

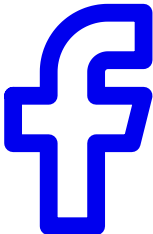
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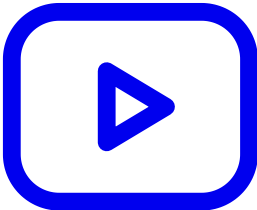
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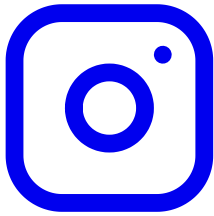


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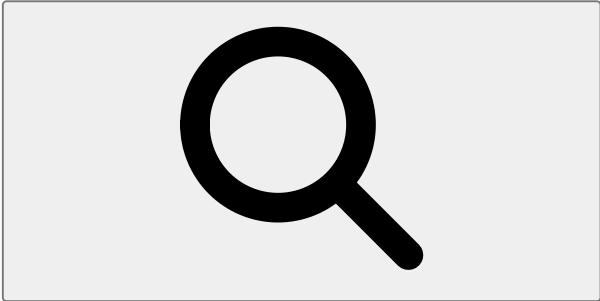
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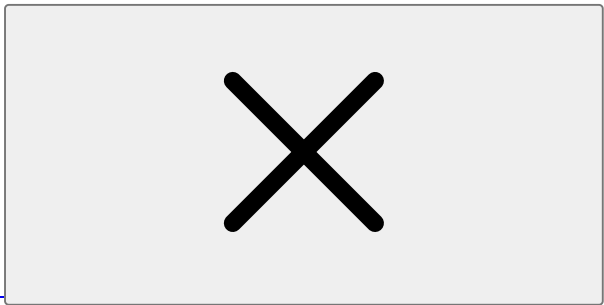




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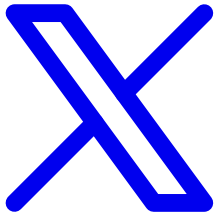


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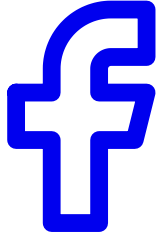
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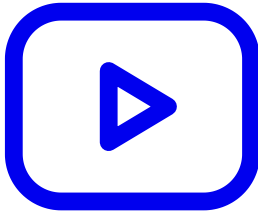
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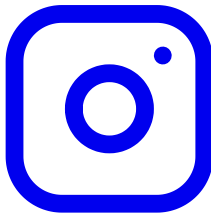
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Give your desktop a fresh new look with these great themes

Essential Guide: 11 Best GTK Themes for Ubuntu



by [Joey Sneddon](#) · Updated 3 January 2023 · [207 Comments](#)

Here's our pick of the best GTK themes for Ubuntu and other Linux distros, fully up-to-date for 2021.

[Want More Eye Candy?](#)
[8 Irresistible Icon Sets for Ubuntu](#)

Hundreds of gorgeous themes are available to download and use on Ubuntu from sites like [GNOME Look](#) and [Deviant Art](#).

But it's easy to feel overwhelmed by the sheer amount of choice that's on offer — hence this post!

We sifted through a tonne of popular GTK themes on your behalf to pull out the most beautiful, the most attractive, and the most visually striking.

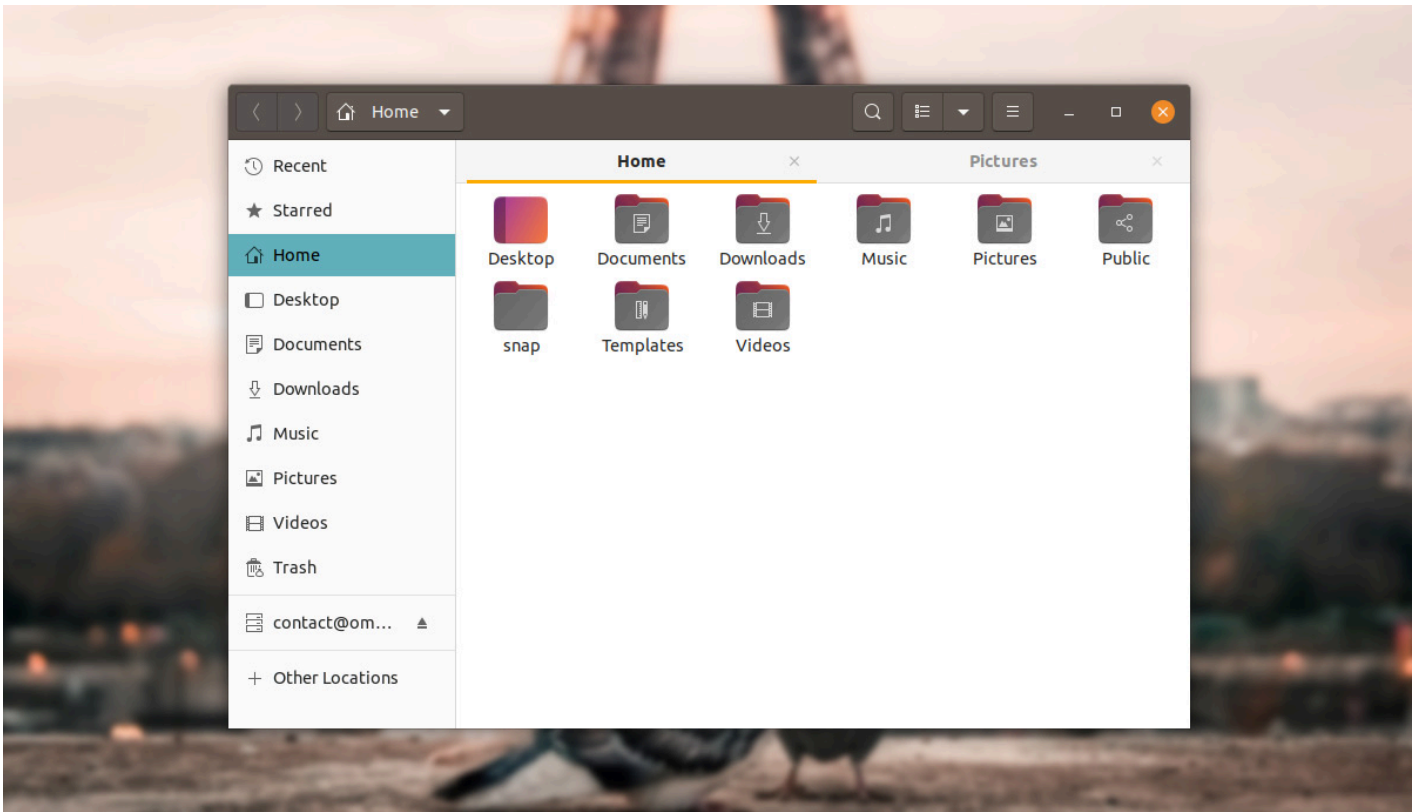
We're talking Ubuntu themes you'll want to screenshot and show off!

But better than that: this roundup of the top GTK themes has no broken links, no discontinued themes, no dead-end URLs, and no “...*Well it doesn't look like THAT in the screenshot*”. None. And if it's listed, it's been tested.

Ready to give your Ubuntu desktop a bold new look?

11 Top Ubuntu Themes

1. Pop GTK Theme



If you're after an elegant, modern look with a real zing to it then the *Pop* theme should suit.

