping is the lack of in-store assistants. Consumers accustomed to interacting with staff members to find the best product for their needs are less likely to shop online, as online shopping requires consumers to do their research and make all decisions themselves. In order to reduce this barrier, and make online shopping feel more natural for such consumers, brands are launching AI-powered online assistants with 24/7 availability.



# The 2026 Trend Report



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5	Marketing Insights
6	Retail Insights
7	Food & Beverage Insights
8	Lifestyle Insights
9	Sustainability Insights
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# Numbing Burger



### Restaurants are launching burgers with sichuan peppercorn spices

**Trend -** Restaurants are blending Chinese sichuan peppercorn spices and oils, often referred to as numbing spice because of its effects, with the popular American burger to offer unique flavors and experiences. These burgers could be beef, chicken, or vegetarian, to appeal to all fans of the fast-food item.

**Insight** - Fast food and street food restaurants are highly experimentative. Popular fast food brands release limited-time products nearly weekly in order to see what unique flavor combinations will become the next big trend. As a result, fast food consumers have become drawn to new menu items, even if they only try each new item a single time. To appeal to these consumers and offer a unique cultural flavor profile, burger restaurants are incorporating Sichuan peppercorn numbing spices.





Sichuan Fried Chicken Burgers Hello Oriental's Fried Chicken Burger Features Sichuan Chilli



Collaborative Numbing Spice Burgers Junk Smash Burgers and 3 Fois Released 'The Smash Sichuan'

Fiery Sichuan Chicken Offerings McDonald's Singapore Introduced its Mala Chicken Items



Vegetarian Peppercorn Oil Burgers Bingz Burger's 'Healthy Veggie' Includes Numbing Spice



Popularity Activity





Hybridization Experience

4 Featured, 31 Examples

8,116 Total Clicks

URL: Hunt.to/554382

# Indoor Smoker



### Grill brands are releasing compact indoor smokers for year-round enjoyment

**Trend** - Barbecue and grilling brands are releasing indoor smoker grills with air filters for safe use. These grills are designed to offer the benefits of smoker grills, but with year-round accessibility, as they do not require outdoor ventilation. These grills are often compact countertop varieties.

**Insight** - Consumers with outdoor grills or barbecues often use these devices not only for the flavor of meat they produce, but also for the community-drive, social aspects of barbecues. Amongst these consumers, preferences vary greatly between charcoal grills, electric grills, and more. However, one common complaint amongst all users is the seasonality of grills, with them only being usable during warmer months. Brands are adhering to these desires with safe indoor smoker grills.



AI-Powered Cutting-Edge Grill Designs The SEERGRILLS® Perfecta™ Was Showcased During CES 2024



Smart Indoor Smoker Grills GE Profile's Smart Indoor Smoker is Quick and Convenient



Hybrid Outdoor Smokers The ASMOKE Skylights Wood Pellet Grill Smoker Has Self Cleaning Features



- Multisensation
  Hybridization

Experience

3 Featured, 33 Examples

60,867 Total Clicks

URL: Hunt.to/554146

# Adult Lunchbox



### Food brands market school-style lunch kits towards busy adults

Trend - Brands are reinventing lunch kits for adults, advertising them as a convenient choice for those with packed schedules. Featuring a mix of crackers, fruits, and cheeses, these prepackaged meals take the hassle out of morning prep, offering a stress-free way to enjoy a well-balanced bite on the go.

**Insight** - For busy consumers, meal preparation often takes a backseat to demanding schedules, leading many to opt for quick, convenient alternatives at the expense of nutrition. In response, brands are crafting multi-food boxes to help consumers save time and diversify their food intake, offering the same quality ingredients in a charcuterie-style format. Businesses catering to the demand for portability and minimal preparation can appeal to consumers who do not have the time or resources to plan meals.



# Snackable Chicken



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### CPG Brands are launching chicken-based seasoned stick snacks

Trend - CPG brands are increasingly developing chicken-based seasoned stick snacks to offer portable, high-protein, and flavorful snacks. Crafted from real chicken and infused with robust seasonings, these sticks are designed to provide a quick nutritional boost without sacrificing taste.

Insight - Today's consumers are experiencing increasing pressure to balance health, time constraints, and flavor experiences. With fast-paced lifestyles and a growing emphasis on clean eating, there is a strong desire for snacks that contribute to daily nutritional goals—especially protein intake—without requiring extensive preparation. Additionally, the trend toward functional snacking has intensified as more individuals seek convenient solutions that support active, wellness-oriented routines.



