

paper planes

The world of interiors is embracing a more decorative approach, with luxurious wallpaper transforming walls into colour-drenched sheets of art

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Make this!
BEDHEAD
For details on how to make this, see page 136.



Headboard covered in Osborne & Little 'Farfalla' wallpaper by Nina Campbell, from \$200/10m roll, Mokum. 'Coral' cushion, \$160, Avenue Joffre. **Cushion** in Ardecora 'Caire' fabric, from \$550/metre, Mokum. Hemp/cotton fitted sheet, \$160/queen, flat sheet, \$150/queen, European pillowcase set, \$80/pair, all Hemp Gallery. Stansborough throw, \$250, Planet Commonwealth. **Dress**, stylist's own. Sultan mattress base, \$400/queen, Ikea. Red spider orchids, \$33/bunch, Garlands. Sandy Lockwood beaker, \$40, Planet Commonwealth. S&L 'Fine Line' side table in Solid Walnut, \$1295/400mm x 500mm, Spence & Lyda. Glass table lamp base in Clear, \$499, Domayne Design. **Lampshade** covered in Osborne & Little 'Asuka' fabric, from \$450/metre, Mokum. **Wall** painted in Wash & Wear 101 Advanced Flat paint in Happy Days, \$77.99/four litres, Dulux.



Once a mainstay of psychedelic '70s decor, wallpaper has been revived in recent years with an array of exquisite, elegant and decadent designs. For instant glamour or a statement-making update, wallpaper is unique in its sensuously tactile appeal. Pay homage to your childhood with a nostalgia-inducing print, go wild with outrageous lines and patterns, or simply create a feature wall of velvety strokes and inky shadows. Best of all, the newest wallpapers can be changed with little fuss or mess, meaning this interiors masterstroke is now more achievable than ever.

Wallpapers ARE MIMICKING LACE, MOSAICS, FEATHERS AND PEARLS.

touchy subject

Even wallpaper is environmentally sensitive these days, with design houses using water-based inks printed on paper from managed timber sources, but that's not the only way the product has changed. Here are a few of the new faces of wallpaper:

Vinyl-coated wallpaper is durable and moisture-resistant. Perfect for high-traffic and wet zones, it can be washed with a damp cloth.

Grass-cloth wallcoverings are woven from synthetic or natural plant fibres, then laminated onto a paper backing. Although it's not easily cleaned, it's had a strong resurgence in its traditional form and in modern designs such as Monarch's range from Boyac, which features metallic lines overlaying a textural grass background.

Paintables are textured wallpapers which you paint yourself, such as Graham & Brown's new range, available through the Bunnings Warehouse special orders desk. Any type of paint can be used, including metallics and washables.

Even good old paper has a new look, with boutique houses such as Afficionados of the Nod and Publisher Textiles releasing intricate handprinted ranges with intense colours, all printed to order.

star walls

Wallpapers are pushing the envelope by mimicking lace, mosaics, feathers and pearls. A timber look and even faux animal skins have also found favour. Wallpaper devotees have been quick to embrace baroques, which have developed a brighter, softer feel (see the new baroques on page 138), but are also moving beyond with the latest ink-inspired ranges, including Ferm Living's Fashion paper (far right).

Botanical elements continue to delight, including the new Designers for Porter's Paints collection, featuring seasonal prints by hip clothing and costume designer Bowie Wong (see page 139), and the surreal cherry blossoms of Élitis' 'Glass Narco Flowers' (top right). >



Top: Élitis 'Glass Narco Flowers' wallcovering in Black and White, from \$900/1m x 10m roll, Seneca. Linen pendant shade with wallpaper interior, \$299, Lightstyle. Hollow circle lamp with butterfly shade, \$653.50, Domayne Design. **Vase**, stylist's own. **Bottom:** Umbr 'Mosaico' wallpaper in Black/Silver (behind desk, left), \$149/10m roll, Julien Macdonald 'Dazzle' wallpaper in Silver/Black (covering drawers), \$149/10m roll, both Graham & Brown. Graham & Brown Sandberg 'Margot' wallpaper in Grey (on chair), \$165/10m roll, Ascraft. WallSmart 'Fashion' wallpaper (on wall, right), \$150/10m roll, Ferm Living. 'Croix' chair in China Clay, \$199, 'Veronique' desk, \$1129, both La Maison. **Flowering gum**, \$45/bunch, PoHo. **Vase**, stylist's own. Murano glass pen and ink set, \$80, Il Papiro. **Stockists**, page 174



