

Home Interiors

Perfectly paisley: a fabric that's right for any interior

Paisley—the name conjures up Victorian parlors, richly decorated shawls from India and fabrics ranging from fine wool to raw silk. Per-

haps this is why paisley has become such a popular fabric motif. It is right in almost any interior, in almost any fabric type.

The paisley symbol was brought from India back to the mills in Paisley, Scotland by British merchants who travelled the silk road. The Paisley mills are where woolen shawls and scarves were produced and where the paisley got its name in the Western world.

The appeal of paisley lies in its simplicity. It can be used as a small all-over motif or as a part of an intricate and large-scale design. The way it is used can transform almost any room from the ordinary to the special.

For example, used with oriental furnishings, lacy ferns and as a gracious canopy treatment, a paisley design can turn a room into an exotic retreat.

Conversely, used in a dark-paneled room with a leather sofa and

chairs, and dark walnut furniture, paisley fabric can contribute to creating a tailored men's club atmosphere.

Increasingly, fabric companies have offered paisley designs in contemporary and pastel shades in addition to the traditional ruby red, sapphire blue and emerald green hues.

Recycling: From castaways to keepsakes

Garbage is garbage. Or so you've always thought. The greening of North America, however, is forcing many people to think twice before they throw something away.

Try looking at boxes, bottles and lidded cans with a new eye. For example, tall, slim glass bottles (such as wine or vinegar bottles) can show off homemade flavored vinegars to their best advantage. Cover a lidded box or can with wrapping paper, wallpaper, or fabric, then personalize with trims, buttons, beads and so on. Fill with candies or cookies and you have an inexpensive, tasty gift. Breathe new life into pickle or jelly jars by gluing trims to their lids, then fill with bath beads, spices, potpourri, fancy pastas and preserves.

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