### Dubai Chocolate



### Brands capitalize on the Dubai chocolate trend by creating their own themed items

Trend - Tapping into the viral social media craze, brands are creating indulgent treats that blend crispy Knafeh, pistachio cream, and smooth chocolate. These products appeal to both locals and international food lovers, merging traditional Middle Eastern ingredients with globally loved dessert options.

Insight - Consumers are naturally drawn to viral social media trends, driven by a fear of missing out and a curiosity for new and unconventional flavors. In response, brands are leveraging this buzz to launch their own takes on the dessert, catering to trend-conscious customers eager to stay ahead of the curve. By tapping into social media marketing tactics, these brands attract new audiences who seek products that reflect the latest food trends, ensuring they remain relevant in an ever-evolving market.



Limited-Time Chocolate Sundaes Ghirardelli Chocolate Debuts the Dubai Chocolate Sundae Experience



Dairy-Free Dubai-Style Chocolates The NotCo Dubai Style NotSquare Has a Plant-Based Recipe



Traditional Dessert-**Inspired Chocolates** This Pistachio Knafeh Chocolate Bar Boasts a **Rich Filling** 



Recreated Pistachio-Filled Bars Morrisons Stocks its Own

Version of the Dubai Chocolate Cake Bar



Dubai Chocolate Ice Creams Baskin-Robbins Dubai Chocolate Menu is Arriving in the Middle East



Popularity Activity





Hybridization Experience

Prosumerism

5 Featured, 37 Examples 17.179 Total Clicks URL: Hunt.to/562728

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### **Delicate Pouch**



### Low-ABV beverages are adapted for pouch-style consumption

**Trend -** Alcohol brands are increasingly opting for pouches to package their cocktails and low-ABV offerings. These pouches, often made from flexible, durable materials like plastic or foil, typically feature resealable spouts or caps for convenient consumption.

**Insight** - At large gatherings, consumers often gravitate towards cocktails and light alcoholic beverages to enjoy throughout the evening. However, crowded settings can bring challenges like drink tampering and accidental spills. In response, brands in the low-ABV space embrace pouch-style packaging, offering tamper-resistant, spill-proof solutions that enhance safety and convenience. Businesses that align with this demand can resonate with consumers who value secure and responsible drinking experiences.



### **De-Stresser Beverage**



#### Brands are replacing stress-generating ingredients with calming alternatives

**Trend -** Food & beverage brands are creating drinks designed to alleviate stress. This is achieved by swapping out stressing ingredients, such as processed sugars and caffeine, with stress-relieving alternatives, such as magnesium and lion's mane, generating healthier energy for consumers.

**Insight** - It is clear that many adults in the western world live high-stress lives. Between balancing work with personal lives while trying to maintain personal health, time is stretched thin. However, many adults are unaware of how impactful a diet is on both their mental and physical health, with sugars and processed goods raising heartrates and causing increased average stress levels. In order to help regulate the stresses and sleep schedules of these adults, brands are offering de-stressing beverages.



# Fashion Cafe



### Luxury fashion labels are opening in-store cafes to foster in-person connection

Trend - Luxury fashion labels across Europe and Asia are opening dedicated restaurants and cafes. These are designed to transform the boutiques from simple shopping ventures, to fullblown experiences. The experiential retail helps build consumer connections to one another and the brand.

**Insight** - In major cities across East Asia, in-person retail is once again thriving. Consumers in these regions have a wealth of options when going shopping, leading to them becoming more preferential in their destinations, seeking out unique retailers rather than simply shopping for necessities. This is a way of prioritizing feelings and experiences rather than simple errands. In order to appeal to this type of consumer, fashion labels are making their boutiques more appealing with dedicated cafes.



Luxury Fashion Label Cafes Dior Opened a Dedicated Cafe at its Shanghai Boutique

Popularity

Activity

Freshness

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Luxury Retailer Restaurants Louis Vuitton Added 'LV The Place' to its Bangkok Location



Luxury NYC-Inspired Cafes Fashion Label Coach Opened a Restaurant and Coffee Shop in Jakarta

Tribalism

Experience

Authenticity



Conversation-Encouraging Retail Spaces PlayLab Inc Creates a Flagship Store for MadHappy

4 Featured, 33 Examples 22,791 Total Clicks URL: Hunt.to/551009

# Camp Coffee



### Portable espresso makers are being made with durable designs for outdoor activities

**Trend -** Brands are making portable espresso makers designed for camping and travel applications. These are durable with long-lasting batteries, often including secondary features such as lights or app connectivity. Portable espresso makers target the traveling on-the-go or outdoorsy adult demographic.

