

BY NIKI FANARA

All About That Paper: *Not Your Grandmother's Style*

For many years, the design world was anti-wallpaper. To be fair, the options and materials available were somewhat slim and underwhelming. Think back to your great aunt's powder room with a funky seashell print or your grandmother's kitchen papered in rows of tiny fruits and vines — the hesitation and distaste seem warranted. Now, with a wild resurgence of stylish, high-end designs, paper often beats paint.



love papering kids' rooms, as they are typically more theme-oriented, which makes it fun."

If you're considering wallpaper for your home but feeling apprehensive, experts like McKinzie recommend starting small. "My favorite rooms to paper are powder baths," she said.

"There's almost more freedom people are willing to express in these spaces; they feel like they can be bolder in their selections since it's a small space and doesn't feel so deeply committed," McKinzie said. "Plus, it's a relatively easy change down the road as styles evolve."

On occasion, designers face the obstacle of not finding the right print or texture needed for their projects, and sometimes want more personalization for the space. For Shay Geyer, designer and owner of IBB Design in Frisco, it made sense to create what wasn't available in the market.

"I have used wallpaper in so many different ways; the design possibilities are endless!"

TIFFANY MCKINZIE
Dallas Interior Designer

"We got into developing wallpaper per project, and then people would see the samples and want something similar," Geyer said. "Fun ways we've personalized paper for clients have been pulling from the floral design in their favorite rug or painting patterns inspired by pictures of their family members or pets — the options are limitless."

Just as personal tastes and home styles change, so do trends. When colors like cerulean and emerald are filling runways, consumers want to see nods from their favorite brands and fashion magazines reflected in their spaces.

Ask any designer today and they'll tell you that the character and depth achieved through wallpaper is unmatched. From bold prints and textures to metallic or geometric patterns, wallpaper is trendy again, and even admired as a design feature in many homes.

Some designers, like Dallas' Tiffany McKinzie, have valued and utilized wallpaper for years, regardless of its popularity. "My affinity for wallpaper goes back to when I started my business 16 years ago," McKinzie said. "I have incorporated it, in some capacity, on every single project I've ever done."

With many versatile uses, wallpaper has been popping up more frequently, and sometimes in unexpected places. Where paper once adorned all four walls or simply served as an accent on one, now designers are thinking creatively, papering everything from ceilings to furniture.

"I have used wallpaper in so many different ways; accent walls in bedrooms, interiors of cabinets and bookcases, ceilings, linings of drawers and inside wardrobes," McKinzie said. But there's still nothing wrong with using it in a traditional way, too. "I also



Photo by Dan Piasick



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Photo by Igid Consulting

"Our design team loves natural textures, but wanted more options. We recently launched a line of hand-woven wallpapers to include three designs made from materials like banana bark, water hyacinth, and paper and metallic threads," Geyer said. "All with the ability to customize color, and in a relatively quick turnaround."

"Instead of asking how we use wallpaper, it's really a question of how do we not use it!"

SHAY GEYER

Designer and Owner of IBB Design

People are putting wallpaper in places their parents would have never imagined. "We get requests for laundry rooms, mudrooms, alcoves of children's play areas," Geyer said. "Don't forget about your fifth wall; the ceiling is another unique place for paper."

While alternative uses are more common in today's designs, the task is not always as easy as a weekend DIY project. "Some of my favorite uses include furniture, but it is definitely an art," Geyer said. "It may sometimes require a 12-hour process with layers of lacquer between coats, and you have to wrap the corners just right for drawers and doors to function properly."

That being said, papered walls (and furniture) have stolen our hearts – and those of the experts, as well. So when thinking of your next interior update or even furniture refresh, don't count out wallpaper and do seek services from local design professionals.



A photograph of Geyer's daughters inspired this sketched wallpaper design featured in their family beach house in Watercolor, Florida.