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+ Design Tips

Barclay Butera

By Modern Home + Living / Photos By Barclay Butera, Inc.

Having made an indelible mark on the world of interior design, Barclay Butera a Los Angeles-based celebrity interior designer shares with Modern Home + Living a few expert design tips on modernizing interior walls and sprucing up the home...



7 Tips to Create Modern Rooms Simply by Changing the Walls

- 1 Choose pattern-on-pattern, and layer the textures. I keep this in mind, when I design the interiors and walls of all my homes. Paint colors are also very important to help to set the "mood" of the home.
- 2 Put wallpaper on the ceiling. I wallpaper the ceiling often— it adds depth and creates interesting perspective. In fact, I'm a huge fan of wallpaper, so every room is wallpapered in several of my homes. Don't be afraid to blend them! For example, raffia can go with stripes and with toile. Wallpaper the entire room, or even one focal point wall, like behind the head of the bed. Don't be afraid to do something non-traditional.
- 3 Take a lesson from fashion. For instance, in a powder room that I just finished at a penthouse residence in the new W Hollywood, I referenced fashion details used in men's tailoring. As part of the installation, I used black and white ticking-striped wallpaper - inspired by classic men's suits - and then accented the walls with strong red artwork similar to a tie or pocket square - which provided contrast in the room. This is a fun way to combine art with wall coverings.
- 4 Create the illusion of a well-defined entry. If there is an entry without defined structure; such as a wall-break, use wallpaper to create an illusion of visual delineation. Accent, with wood molding such as a vertical quarter-of-an inch wood trim.
- 5 Combine wall covering ideas. In my family room, I applied wainscot paneling 8-feet up the wall, and then continued the top portion of the wall and onto the ceiling with raffia. This especially works if the room has vaulted ceilings. I created pattern and rhythm by including a raffia rug, which ties the room design elements all together. These applications give the room a fresh sense of dimension.
- 6 Fabric-backed wallpaper adds a sense of sophistication, without upholstering the walls.
- 7 Today's hottest trends in wallpapers are exotic wall coverings, such as stamped crocodile.

To see more of Barclay Butera's work visit www.BarclayButera.com