**Insight** - Many adults today live with busy schedules and only a select amount of free time. As a result, these consumers look to save time and effort in their day wherever possible. For some, this means meal planning and scheduling, while others turn to smart apps and digital solutions to save time and money. Appliance brands and startups are appealing to these consumers, often through crowdfunding, by launching a compact espresso makers designed for portability and reliability,



# Influencer Menu



### Restaurants are collaborating with internet influencers to craft viral menus

**Trend** - Restaurants are partnering with social media-viral chefs and foodie influencers to create menus that resonate with younger audiences. These menus take inspiration from popular recipes and transform them in unique ways to differentiate themselves from competitors.

**Insight** - Short-form video platforms have contributed to a rise in consumer foodie culture. Algorithms have made it easy for unique, tasteful recipes to gain worldwide attention at a rapid rate. As a result of this, both professional and hobbyist chefs have taken to these platforms to share their takes on recipes, with many quickly gaining virality. In order to capitalize off of the popularity of these videos, restaurants are partnering with these creators to develop curated viral menus for patrons.



Plant-Based Breakfast Menus Alpro and a Michelin-Trained Chef Collaborated on Inspiring Eats



Viral Mocktail-Inspired Smoothies The Smoothie King Sleepy Girlzzz Smoothie Has Tart Cherry



Cookie Dough Croissants Amorette's Patisserie Serves a Creative Cookie Dough-Croissant Hybrid

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Viral Grilled Cheese Burritos Chipotle Teamed Up with a TikTok Creator to Share a Tasty Menu Hack

Social Media-Inspired Bakery Menus The Panera Roman Empire Menu Follows the Viral TikTok Hashtag





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Co-creation Hybridization Experience 5 Featured, 45 Examples

25,468 Total Clicks

URL: Hunt.to/537772

# **Freeze-Dried Organic**



#### CPG brands are using freeze-drying to preserve organic snacks more naturally

**Trend** - Brands are using freeze-drying to better preserve the freshness and flavor of foods without extra additives or preservatives. This results in all-natural, organic products with authentic flavors. These snacks are positioned as better-for-you treats with extended shelf lives.

**Insight** - Modern consumers are faced with ever-expanding choices when it comes to choosing snack foods. The prevalence of products in the space leads consumers to prioritize those that meet their personal needs, which often pertain to health goals, financial savings, or convenience. Brands in the CPG space can differentiate themselves by offering products that adhere to all three of these goals, rather than focusing on only certain areas. In order to achieve this, brands are turning to freeze-drying.



Freeze-Dried Yogurt Bites OATME Superfood's Probiotic Yogurt Snacks are Ready to Grab and Go



All-Natural Freeze-Dried Fruits New Forest Fruit Snacks Rolled Out a New Strawberry Flavor



Freeze-Dried Ice Cream Bites Coco Fro Makes Snackable, Plant-Based "Space Ice Cream"



Wholesome Accessible Kids Foods Good & Gather Baby and Toddler Foods are Well-Priced



Popularity Activity





Hybridization
 Simplicity
 Experience

4 Featured, 32 Examples

25,239 Total Clicks

URL: Hunt.to/536671
## **Collaborative Soda**



#### Soda brands are partnering with brands in adjacent industries to boost exposure

**Trend -** Popular soda brands are collaborating with other brands in the restaurant, CPG, and drinking spaces to create co-branded products. These collaborative products blend the iconic flavors and brand recognition of both products for the mutual benefit of both companies.

**Insight** - While there is a large variety of options when shopping for food, many consumers in the Western World fall into habits, sticking to brands and products that they are familiar with. This is due to the consumers not wanting to take risks, caused by either minimal free time, or simply because they want to continue with the safe option. To appeal to these consumers, brands across the food industry are releasing collaborative products that lend the credibility of both brands to the product.



## **Revitalized Picnic**



#### Brands are launching products designed to enhance picnic convenience

**Trend** - Brands are launching sophisticated picnic kits and complementary products aimed at enhancing the outdoor dining experience. These offerings include modular food carriers, insulated storage solutions, cutlery sets, and interactive recipes designed with user-friendly functionality in mind.

**Insight** - Consumers today are reimagining leisure and dining, seeking experiences that bridge comfort, health, and connection with new experience. The demands of remote work, digital detox, and a desire to break free from indoor routines have driven a resurgence in outdoor activities, including picnicking. Alongside this lifestyle shift, there is a growing emphasis on sustainability and practical design—factors that challenge the traditional, often cumbersome picnic setups, leading to catered products.



