

THE *Perfect* COMBINATION

Latvian-born American abstract painter Mark Rothko once said, "If you ... are moved only by the color relationships, then you miss the point." These words of wisdom apply not only within the art world, but also hold true when it comes to interior design.

While color is often the first element we consider when designing the look of our home, it's important to balance shade and hue with interesting patterns and varying textures. Doing so creates a sense of balance and cohesiveness within a space.

Whether you're mixing up the palette in a muted room with a cheerful pop of color, breaking up clean lines and smooth shapes with a chunky, textured throw or pillow, or using a bold pattern to create visual interest in a room, playing with color, pattern and texture can elevate your space and celebrate your personality.

Because such techniques can seem intimidating for those not used to mixing such elements, we've turned to interior designer and owner of Wilhouse Designs, Andrea Wilson, for tips on how she successfully incorporates these into her own home and the homes of her clients in a way that is tasteful, effortless, and eye catching.





A PANTRY WITH ZEST

While wallpaper seems to be enjoying a resurgence in the world of interior design, Wilson admits it has been in her regular rotation for years. "For me, wallpaper never really left. It's such an easy way to transform a room." Here, sunny lemon paper adds both color and visual interest to the space.



LEVEL IT UP WITH TEXTURE

In her dining room, Andrea covered the walls in a striking grass-cloth wallpaper that adds plenty of color and texture to the space. "I am a lover of wallpaper! It is an inexpensive way to change the personality of a room."



NOTHING BUT BLUE SKIES

Wilson recommends starting with neutrals then building up the color, texture, and patterns. In this room Wilson first laid a foundation of creamy white then brought in color by painting the ceiling a soft, cerulean blue, and pattern through the use of the rug and throw pillows.



ART THAT'S AN ORIGINAL

If you can't find the right piece of art for a space, consider embracing your inner Picasso and creating something yourself. Here, Andrea painted the art hanging over her fireplace, a piece that packs plenty of visual punch while adding a pop of color to the space.

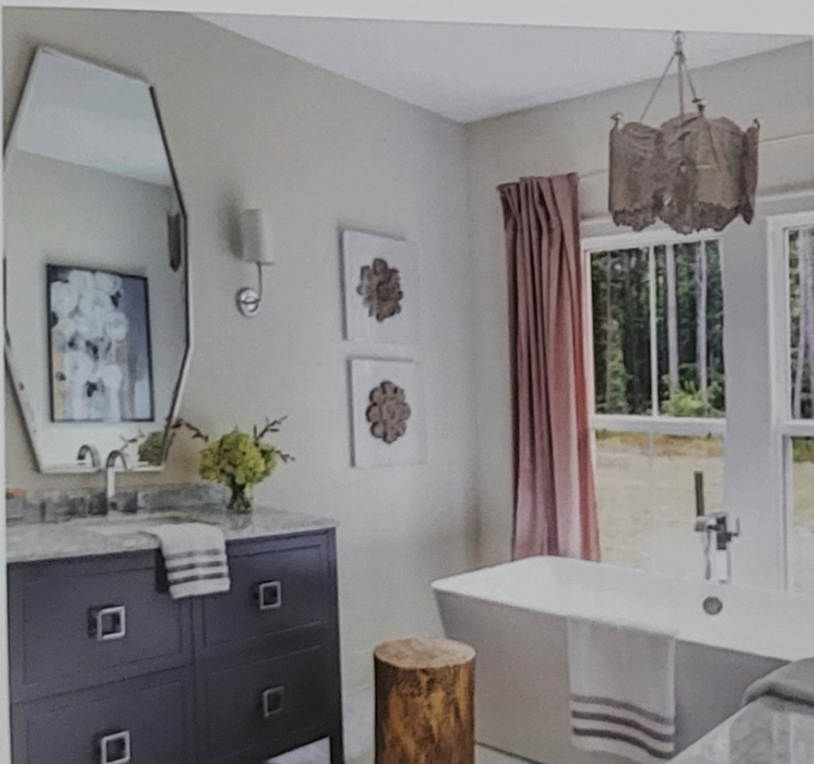


CHANGE IT UP

For those uncertain about making big changes in their home, Andrea has a simple fix. "If someone is looking for an easy way to update their home, I always suggest swapping out light fixtures. It's an easy project that can really update your room."

MIX IT UP

When it comes to finishes in a room, Andrea says don't be afraid to mix things up. Here, Wilson brought in a wood stool and gold curtain rod to add visual interest in a room rife with silver and chrome finishes.



For Andrea, interior design is about more than aesthetics. It's not just about having a room that looks beautiful. I often ask my clients, 'How does this design make you feel?'

Color is making a comeback in many homes, as people are moving away from the more muted, all-white or gray looks and incorporating pops of color and bold patterns, something Andrea herself embraces. "Being surrounded by color, pattern, and texture is lively and makes you feel more alive when you see it."

Wilson says it's easy to get overwhelmed by the multitude of options homeowners have in ways to make a statement in their own homes. "I always tell clients to follow their gut. You know what you love and what sings to you... lean into that. A good rule of thumb for any room is to start with a base of neutral colors on certain walls, cabinets, and the sofa, then add pops of color with wallpaper, fabrics, and accessories. Try a little bit," says Andrea, "and see what works for you."

Wilson also encourages her clients to let go of the need to identify their personal style. "I tell my clients that it's not important to know what your style is. So many pieces and styles can be intermixed in a way that is lovely. I've seen a beautiful antique chest with a piece of modern art hanging over it, and it just works. When you avoid boxing yourself into a certain style, you end up creating a look that is timeless."

WILHOUSE DESIGNS
 106 Ben Giles Drive
 Huntsville, AL 35803
 By Appointment
 @wilhousedesigns