

# ASK THE DESIGNER: The Comeback of Wallpaper

By Jean Bisnaire  
Niche Decor

We are seeing a big resurgence in the use of wallpaper right now. Modern day adhesives and formulas make it much easier to work with and remove than the old wall paper of the 70s, making it a very popular way to add dimension & character to any space. I like to think of wallpaper as paint. I advise clients to keep furniture and investment pieces neutral, and have fun with your paper! The two most common applications of wallpaper are accent walls, and papering entire rooms. To create an accent wall, start by finding your focal point - the area you want to stand out. This may be a wall in your dining room, the wall with the fireplace, or even a bedroom wall.

Show your fun side with a bold geometric pattern or a funky floral. Looking for something a little bit more subtle? Select a paper in quiet colour with a tone on tone pattern. This look is the perfect way to achieve an understated elegant look. Layer your wall with art, a mirror, or beautiful wall sconces.

Looking for something a little bit different?

Try wallpapering the wall of your stairwell. Keep your rails and carpentry simple and let the wallpaper do the talking. For another very interesting look you can wallpaper your ceiling. Papering a recessed ceiling in a dining room and then hanging a gorgeous chandelier creates such a striking look. Imagine the shadows cast from a multilayer chandelier on a beautifully patterned paper. Gorgeous!

If you're interested in covering an entire room in paper, note the size of the room. Small spaces look better with large patterns as smaller patterns can look busy and distracting. For impact, wallpaper your foyer - this will set the tone for the entire home.

Want to try a quirky look?

The powder room is a great place to try something with a bold pattern or fun splash of colour.

I had a client who loved to read and had a cozy little reading room. We didn't have the depth to install wall to wall bookcases so, instead, I found a paper with book pages and covered her walls with that. She was surrounded 360 degrees by the thing she loved most. Wallpaper makes themed rooms so easy. The kids' rooms are a perfect application for this.

There are maps, murals, postcards, etc. The possibilities are endless with today's amazing selection of papers.

Some people aren't quite ready to take the leap into fully papering a space. There are many other ways to use wallpaper in your home without over committing. Consider papering the back of a bookcase or display cabinet. It will create an instantly updated custom look. You can play with the patterns and textures of the paper by carefully selecting your displayed accessories.

This same application can be used in kitchen cabinets or drawers to add a simple pop of personality without being over the top.

Another creative way to use wallpaper is on your stair risers. This will create depth and interest to your staircase. Consider using a durable paper for this as stairs generally see the majority of traffic in a house.

Whatever look you are trying achieve, whether it be formal, casual, glam, quaint, funky or simple, there is wallpaper for you. In addition to a seemingly endless variety of patterns there are so many interesting textures as well. Grasscloth can add a warm and luxurious twist; there are leathers, velvets, faux wood papers and even glitter!

Most companies provide small sized samples. You can take them home and try them out in your space - making it easier for you to decide which one is the perfect fit. Wallpaper is like art and should reflect who you are and what you love.

Come in and see us for some inspiration and ideas!