All-in-One Ultralight Mats WoodWool's SuperMat is Great for Everyday Use in the Outdoors



Lifestyle-Imbued Jewelry Collections Buccellati to Launch Picnic Sets with New Collaboration



Plant-Based Picnic Packs The Shake Shack Veg Out Picnic Kit Includes Food for Two



Communal Outdoor Cooking Tables The AroundFire Portable Grill Table is Easy to Bring Anywhere



Popularity



Curation Experience Naturality 4 Featured, 45 Examples

161,335 Total Clicks

URL: Hunt.to/571598

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## Compact Camping



#### Camping brands are releasing lightweight, easily-compacted tents for convenience

Trend - Brands in the camping product space are releasing tents designed to be ultra-lightweight and portable, without compromising on stability or safety. These tents can be easily compacted and worn as a backpack for hiking, and quickly set-up for overnight camping when needed.

**Insight** - One of the largest considerations for campers is payload weight. Campers often bring technology, such as foldable grills or water purifiers that enables them to cut down on the weight of their supplies. The more serious the camper, and the longer the camping trip, the more important cutting down on weight is. In order to appeal to the more invested camping consumers, brands are releasing ultra-lightweight tents designed to be tightly compacted.



Featherlight Camping Tents The Hyperlite Mountain Gear Mid 1 Tent Has Carbon Fiber and Dyneema



Ultralight Four-Season Tents The RŌMR Elite2 Has a Hybrid, Four-Season Design



Lightweight Backpacking Tents Thecatal's Wind Anchor Creates an Ultralight Camping Experience



Ultralight Camping Tents Camping Brand Durston Released the 'X-Dome 1+' as a Pro-Grade Tent







Hybridization Curation Experience 4 Featured, 36 Examples 142,577 Total Clicks

URL: Hunt.to/553808

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### Sweet Bun



#### QSR brands opt for sweet, dessert-focused buns for their classic burger items

**Trend -** Quick-service restaurants are increasingly opting for sweet, dessert-style burger buns instead of traditional plain bread. These buns, made from pastries or infused with dessert fillings, offer a unique sweetness that complements the savory flavors of the burger patty and toppings.

**Insight** - Many consumers desire novelty in their food choices and struggle to find it in traditional restaurant menus or popular chains. In response, QSR brands are embracing unique meal concepts that satisfy the desire for new foods and flavors while attracting those intrigued by the unusual and unexpected. By tapping into the growing appetite for adventurous dining experiences, they can attract a wider audience, increase brand visibility, and establish themselves as innovators within the F&B space.





Chocolate-Stuffed Burgers The WORKS Craft Burgers & Beer Made a S'mores Burger for Canada Day



Beignet Bun Burgers Walk-On's Sports Bistreaux Just Revealed New Beignet Cheeseburger Sliders

Sweet-Savory Burger Debuts Burger King Ecuador Introduces the 'Donut Burger' Menu Addition



Americanized Australian Burger Chains Hello Harry Offers Up American-Style Burgers and Desserts



Popularity Activity





4 Featured, 44 Examples

36,082 Total Clicks

URL: Hunt.to/558874

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## Chili-Lime Sweet



#### Brands utilize Tajín to create treats that offer a fusion of spicy and sweet

**Trend** - Brands are now utilizing Tajín, a popular Mexican seasoning blend made from chili peppers, lime, and salt, to enhance fruits, candies, and snacks. When applied to treats, Tajín provides a unique flavor profile that combines the seasoning's characteristic spice and acidity with sweetness.

**Insight** - Latin-American consumers often grow up enjoying Tajín on fruits and snacks but struggle to find this unique combination of flavors in their local grocery stores and restaurants. These consumers gravitate toward products that offer familiar, culturally resonant ingredients in accessible formats, allowing them to satisfy specific cravings. Businesses catering to the demand for culturally influenced flavorings can attract consumers looking for nostalgia and familiarity in their food items.



## **GLP-1** Response



#### Food brands are adjusting portion sizes as weight management drugs gain popularity

**Trend -** As GLP-1 weight management drugs gain popularity, food companies are responding by adjusting the ingredients and portions in their products. Particularly in the CPG market, retailers are offering smaller products richer in proteins and fibers, as there are more in-line with consumer needs.

**Insight** - GLP-1 weight management drugs in North America are causing dramatic shifts in the food and beverage industry. As the percentage of adults using these drugs continues to rise, consumers across North America are adjusting their consumption habits in turn. These consumers are becoming less likely to purchase unhealthy dessert foods, and are becoming more drawn to smaller meals with densely packed nutrients. As a result, CPG brands and restaurants are adjusting recipes to appeal to these consumers.