The Pop theme offers an elegant, modern appearance that has a real zing to it

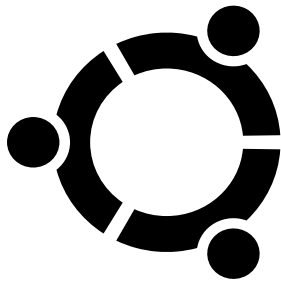


The *Pop* GTK theme is developed and maintained by Linux laptop makers *System76* and is the theme used by default in the Ubuntu-based *Pop!_OS* Linux distro.

The theme itself is based on *Adwaita*, the default GNOME theme featured further down this list, to help ensure that GTK apps look and function as expected when used with it.

What makes *Pop* particularly popular with Ubuntu users is the Ubuntu color scheme of brown and orange. And while it may be a flat theme it manages to pack in a lot of personality.

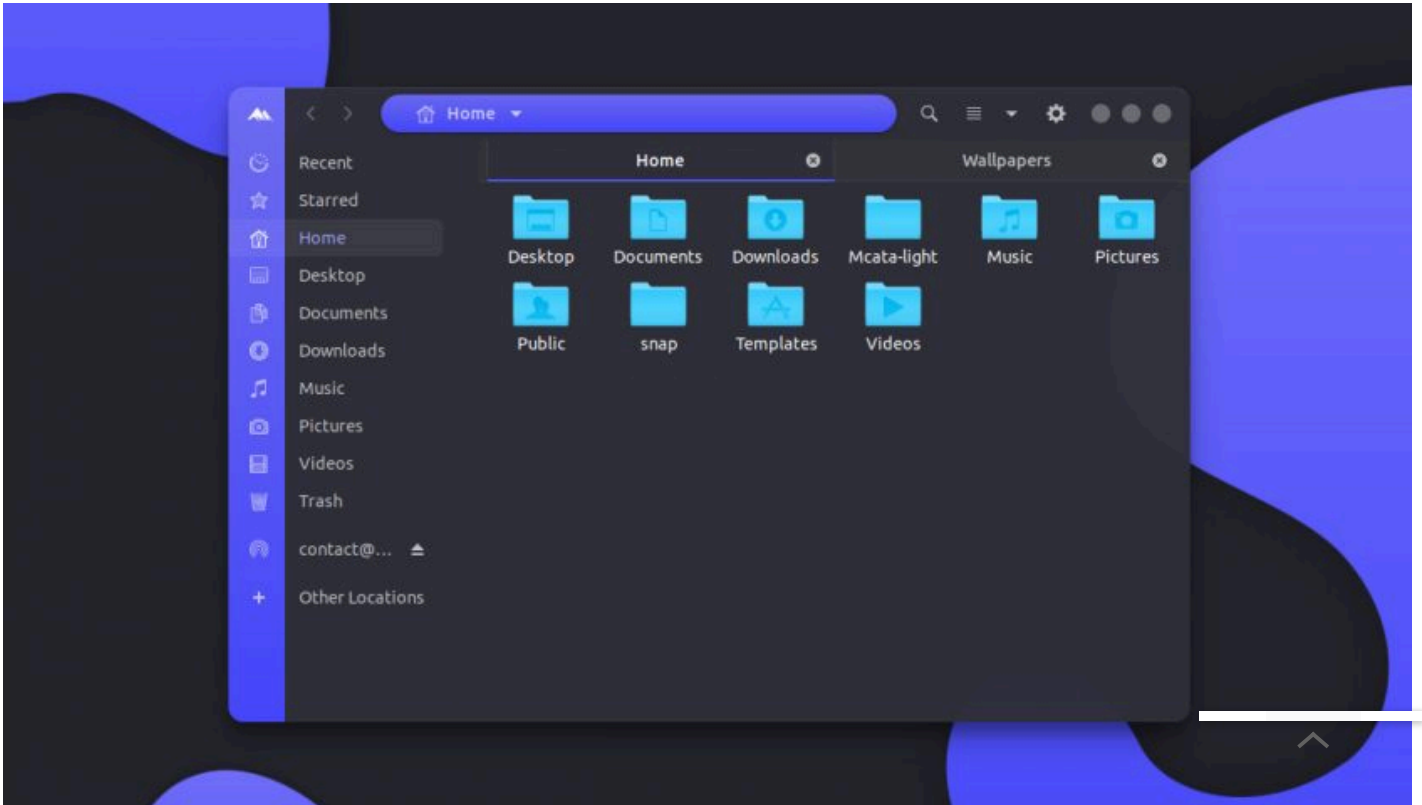
You can install the *Pop* theme on Ubuntu 20.04 LTS and above direct from the repos, no PPA required:



[Install Pop Theme from Ubuntu Software](#)

If you're using Ubuntu 18.04 LTS you will need to download an installer for an older version of the theme, which you can [grab via Launchpad](#).

2. Layan



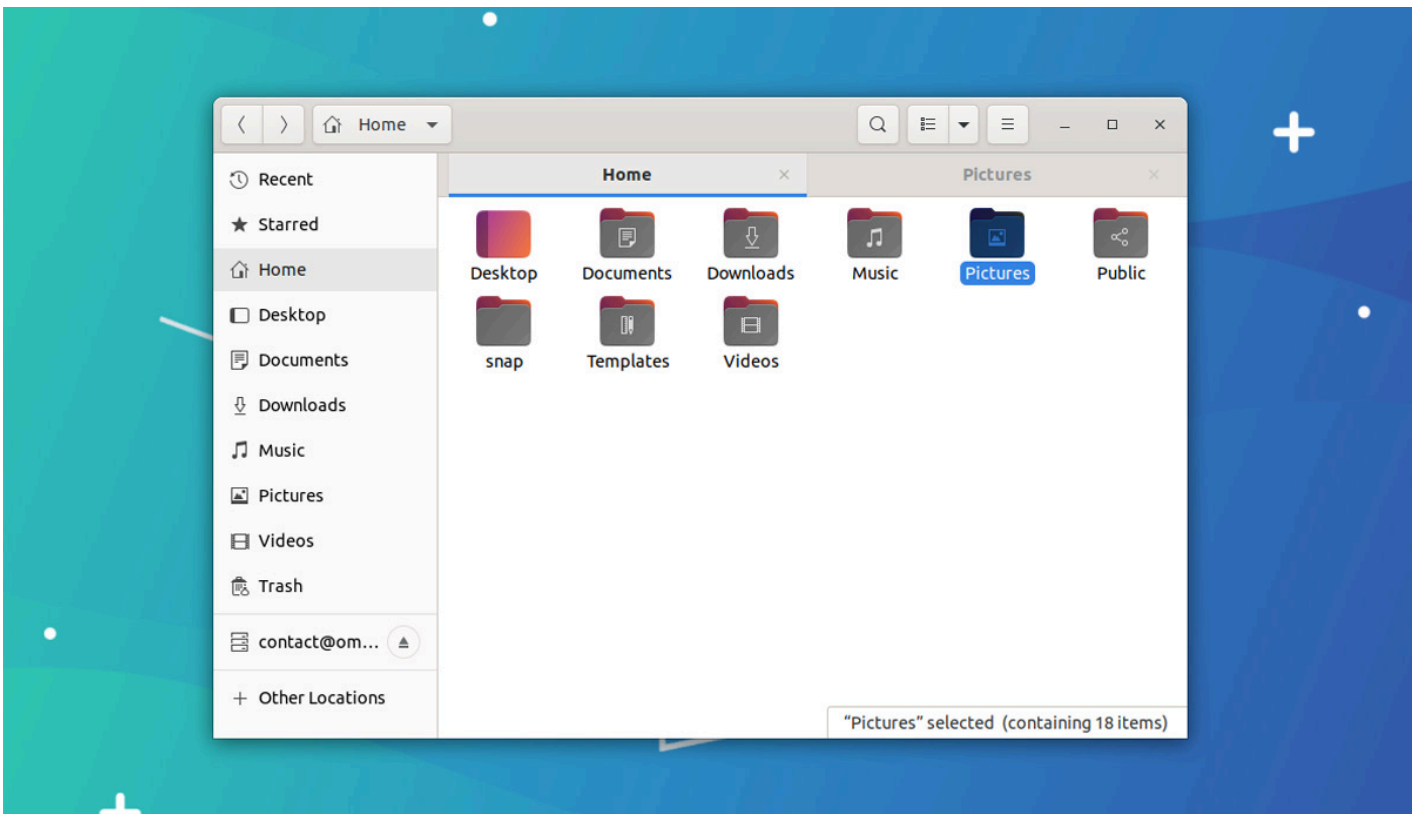
Layan is a flat material design theme for GTK 3 and GNOME Shell desktop which isn't exactly subtle, as you can see! It riffs on design tropes present in other themes by the same designer but is arguably the most accomplished of them all.

