



Shelley Carroll of Boyd's Decorating in Unionville shows off some of the latest wallpaper patterns — Nancy Hoskin

Wallpaper popular for modern interiors

By NANCY HOSKIN
For the past several years interior decorators and do-it-yourself enthusiasts have been avoiding the use of wallpaper. Paint has been the mainstay in decorating for a clean, neutral look.

According to Shelley Carroll, manager of Boyd's Decorating in Unionville, wallpaper is rapidly making a comeback, with a broad selection to suit everyone's tastes. Color is in, whether used discriminately or boldly.

It is highly recommended that you not add paint or paper to a new home for the first year, as the home has yet to settle and you will not want to lose your investment in wall

coverings with drywall cracking and nail pops showing. Most builders will fix the flaws, but will not be willing to replace expensive paper and paint.

According to Mrs. Carroll, borders, narrow strips of paper used along baseboards or at corners, are becoming more popular. They are inexpensive, ranging from a dollar a yard up to nine dollars a yard (with the average being \$2.95 a yard), and can add the needed touch of color to any new house.

"Borders and paint are an economical way to dress up a room on a budget. They are easy to apply, most are pre-pasted or can be purchased as

the peel and stick variation. Both techniques take less than an hour to apply to a room. They are also easy to coordinate with fabrics," said Mrs. Carroll.

Wallpaper is on the rebound. After several years of holding a place behind paint, more decorators are advising their clients to hang it.

Bigger patterns are popular, especially in dining rooms. With a larger pattern, you are able to choose colors in the paper and build on them, adding accents to your existing decor.

If you're starting from scratch, colors for your drapes, carpet and upholstery can be chosen based on the paper you choose.

The first trick when decorating a room, whether from scratch or when redecorating, is to examine your upholstery and determine what paper will go nicely with it, then choose your paint. You want to build from a focal point, whether it be a pattern in your couch, paper or drapery.

Most wallpapers have coordinates, usually three or four matching patterns, plus borders, which all tie in together. For decorating several rooms you can have an instant color scheme with one theme and won't have to jump from book to book. All the leg work is done for you.

There are different kinds of wallpaper you may wish to try, which add texture to walls. String and grass cloth add a warm feeling, while a silk string will provide a more formal look. Morie, a paper with a satin luster, works well in hallways whether it is patterned or plain.

Papering a ceiling, in a small bathroom, for example, offers a cozy, warm look. Borders applied to cathedral ceilings lower the ceiling, making it less cavernous. Most small prints need to be combined with a border or large patterned paper on an adjoining wall. The small prints tend to get lost on their own.

Paint will continue to remain a popular option for economical decorating. Strong colors are popular, those that remain traditional, along with a few bolder favorites.

Different shades of blue, peach and dusty rose top the list, with several shades of yellow and teal following behind. Earth tones are definitely out.

"Because we went through a long period with colored appliances — harvest gold, avocado and chocolate brown; to name a few, people have been fearful of mixing color with kitchen decor," Mrs. Carroll said.

"Now, most kitchens are neutral, with almond appliances, counter tops, floors and cupboards," she added. "People shouldn't be afraid of putting in a wild and crazy color in to brighten the area. You will still maintain the solid background, because the color will never be overwhelming. There just isn't a lot of wall room to work with. The color merely becomes an accent."

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