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NEW HOMES



The earth tones in the fabric on these chairs inspired the color palette for the whole home. Further, the introduction of the fabric, given its style, allowed for a contemporary twist on the otherwise serious look of the room.

FORM AND FUNTION

A blueprint for selecting patterned fabrics



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SPECIAL TO NEW HOMES

The fashion and fine arts industries have crossed over into the interior world to influence home decorating fabrics in a positive way. With fashion designers like Versace, Pucci and Fendi putting their own signature stamp on fabrics and patterns, now more than ever bold and exciting materials are available, along with classic patterns of the past.

There are many exciting options that can be introduced into your home, regardless of the look or aesthetic of the interior. Personal preference and a sense of style can be evoked through the introduction of a patterned material, or even a combination of several patterns.

Some of these fabric choices are bold, while others are subtler. Color also varies with many of the fabrics offered in a wide range of hues to suit your palate and needs.

In our work at LBC Design, we tend to use bold fabrics as accents such as throw pillows or a side chair. A nice touch to make an ordinary dining chair come to life is to introduce a patterned material to the back while keeping the front and the seat in a neutral solid material.

In the case of more subtle patterned fabrics, we will mix an array within a living room or with the bed linens. Or, a subtle mix of patterns can create a

layered effect that adds interest to a room as a whole rather than punctuating a particular pillow or chair.

There are a number of criteria that need to be considered when deciding how you will introduce the patterned materials into your room. First, how much of a statement do you want the fabric to make? Second, how many patterns will you use? Finally, where will you use the patterned fabrics within the room?

Your personality will draw you to a particular pattern, with no right or wrong answers. If you choose to be bold — for example, with a large geometric print — you may want to play down the additional use of patterned materials so you do not overwhelm the room as a whole.

If you go with something subtler for your base, you may look for complementary patterned materials that can be introduced in key areas. Bolder patterns can serve as accents, such as a throw pillow or area rug.

The traditional rule of thumb, however, is solid materials work well to back drop a collection of patterned materials. Your consideration for additional patterned materials into a room will be based on how they all work together.

Also, a break of location within a room will allow you to introduce more patterned materials. If you spread the materials that are patterned throughout the space — particularly if it is a large one — you will not have as big an issue of classing materials; rather the colors of the materials and their graphical representations will work with greater ease in tying the whole room together.

Instead of randomly selecting things that catch your eye, it is best to work with a showroom sales person to organize the room by pulling together the entire array of materials you like

and see what ultimately works and is realistic. Make certain the patterns you intend to introduce do not overpower, clutter — or worse — disconnect from the ones you have already selected.

As long as you plan ahead in selecting all of the materials you intend to use, you will find that introducing patterned material into a room will be a successful endeavor. It is these fabrics that add character and warmth to a space, so do not be afraid to make them a part of your design scheme.

Louis B. Cohen is principal of LBC Design + Construction, a full-service firm located in Aventura, Fla. Cohen, a graduate of the New York School of Interior Design, has designed some of the most luxurious residences in South Florida, including Turnberry Ocean Colony, BellaMare, The Point and The Peninsula. For more information, visit www.lbcdesignandconstruction.com.