Rounded corners and shadowed layering help soften what could easily be an overpowering flair. *Layan* (as you might expect by now) is also available in light, dark and mixed versions, though it's the mixed one you see pictured here.

Notably, the sidebar in Nautilus is given a slick visual treatment not too dissimilar to the one used by *Ambiance* on [Ubuntu 18.04 LTS](#). Pair *Layan* with a complementarily-coloured wallpaper and icon set to enhance the overall aesthetic.

[Layan theme on GNOME-Look](#)

3. Adwaita Theme



Adwaita is GNOME's default theme and ships out-of-the-box in Fedora Workstation. Unassuming, it is considered the 'reference' theme for GTK app development and is the theme [Linux app devs would like people to use](#).

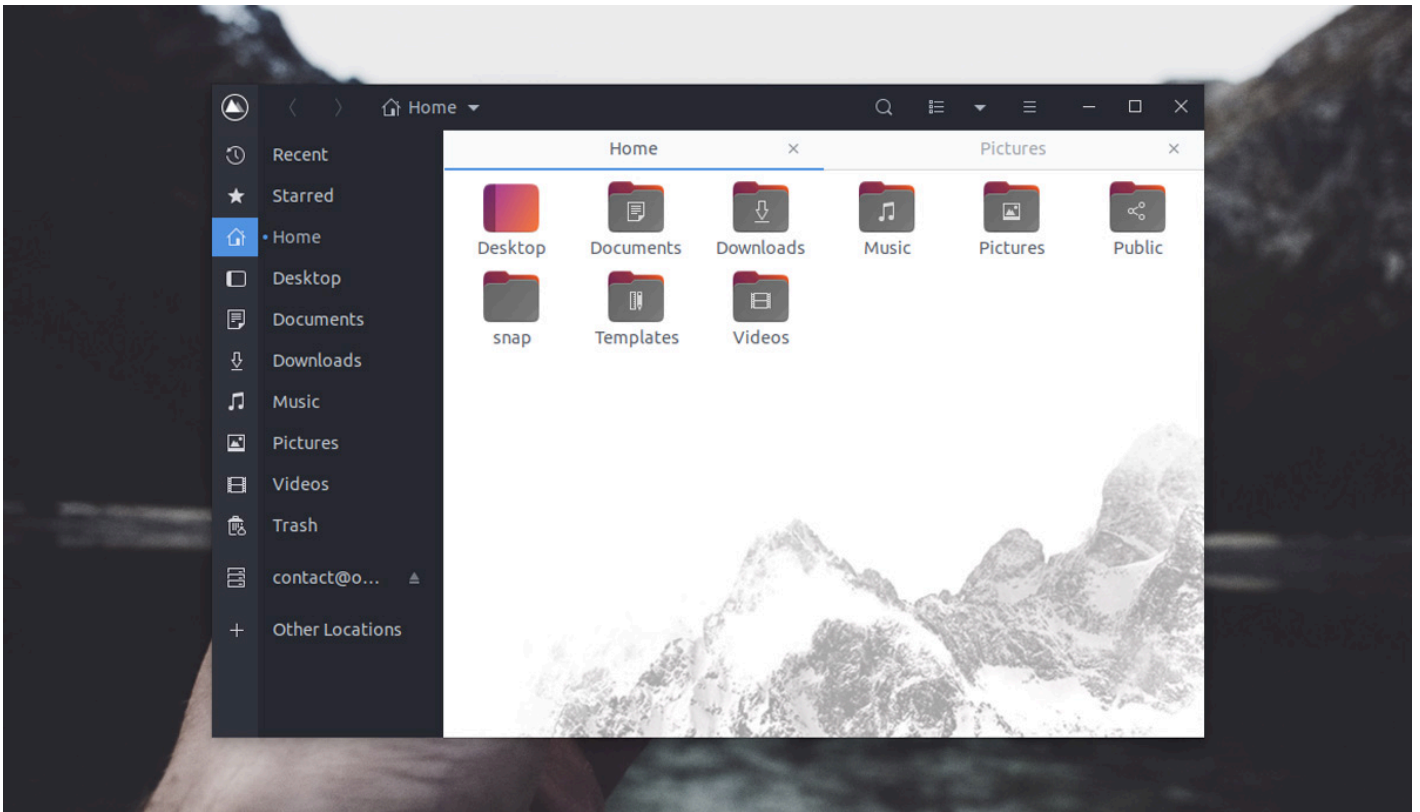
The steely grey tones of *Adwaita* are part of its refined color scheme, which is accented by a blue companion colour. The overall feel is utilitarian and the theme is largely free of any overly "showy" touches.

Talking of touches, *Adwaita*'s liberal use of padding in header bars, menus, and pop overs does mean it is better suited to 'touch friendly' devices than other themes on this list.

And a growing crop of well-known GTK themes are now built on top of *Adwaita*, including Ubuntu's default *Yaru* theme and System76's *Pop* theme . If you're after the definitive Linux look? Then *Adwaita* is what you want.

Adwaita is pre-installed in Ubuntu 18.04 LTS and above.

4. Qogir Theme



Each time I shine the spotlight on the [Qogir GTK theme](#) the reaction is the same: readers *love* it — and you only need eyes to see why!

Visually striking, *Qogir*’s use of straight lines, duotone colour palette, and eye-catching file manager backgrounds (which are totally optional, btw) combine to curate a look that’s as iconic as it is unique.