Portion-Adjusted CPG Snacks Conagra is Altering its Products in Response to GLP-1 Popularity



Weight Management Food Ranges The Nestlé Vital Pursuit Range is for Those on GLP-1



GLP-1-Tailored Store Sections GNC is Adding a New Section to 2,300 of its U.S Store Locations



Food Brand Revitalization Initiatives Atkins is Reanalyzing its Business for GLP-1 Users





Co-creation

4 Featured, 21 Examples 12,801 Total Clicks URL: Hunt.to/539214

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# The 2026 Trend Report





## **GLP-1** Community



#### Apps and websites are launching social features designed to support GLP-1 users

Trend - As GLP-1 gains popularity in the western world as a weight management solution, brands are launching apps and services designed to support the GLP-1 community. These apps offer support through social forums, fitness and diet planning, and enable direct connections to healthcare providers if needed.

**Insight** - The number of adult consumers in North America and Europe that use GLP-1 supplements continues to grow at a rapid rate each month. These consumers are drawn to GLP-1 for its easy-to-use, ingestible format and its high efficacy rate. However, some GLP-1 users become complacent, relying on the supplement instead of balancing it with a healthy lifestyle, while others run into unforeseen medical side effects. Businesses are now launching apps and websites to support the needs of GLP-1 users.



## Screen-Free Play



#### Tech-savvy parents seek screen-free alternatives for child development

Trend - Children's toys boast screen-free designs that maintain the engaging aspects of modern technology while encouraging imagination and active play. These products combine the appeal of contemporary gadgets with traditional play patterns, offering interactive features without the drawbacks of screen time. The category spans everything from meditation devices to storytelling tools and educational toys.

**Insight -** Modern parents, many of whom grew up during the digital revolution, are experiencing growing anxiety about technology's impact on child development. Unlike previous generations who might have completely rejected tech for children, these parents seek a middle ground that balances digital innovation with healthy development. This has created demand for products that feel contemporary and relevant to children growing up in a tech-saturated world, while still fostering imagination, physical activity, and emotional well-being.



Interactive Early Education Toys Tokidos PlayCubes Have a Screen-Free Design



Multi-Sensory Play Experiences Plush Toy 'MediTATE' Promotes Kids' Mindfulness



Forest-Inspired Screenless Toys Boogie Board Launched the Sketch Pals Forest Friends Line



Transformative Bedtime Storytelling Zuzu Offers Customizable, Screen-Free Bedtime Stories

6.2 Score







Simplicity

city

4 Featured, 35 Examples 55,396 Total Clicks

URL: Hunt.to/554844

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## Calming Plushy

Activity

Freshness



#### Brands are releasing weighted plushies with adorable designs to comfort youth

**Trend -** Lifestyle brands are releasing soft plushies with weighted fillings to make them more huggable and cuddlable. These plushies are designed to appeal to children and to calm children with anxiety or during stressful situations. The plushies are often given familiar designs to enhance comfort.

**Insight** - Many new parents find difficulties in time management when it comes to balancing raising a child with a career and personal obligations. These parents continually search for tips, tricks, and solutions, such as meal prepping or AI-powered baby monitors, to challenges related to raising children. However, many of these solutions deal with tangible time-related challenges, rather than emotional ones. In order to assist parents in these areas, brands are releasing weighted calming plushies.





106.685 Total Clicks

Experience

Catalyzation

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## **Desktop Filtration**



#### Revolutionizing hydration with on-demand, clean water at your desk or counter.

**Trend** - Brands are introducing compact desktop water filtration systems that bring advanced purification technology right to users' workspaces. These devices employ methods such as activated carbon, reverse osmosis, or nanofiltration to efficiently remove impurities from tap water.

**Insight** - Increasing awareness of contaminants in tap water, coupled with rising health and environmental concerns, has created a strong market for personal water purification solutions. Consumers are looking for products that allow them to ensure the water they drink is both safe and sustainably sourced, without the waste of bottled water. At the same time, the shift toward remote work and home offices has intensified the need for on-desk solutions that merge seamlessly with modern workspaces.



## **Dating Collaboration**



#### Dating apps are partnering with common date locations to enhance experiences

**Trend** - Dating apps are partnering with brick and mortar installations to enhance user bonding over shared experiences. These collabs include coffee shops, gyms, and other entertainment venues. These collaborations provide jumping-off points for dates, leading to more success stories.

**Insight** - The process of online dating is one that becomes tiring for many users. Users grow tired of dates that go nowhere, users that ghost others, or dates that are uninspired and generic. This causes some users to get dating fatigue, and not want to use the apps anymore without changes made to the process. In response, dating app brands are trying to address some of these concerns by partnering with retail establishments to offer recommended first date locations and dating-related promotions.