bygone beauty

Archival wallpaper continues to boom, brought into the 21st century with unexpected scales and tones. "Cole & Son's Contemporary I and II collections took the wallpaper industry by storm back in 2003 with their 20th-century designs," explains David Marks of Radford Furnishings. "They have now released Contemporary III with more archival works from the 1950s and '60s, ranging from the racy to the romantic." See www.cole-and-son.com.

pattern power

"Don't hold back" is the motto of Helen Lennie of Signature Prints, which distributes the designs of wallpaper doyenne Florence Broadhurst. "Australians now have more confidence in wallpaper, so rather than using it as a feature wall, it's worth decorating a whole room – then continuing it into the next room!"

For an explosion of pattern that doesn't assault the senses, try mixing two different patterns in matching colourways. Or, for a more low-key yet still daring approach, try mixing two colourways on different walls. Still not convinced? Try wallpapering a screen in different but complementary patterns and colours. Turn to page 136 for instructions on how to make one (right).

If a specific pattern range appeals to your senses, why not expand your horizons by coordinating your wallpaper with fabric (above)? Thanks to Signature Prints, Florence Broadhurst's original wallpaper designs are available as textiles, which can be hung as artworks, used for lampshades or even to make a fetching handbag. Meanwhile, US-based Thibaut, available from Boyac, offers matching wallpaper and fabric designs, ranging from delicate florals to bold stripes; see the range at www.boyac.com.au.

Calculate HOW MANY ROLLS YOU NEED ONLINE AT WWW.DIYDOCTOR.ORG.UK/PROJECTS/WALLPAPERING.HTM

applying wallpaper

There are three different ways to hang wallpaper. The traditional method – as Granny will attest – consists of applying glue to the back of unpasted wallpaper with a large soft brush, then applying it to the wall. These days, most wallpaper is pre-pasted. It simply needs to be soaked briefly in warm water in a specialised tray, then applied to the wall. "Most importantly, don't panic," says Justin McNamara, paint accessories buyer at Bunnings Warehouse. "Current ranges are designed for the DIY market – they're easy to apply and are also easy to remove. There's no pre-soaking, it doesn't stretch and tear, and it won't cause a screaming match about whose fault that was!"

While this method demands precision and patience, the latest advances simplify the process even more. Current ranges, such as Graham & Brown's Superfresco Easy, offer a 'paste the wall' method, which means you apply the adhesive to the wall and hang the paper dry. As an extra bonus, it can be peeled off in an instant with no scraping or steaming – a perfect option for those who like to revamp a room every few years.

The wall needs to be clean and should be washed down with sugar soap before starting. With all types of wallpaper, it is imperative to leave plenty of overlap at the top and bottom of each strip. These will be trimmed off later.

A spirit level should be used to ensure the first strip is as vertical as possible, as the rest of the strips will follow suit. Once the strip is in place, it takes a few minutes for the glue to dry and it will slide on the wall fairly easily. This time should be used to match the pattern.

Use a wet sponge to smooth the wallpaper and push any air bubbles to the outside edge. This will also help to keep the edges pasted down. Trim off the overlap with a sharp trimming knife and repeat the process with your next strip. >

Top left: Florence Broadhurst 'Custom Spotted Floral' wallpaper on matt brushed silver mylar, from \$350/roll, cushion in Florence Broadhurst 'Custom Spotted Floral' fabric, from \$143/metre, both Signature Prints. Osborne & Little 'Arizona' wallpaper in Colour 01 (on side table), \$250/roll, Mokum. Cole & Son 'Egerton' wallpaper (on drawers), from \$320/roll, Radford Furnishings. Sandy Lockwood beaker, \$40, Planet Commonwealth. S&L 'Fine Line' side table in Solid Walnut, \$1295/400mm x 500mm, Spence & Lyda. Monroe armchair in Champagne Velvet, \$619, La Maison. Vintage drawers, \$60, St Vincent de Paul Society.

buzz words

Dye lot A number marking paper printed at the same time from the same batch of dye. It is imperative to match papers from the same dye lot to ensure the designs are identical.