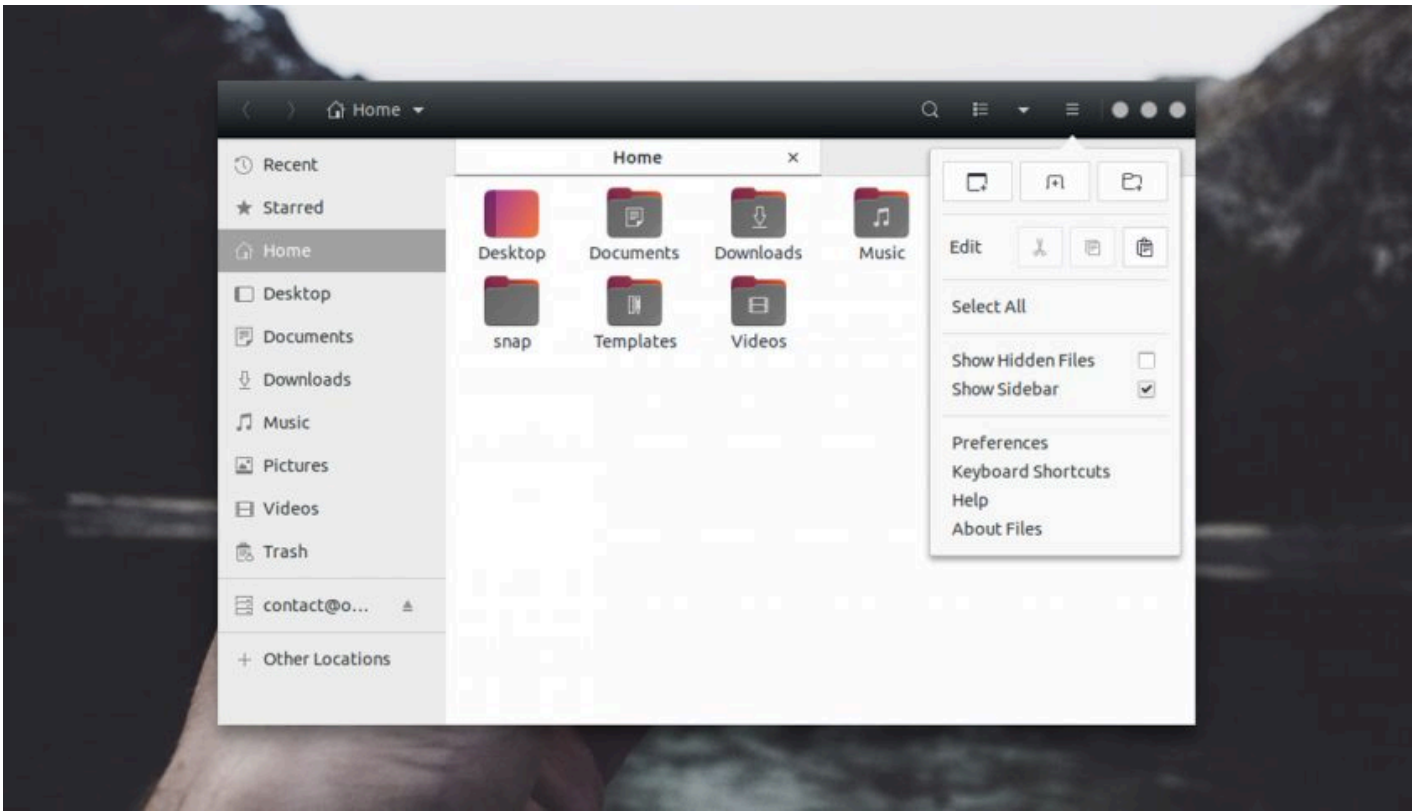
But part of *Qogir*’s broad appeal also comes from its broad adaptability.

Three distinct variants of the main theme are available, with a bunch of sub-variants within (including an Ubuntu coloured one). This (almost) guarantees that there’s a version of the *Qogir* theme to suite everyone, regardless of what their particular tastes may be.

The best way to install the Qogir theme on Ubuntu is to use the install script available from the project’s [GitHub](#) page.

[View Qogir on GitHub](#)

5. Dark Aurora



Flat themes are all the rage but there's an understated elegance to those offering a bit of gloss and a classy gradient, as *Dark Aurora* shows. This theme pitches itself as being “easy on the eyes” and it doesn't disappoint; this theme oozes class.

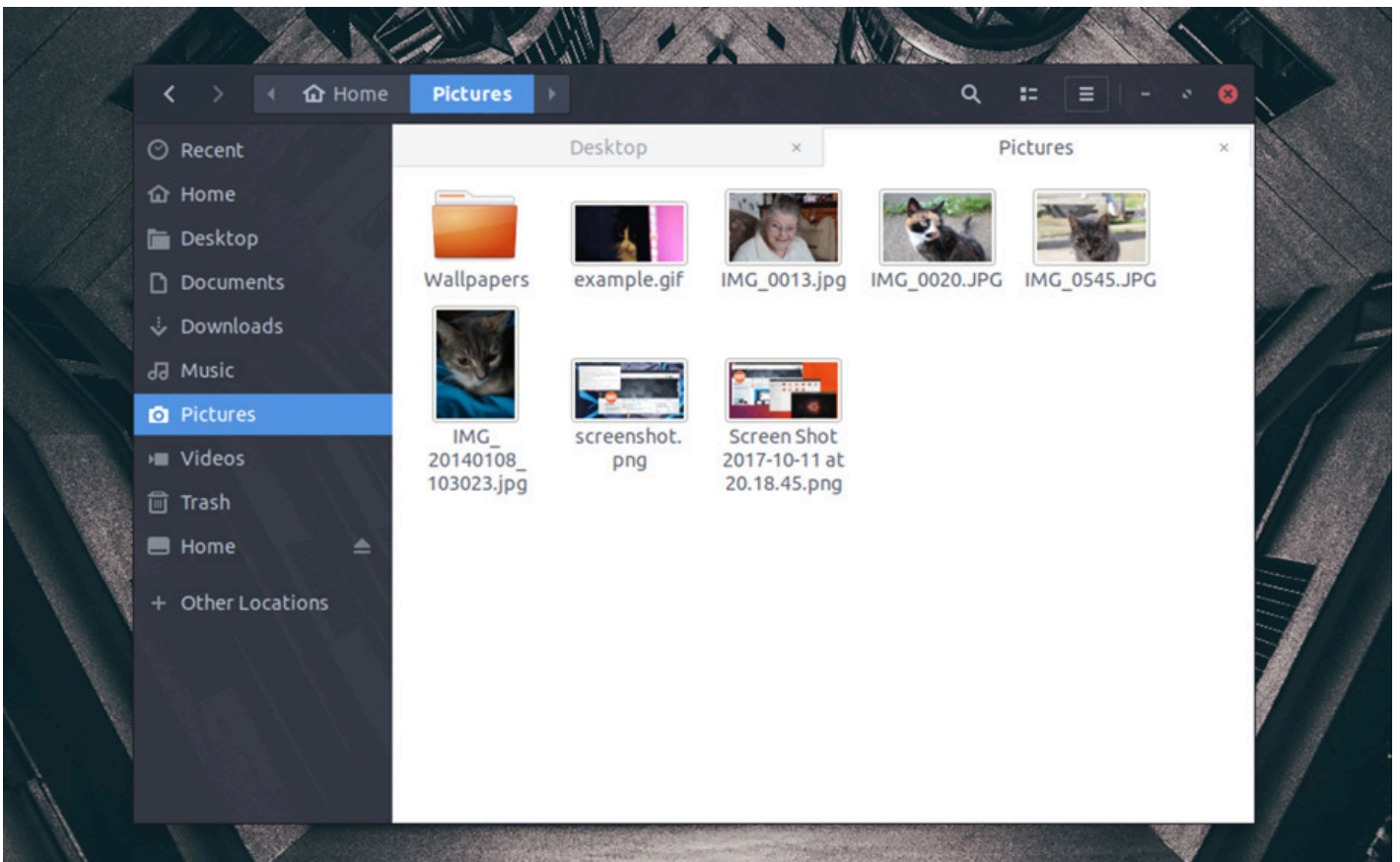
The colour choices of the grey variant don't demand attention, and instead gracefully act as an unassuming backdrop to other apps. The theme also touts some great window borders (if the overall size of the window chrome is too much for your tastes you may prefer a compact version called [Borealis](#)).