Dating App Coffeeshops Bumble Partners with GoodNews for Le Café Bumble in Paris

. . . . . . . . .



Dating App Cafe Collaborations La La Land Kind Cafe & Bumble are Serving Up the Bumble Honey Latte



Restaurant-Collaborating Dating Apps FROME Launched with a List of L.A Food Location Partnerships

Hybridization

Curation

Experience



**Gym-Focused Dating App Badges** adidas and Bumble Launch a Gym Interest Badge on the Dating App





4 Featured, 34 Examples 22,000 Total Clicks

URL: Hunt.to/557386

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### Pet Wearable



#### Pet care brands advance canine wellness with smart tracking technology

**Trend -** Pet care brands are launching health-monitoring wearables for dogs, equipped with features such as activity tracking, heart rate monitoring, sleep analysis, and early illness detection. These devices provide real-time insights into a pet's well-being, helping owners detect potential concerns early.

**Insight** - As pet owners become more invested in their pets' health, demand has surged for technology that offers deeper insights into canine wellness. The rise in pet longevity awareness, concerns about undetected health issues, and the growing preference for preventative care have accelerated interest in smart wearables. Additionally, the pressures to create innovative, practical solutions within the pet care industry have driven brands to develop intelligent health monitoring devices.







AI Canine Health Collars The Conceptual Cotons AI LifeTrack Collar by YeongKyu Yoo is Advanced AI-Powered Pet Collars Personifi AI's Shazam Band Turns Moods and Movements into Words Pet Health Trackers Queva Tracks Your Dog's Health and Behavior for Better Care



Popularity Activity





Hybridization

3 Featured, 35 Examples

26,322 Total Clicks

Artificial Intelligence URL: Hunt.to/568307

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## Sparkling Cannabis



#### THC Brands are launching low-dose sparkling waters for comfortable buzzes

**Trend** - Cannabis brands are rolling out low-dose THC-infused sparkling waters designed to offer a subtle cannabis experience in a refreshing beverage format. These drinks combine crisp, sparkling water with carefully measured amounts of THC, offering low-dose alternatives to traditional products.

**Insight** - Modern consumers are increasingly driving demand for products that support a mindful, moderate approach to substance consumption. Against the backdrop of a shifting cannabis landscape—with growing acceptance and regulatory clarity—many users are looking for ways to enjoy the benefits of THC without experiencing significant intoxication or adverse effects. This pressure for controlled, wellness-based consumption has led brands to innovate by crafting low-dose sparkling water beverages.



Social Low-Calorie Cannabis Seltzers Cornbread Hemp THC Seltzers Start Working in 15-Minutes



Low-Dose Cannabis Refreshments The Wyld THC Sparkling Waters Have Hemp-Derived Ingredients



Actor-Backed Cannabis Drinks Houseplant THC-Infused Sparkling Waters Come in Four Flavors



THC-Infused Sparkling Waters Houseplant Sparkling Water Features a Low Dose of THC in Every Can



Cannabis-Infused Sparkling Water Lines Resident Culture Brewing Co. Expands Cümulo









Multisensation Curation Experience 5 Featured, 28 Examples 12,975 Total Clicks URL: Hunt.to/571599

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## Hybrid Repellent



#### Brands are crafting multifunctional mosquito repellents for casual outdoor use

Trend - Outdoor gadget brands are integrating mosquito-repelling features into less traditional devices. These multifunctional devices, such as lights, speakers, or air purifiers, repel unwanted insects from camping areas, ensuring consumers can enjoy their outdoor activities uninhibited.

Insight - Consumers who spend a lot of time outside, such as those who frequently enjoy camping, barbecues, or even simply spending time on their patio, know the struggles associated with unwanted insects, such as mosquitos or bees. However, many of these consumers are not willing to invest in a device specifically to repel the insects, as this may not fit in their budgets. In response to this, brands are integrating mosquito-repelling technologies into outdoor gadgets that would be purchased regardless.



Seven-in-One Camper Lanterns The LOVORK Modular Camping Lantern Has a Multifunctional Form



Handheld Wearable Mosquito Repellers The EVO REPEL Mosquito Repeller Lantern is Rechargeable



4-in-1 Mosquito Repellants The MoziGuard is an Outdoor Mosquito Repeller with a 20Hr Batterv



Mosquito-Repelling Miniature Diffusers VIBIS Design Creates the New VesperGuard Diffuser



ଟଟ	Popularity
	Activity
. M.L.	Freshness





Multisensation

Curation

Experience

4 Featured, 43 Examples 60.556 Total Clicks URL: Hunt.to/539872

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## Home Cafe



#### Consumers increasingly transform their homes into cafe spaces for social enrichment

Trend - Consumers are recreating the café experience within their homes, complete with artisanal drinks, cozy aesthetics, and seating areas. Fueled by the home cafe trend on social media, these spaces aim to recreate the emotional and physical experience of a café using similar tools and sensory details.