Flocked A type of wallpaper with raised, velvet-like patterns, made by dusting powdered silk or other fibres onto a surface.

Railroading Hanging paper horizontally instead of vertically.

Random match When the pattern matches no matter how adjoining strips are positioned, as with stripes.



Make this!
ROOM DIVIDER
For details on how to make this, see page 136.

Wallpaper, from left: Jocelyn Warner 'Tree Tops' wallpaper in Blue, \$320/roll, Ascraft. Central St Martins Eco Collection 'Eclectic Birdcage' wallpaper, \$149, Graham & Brown. Catherine Martin 'Eucalyptus' wallpaper in Blue, \$186/roll, Porter's Paints. Cushion (on floor, in foreground) in Meridian 'Pom Pom' fabric in Silver, from \$130/metre, Mokum. Monroe armchair in Champagne Velvet, \$619, La Maison. Moco floor lamp base, \$499, Lightstyle. Chantal lampshade in Foil, \$299, Domayne Design. Stockists, page 174



Project 1

MAKE AN ELEGANT ROOM DIVIDER

materials

Panels 12mm MDF cut into 3 panels of 2040mm x 450mm each (approximately \$54, Bunnings Warehouse).

Borders 12mm MDF cut into 6 x 2040mm x 45mm strips, 3 x 360mm x 90mm strips for the bottom of each panel, and 3 x 360mm x 45mm strips for the top of each panel (approximately \$48, Bunnings Warehouse).

Hinges 6 x 100mm butt hinges.

style steps

1. Visit a hardware store and have your materials cut to size.
2. On each panel, place 2 long border pieces, 1 bottom piece and one top piece. Secure with wood glue, then nail into place.
3. Fill nail holes with wood putty, sand and paint border pieces.
4. Make sure the MDF panels are thoroughly clean and dry, then attach your wallpaper using wallpaper glue.
5. Attach the hinges with an electric drill at three equal points on each side along edge of the centre strip. Make sure the hinges on opposite sides face in a different direction to each other, so the screen can be easily folded away when not in use.

Tip: You can skip the first three steps by sourcing an existing frame. Scour secondhand stores or eBay to unearth a vintage screen.

Small projects SUCH AS THESE ARE A GREAT WAY TO USE LEFTOVER ROLLS OR SCRAPS OF WALLPAPER. YOU CAN ALSO TRY EBAY FOR SURPLUS DROPS AND VINTAGE TREASURES.

Project 2

MAKE A WALLPAPERED BEDHEAD

materials

Backing board 1 sheet of 12mm MDF

Have the backing board cut to the size that suits your bed best. We used a 1800mm wide (perfect for a queen-sized bed) by 1200mm high MDF sheet (from \$48, Bunnings Warehouse).

Architrave border 3 pieces of architrave

We used a 92mm x 25mm MDF Barrington architrave, cut to size (\$6.95/metre, AW Swadlings). You'll need two vertical pieces, each cut at a 45° angle at one end, and one horizontal piece cut at a 45° angle at both ends.

style steps

1. Visit a hardware store, preferably one that can cut the materials to size on the spot to save you time and hassle.
2. Using wood glue, attach the architraves to the edges of the backing board. Nail the architraves into place from the back of the backing board so the nails are concealed.
3. Paint the architraves and the edges of the board in your chosen colour. Once the paint is dry, cut and attach the wallpaper to the backing board, using wallpaper glue.
4. The weight of the bed may be enough to keep your bedhead in place against the wall. Alternatively, you could attach it to the wall. We suggest using an electric drill to attach it at the base of the wall, so the joins aren't visible.

Tip: Lay the wallpaper out first to make sure the pattern matches. 