As well being available in a range of colours (not just grey, previewed above) there is an all-dark variant called [Ultimate Dark](#) if you like the look, but yearn for a little less brightness.

[Dark Aurora theme on GNOME-Look](#)



6. Arc

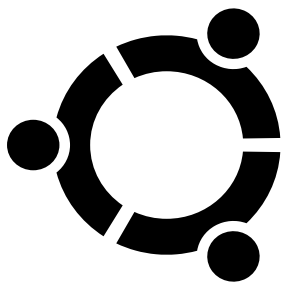


Ahh, we come to *Arc*. This theme is arguably **the** most popular GTK theme with Linux users, winning fans across multiple distros and even inspiring some Windows customisation hacks!

Arc shuns gradients and gloss in favour of a straight-forward 2D UI. It stays as flat as possible. This consistency gives apps, menus and windows a minimal, modern look. Transparent touches in window elements (such as the Nautilus sidebar) help add some dynamism and texture, meaning things never feel too fat.

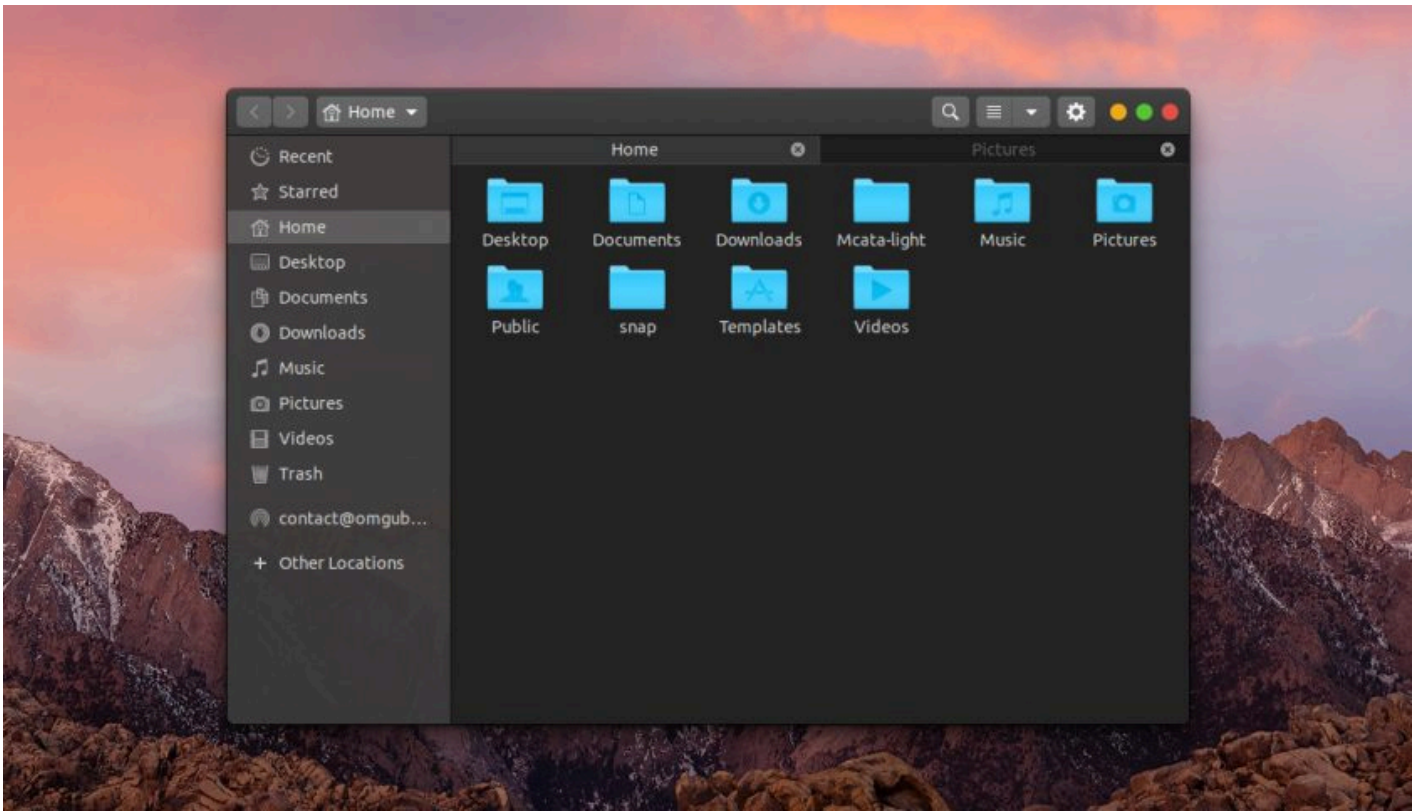
Like other modern theme the *Arc* GTK theme is available in 3 variants: light, dark, and darker (which mixes dark window bars with light contents, and is pictured above).

You can install the Arc GTK theme on Ubuntu 18.04 LTS and straight from the repo. If you are using Ubuntu 20.04 I'd suggest you [download a newer version of Arc direct from Gitlab](#) for the most pixel-perfect experience potentially possible.



[Install the Arc GTK Theme from Ubuntu Software](#)

7. Mcata



It's surprisingly easy to [make Ubuntu look like a Mac](#) and a large part of *why* it's so easy is because there's an array of top-notch GTK themes that ape the appearance of Apple's desktop operating system incredibly accurately.

And the absolute *best* Mac theme for Linux right now? I'd say it's *Mcata*, created by prolific theme maker *Vinceliuice*.