**Insight** - Amid rising café prices, consumers are seeking affordable ways to enjoy the café experience without sacrificing beverage quality or connection. Many are turning to home café setups by investing in tools, décor, and ingredients that replicate the ambiance of their favorite coffee spots, creating opportunities to gather and connect in a familiar space. Businesses that align with this demand can position themselves as facilitators of memorable moments — even outside of the retail atmosphere.



# The 2026 Trend Report





## Vehicular Mattress



#### Inflatable mattresses are designed to integrate seamlessly with automobiles

Trend - Brands are increasingly designing foam and inflatable mattresses to fit the interior of modern vehicles. These mattresses aim to transform the vehicle's cargo area or backseat into a comfortable sleeping space, providing a convenient and portable alternative to tents or traditional bedding.

Insight - Frequent travelers and itinerant workers often struggle to find affordable sleeping arrangements during extended trips, particularly when seeking options that don't incur nightly fees. These individuals often rely on integrated car accessories that provide a comfortable sleeping solution without the hassle of setup or assembly. As more people prioritize convenience in their travel experiences, relevant businesses can attract customers seeking solutions that fit their mobile lifestyles.



Modern Vehicle Mattress Designs The Luno AIR+FOAM Pro Vehicle Mattress is Comfort-Focused



**Electric Vehicle Camping Mattresses** The Snuuzu Mattress Fits Neatly Inside a Tesla Model Y or 3



Multi-Person Car Mattresses HEYTRIP Introduces its Two-Person Inflatable SUV Car Bed



Popularity Activity Freshness







Simplicity

Catalyzation

3 Featured, 33 Examples

43.074 Total Clicks

URL: Hunt.to/542983

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## **AI Reduction**



#### New AI tools are launching with a focus on reducing food waste in the home

Trend - New AI tools are designed to reduce and optimize food consumption habits in the home. These tools analyze food waste patterns, grocery lists, and cooked meals, and create recommendations on how to optimize these habits. This involves purchasing different amounts of foods, altering recipes, and more.

**Insight** - While AI tools are continually gaining popularity in professional creative fields, such as editing photos, documents, and films, many consumers are looking to see how AI could improve and optimize their daily personal lives instead. Combining this with rising environmental concerns and increasing costs of living, consumers are turning to AI tools that optimize home management. These tools help reduce energy consumption by turning off unused appliances and minimize food waste via planning.



## **Refillable Candle**



#### Refill technology is increasingly used to replenish wax-based candle products

Trend - Candle products are embracing innovative refill technology to reduce packaging waste and improve cost-effectiveness. This eco-friendly approach allows consumers to replace only the wax or wick rather than buying a new candle, reducing the amount of waste sent to landfills.

**Insight** - Greater access to education on climate change and overconsumption has empowered consumers to understand better how their purchasing decisions affect the environment. In response, many are seeking products that enable them to make small, incremental adjustments to their lifestyles without giving up or replacing their favorite items. Businesses offering sustainable yet convenient solutions can attract eco-conscious shoppers who prioritize environmental impact and ease of use when purchasing.



## **Environmental AI**



#### Brands are investing in research to reduce the environmental impact of AI use

**Trend** - Brands are channeling R&D efforts into creating AI data centers that deliver high-performance computing with a significantly reduced power footprint. These initiatives focus on the adoption of energy-efficient hardware, innovative cooling systems, and the integration of renewable energy sources.

**Insight** - The growing global demand for AI-powered services has led to an exponential rise in energy consumption within data centers—a trend that is increasingly unsustainable. This has led to external pressures from consumers and regulatory bodies pressuring brands to reconcile the surge in computational needs with a reduced environmental impact. The push for sustainable AI data centers emerges from the dual imperatives of curbing escalating operational costs and mitigating carbon footprints.



## **Bamboo Menstrual**



#### Bamboo menstrual pads are gaining popularity to improve sustainability

**Trend** - Brands are developing menstrual pads made from bamboo fibers, offering eco-friendly alternatives to traditional pads. These products emphasize biodegradability, renewable sourcing, and natural comfort while addressing environmental concerns associated with conventional disposable pads.