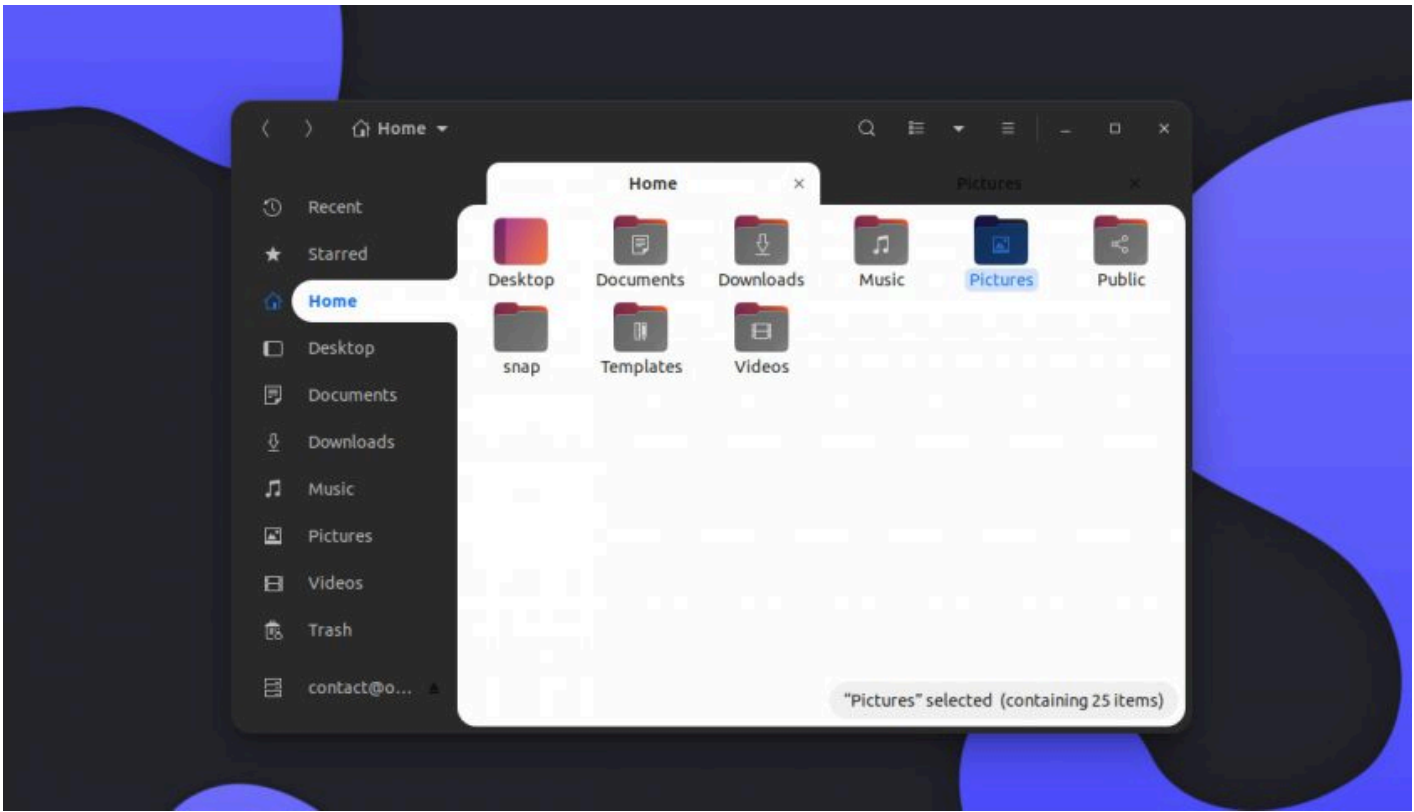
Mcata is a soft fork of the authors' own Mojave-inspired theme and boasts the same fastidious attention to detail, eerily evoking the exact look and feel of Apple's desktop aesthetic.

But the designer also manages to translate the things which make a Mac look like a Mac into something that also looks good on the Linux desktop. As a bonus the theme is available in both dark and light builds, as well as solid and semi-translucent versions.

Pair *Mcata* with the terrific *OS Catalina* icon pack and the *Plank* dock and passers by will be hard-pressed to tell you're not using a real Mac!

[Mcata theme on GNOME-Look](#)

8. Orchis



If you want to make a statement with your Linux desktop setup then *Orchis* is a sure-fire way to do that.

Orchis is a predominately dark theme that mixes flat elements of Google’s material design language with deftly rounded window corners and a soft, tactile colour palette.

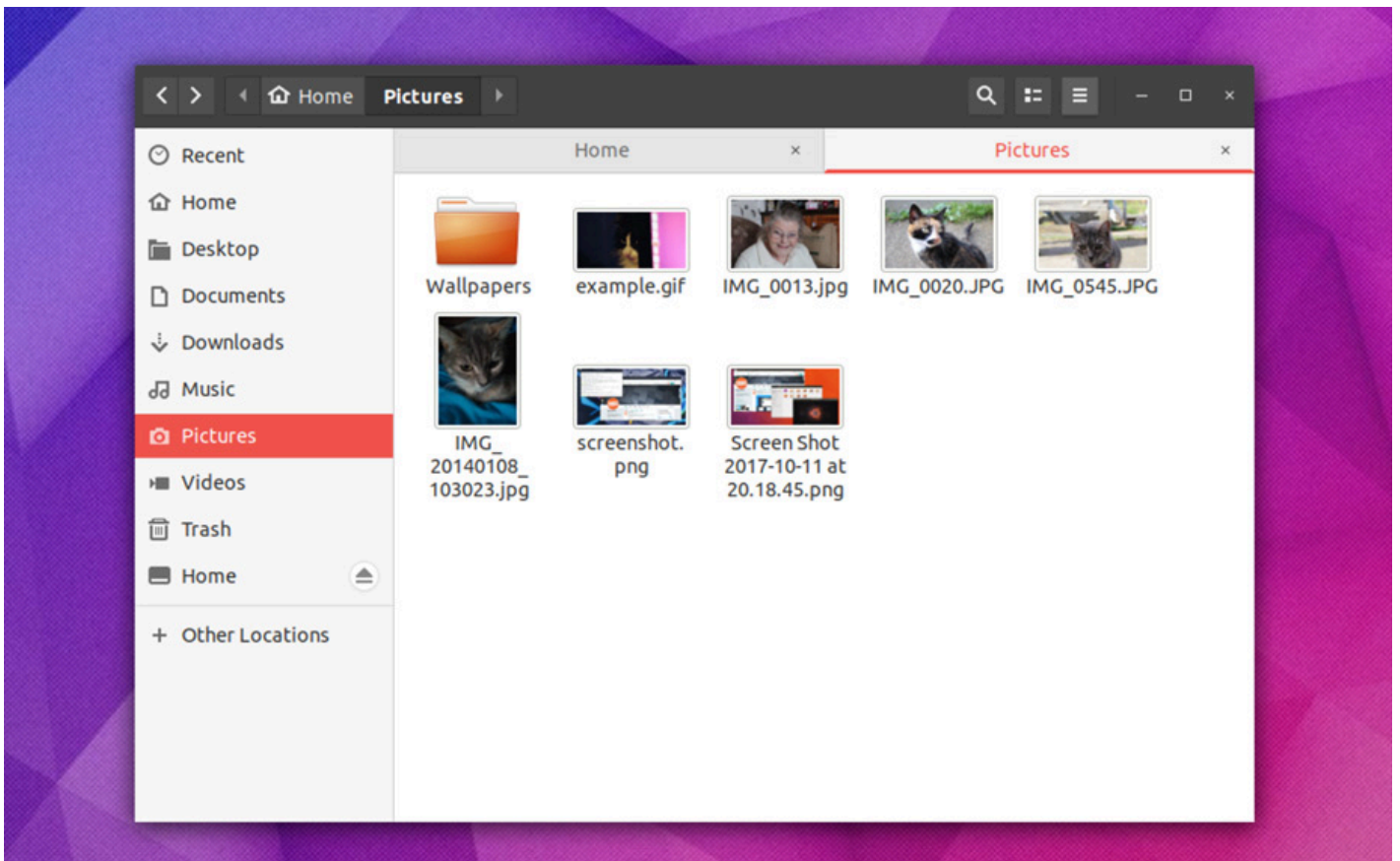
Like other “Material Design” themes, *Orchis* GTK theme is based on the [Materia theme](#) created by nana-4. That said, it’s far from being a carbon copy of it; it sets its own visual tone.

When paired with the matching GNOME Shell theme (by the same author) *Orchis* curates a look that feels more Google-y than Google’s own Chrome OS — which isn’t a bad vibe at all!

[Orchis theme on GNOME-Look](#)



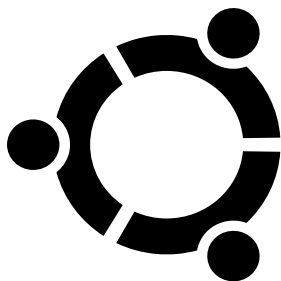
9. Numix



For something a solid alternative to the Arc theme try [Numix](#).

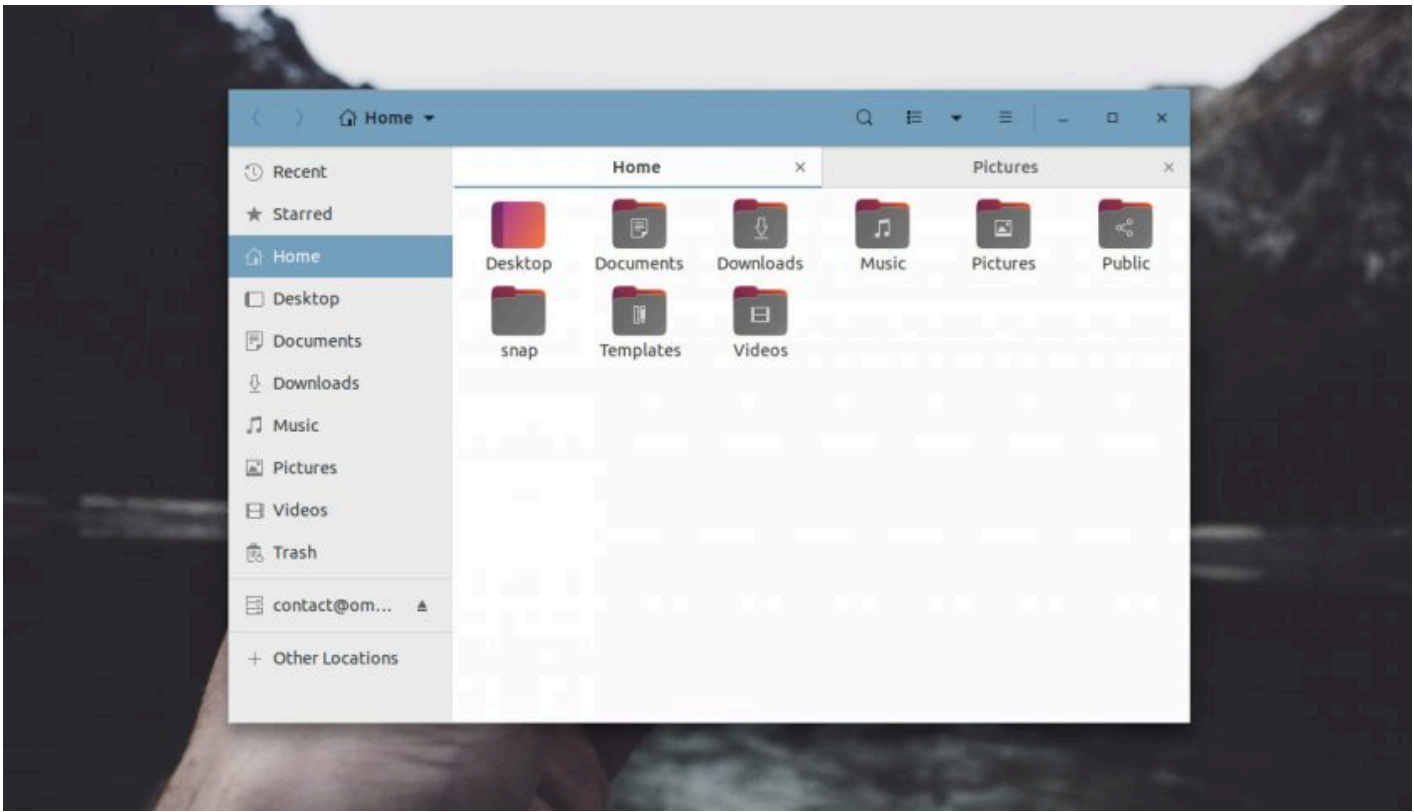
Numix balances light and dark elements together to create a rich, striking design that holds its own. Using red as its main highlight color is a bold choice, but one that enables Numix to make a distinctive impression on the desktop.

Better still, you can install the *Numix* theme on Ubuntu from the *Ubuntu Software* store:



[Install Numix GTK Theme from Ubuntu Software](#)

10. Aurora Nuevo



If bold colours or dramatic visual statements aren't quite your cup of tea you should throw some attention in the direction of *Aurora Nuevo*.

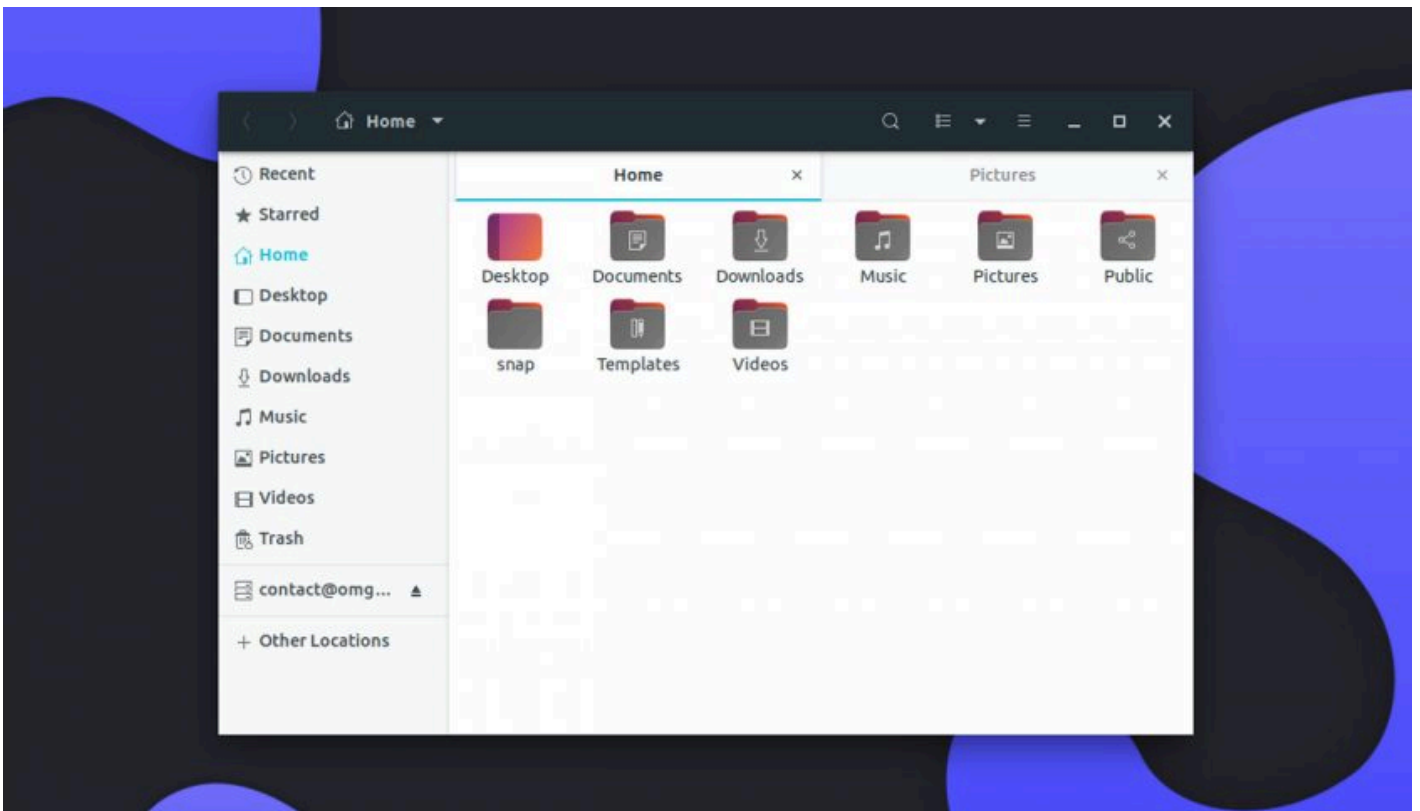
This theme is described as a “pastel colored Material design like Gnome theme” and, at first blush, that's exactly what it is. But *Aurora Nuevo* is available in a wide array of different accent colours (blue pictured above) as well as a less flat variant too for those who want it.