**Insight** - Consumers are increasingly aware of the environmental impact of single-use hygiene products and are seeking alternatives that align with their eco-friendly lifestyle choices. Additionally, the desire for safer, skin-friendly materials has grown as awareness of chemical exposure in traditional products rises. The pressures of meeting these evolving consumer preferences, along with regulatory focus on sustainability, have driven brands to innovate with bamboo-based solutions.



Viral Organic Tampons Vive for your V Restocks the Viral Tampons That Had a Waitlist



Plant-Based Menstrual Pads Joni Stocks Its Sustainable and Organic Period Pads at Costco



Bamboo-Made Menstrual Products The Cheeky Panda Pads Have a Bamboo Lining and Core



Plant-Based Menstrual Pads Joni Period Products Expand into Canadian Costco Locations



Popularity	<i>ॏ</i> <b>ॏ ऀ ♀♀♀♀</b>
Activity	111
Freshness	a the



Naturality Catalyzation Authenticity 4 Featured, 19 Examples

7,197 Total Clicks

URL: Hunt.to/567326

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## Portable Solar



#### Energy companies are creating compact solar-charged batteries for travel purposes

**Trend** - Brands in the portable power station industry are creating battery banks and charging solutions powered by solar energy. These are designed to be reliable and sustainable when compared to plug-in competitors, as they provide renewable energy solutions while fully disconnected from the grid.

**Insight** - As awareness of climate change and its impacts continues to rise, consumers are increasingly looking to brands to lead the way in sustainability. Recognizing that systemic changes are more effective than individual efforts alone, consumers are turning to companies that offer eco-friendly solutions. In the realm of portable power, this means seeking reliable, off-grid power sources that not only meet their energy needs but also align with their environmental values.



## **Crochet Plushies**



#### Social media fuels artisanal comfort objects that merge craft with wellness

Trend - A new wave of artisanal comfort objects is capturing attention online - crochet plushies that merge traditional Japanese craft with modern wellness culture. These handmade companions, ranging from whimsical animals to miniature food items, are more than just decorative pieces. While their intricate designs and tactile appeal drive viral social media content, their therapeutic benefits are creating deeper connections with a generation seeking tangible forms of comfort and mindfulness.

**Insight** - The surging popularity of handcrafted comfort objects reflects a deeper cultural shift toward physical items that soothe digital-age anxieties. In an era of virtual experiences and screen fatigue, consumers are gravitating toward items they can hold, touch, and display – objects that offer a bridge between aesthetic appeal and emotional wellbeing. This attraction to tactile comfort items signals an opportunity for brands to explore how physical products can be reimagined as tools for mental wellness, particularly for younger demographics seeking alternatives to purely digital solutions.



# The 2026 Trend Report







# Appendix

#### Get More From Your Experience

Your Trend Hunter custom reports are tailored to you using the world's most advanced, most powerful trend platform. Your dedicated advisor can help you get the most of it. This appendix shows you a few of the options that you have at your disposal and how other top-tier innovators rely on our service in different ways that could help you be more successful with less effort.

## Want More? Contact Us For Next Steps

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"Autodesk has found a lot of value in the information provided by Trend Hunter through the custom reports and through the dashboards. Thousands of folks here at Autodesk now have access to the dashboards."

# **Enhance your innovation leadership** with our Innovation Assessment and benchmarking





"Running an exceptionally high-performance team and the world's largest retail business means that we require the best thinking in the world. Jeremy Gutsche and Trend Hunter's [assessment-based workshops] was informative and we truly enjoyed their insights and methods," – EVP

## Schedule a call with an advisor. We'll become your ally in innovation



#### **Monthly Topics Call**

- Do you have any upcoming projects or presentations?
- What is the purpose / goal / desired breadth vs depth?
- Is this a new curiosity? Time-crunched rush? CEO meeting?

#### Fast, Custom Research in as Little as 24 Hours

#### i. High-Level Insights

Key opportunities, tied to megatrends w/ hyperlinked examples

#### **ii. Market & Case Studies** Must-see examples, competitor dynamics and more

**iii. Workshop Questions** Thought-provoking questions to tie it all back to your brand

#### Report Walkthroughs & Facilitated Brainstorms



59

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"The c filterin unders

"The custom reports really speak out to us. There is a lot of information out there, but filtering is really difficult. What makes the difference is having somebody who begins to understand what we are doing, who can really help with that curation." - Creative Director

# Feel inspired again with interactive reports & facilitation



"Traditionally we were only doing research in our category. Now, our Trend Hunter advisor does great custom reports showing us inspiring new trends [that impact us]... and what's going on in the world." – Manager, Product Planning and Strategy



## Thank you.

For any questions, please reach out. Advisory@trendhunter.com