If you like the look of *Dark Aurora* but a pinch of colour with your eye candy, the sultry tones of *Aurora Nuevo* should suit you well (especially when paired with [matching folders icons](#)).

[Aurora Nuevo theme on GNOME-Look](#)

11. Adapta





[Adapta](#) (or more accurately the theme it's derived from, [Materia](#)) is HUGELY popular with both Linux users and Linux theme makers (the theme is used as the base for several GTK themes in this roundup).

Adapta is inspired by Google's [Material Design](#) language. If you're a fan of the Android aesthetic you'll find lots to love in Adapta. It makes heavy use of layering and shadows, spacious padding, good contrast, and so on.

But Adapta has another advantage: it is available in dizzying array of variants including the regular **Adapta** theme (pictured), a dark variant called **Adapta-Nokto**, and a less spacious spin called **Adapta-Eta** — and most of these are available in specific colour versions too!

We've shown you [how to install Adapta GTK theme](#) on Ubuntu before. Those steps haven't changed: pop open a new *Terminal* window, add the official PPA, then install the theme on Ubuntu 18.04 LTS or above:

```
sudo apt-add-repository ppa:tista/adapta -y
sudo apt update && sudo apt install adapta-gtk-theme
```

Summary

So there you have it; our pick of the best GTK themes for Ubuntu Linux.

We've got a guide covering [how to change theme on Ubuntu](#) should you need it.

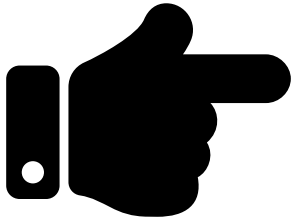
A few bonus shout-outs: the [Ant GTK theme](#) and its bloody highlight color; [Cloudy](#) provides a relaxing and soft aesthetic; if you're into the Nord theme then both [Nordic](#) and [Adapta Nord](#) are worth checking out.

Other Mac-inspired GTK themes worth checking out include [Prof-GNOME](#) and, for those wanting something a little less 1:1, [McOS-Transparent](#).



Relaxing colour scheme

There are *hundreds* more themes out there on sites like GNOME Look, DeviantArt, and GitHub if this list leaves you hungry for more. With new GTK themes being produced every month we plan to keep this list updated to keep pace so...

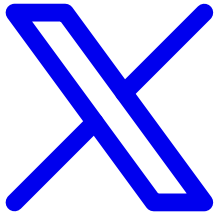


Got a fave theme you think should be here? Let me know about it

below!

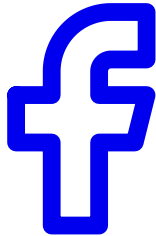
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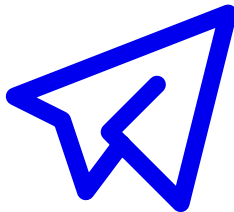
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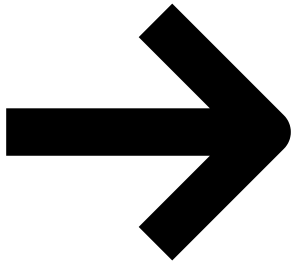
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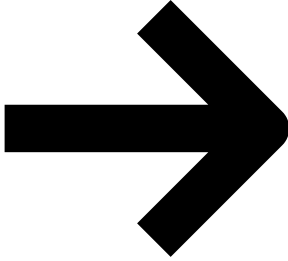
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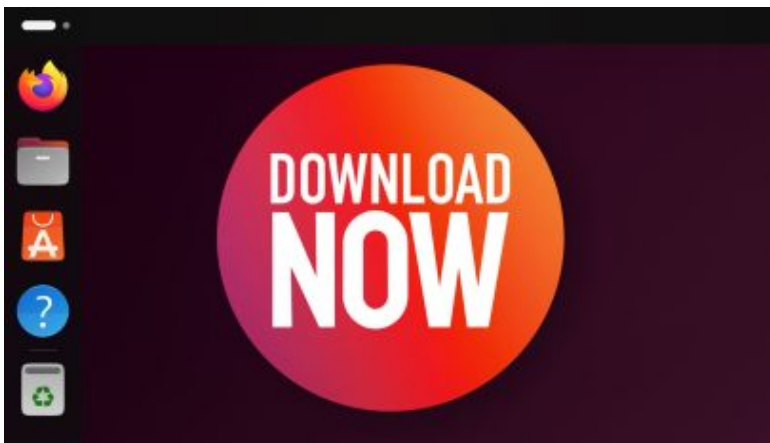
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Seems ubuntu programmers have forgotten how to make transparent glass themes with round edges and highlights that give the illusion of a 3d pane . I guess windows 7 Aero Glass was truly a work of art that has been lost to time. All these new OS's look so flat and boring.

— 



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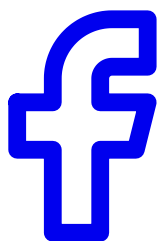


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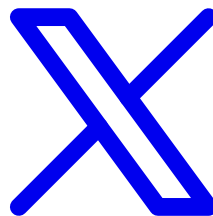


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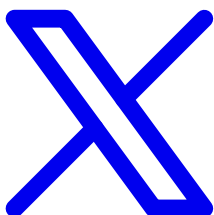
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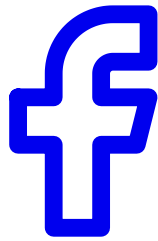


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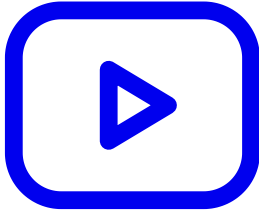
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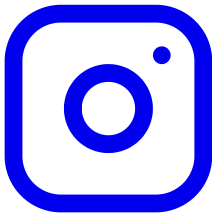




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