

25 BEAUTIFUL HOMES

25BH | AMERICAN BEACH HOUSE

INSIGHT

Combining colour and pattern

Tempted to mix intricate pattern and vibrant colour, as Dana Small has done? Take on board these style tips first



Blending colour and pattern can be daunting but as long as you consider scale, mixing large and small prints before pairing them with a carefully chosen colour palette, you'll end up with a stylish, lively and characterful scheme.

BOLD STYLE

It's easy to play it safe when it comes to creating an interiors scheme, but bold choices can really pay off. Dana Small has layered pattern in her home effectively, using bright colours such as lime green and turquoise. Remember to add in some plains, too – a painted wall, a textured piece of upholstered furniture or some one-tone cushions – to avoid over-burdening an interior. White makes a great backdrop for this kind of look, as it provides the eye with relief, creating a sense of scale and proportion.

MODERN MIX

Adding one hit of pattern and colour to an otherwise simple scheme is a modern way of introducing interest without overtly dominating a space. Influenced by the work of 20th-century decorator David Hicks, there's a renewed trend for bold geometrics, which create a striking modern-retro look. They are a popular

flooring option, encompassing a host of different materials, from encaustic tiles and painted concrete to carpets and woven sisals. Bold flooring is also a great way of anchoring kitchen and bathroom schemes, where scope is often limited, turning a traditionally utilitarian area into a visually enticing space.

EXPERT EYE

'Look for materials that are pleasing to the eye and touch. If you combine organic with geometric, natural with man-made and old with new in a harmonious way, your scheme will never go out of style'

IRINA TOWNSEND, KEIR TOWNSEND

PROFESSIONAL ADVICE...



● 'Combining colour and pattern can add atmosphere, depth and excitement to a space, as it encourages the eye to find new points of interest. Large prints can make a room feel smaller, but a restricted colour palette can combat this.'

● Try using a large expanse of pattern on a sofa or chair, keeping the other fabrics plain but textured for a modern feel.

● I love using small-scale geometrics on ceilings in similar colours to the principal palette in an otherwise plain room.

In a loft room or a quirkily shaped space, try running patterned wallpaper across the ceiling and painting all the woodwork in the predominant colour of the wallpaper.

● If you find pattern overwhelming, try adding it in small quantities, through cushions and rugs. Indian, Turkish and Uzbek patterns, such as Ikkats, in strong, saturated colours are currently very popular.

● Mix pattern with fewer colours, to ensure cohesion. For example, a bathroom with grass-green herringbone walls, combined with reclaimed gold fittings and a taupe and black floor creates a sophisticated blend of colour and pattern.

● Prints used in a variety of style and scale, with one colour reference running through the scheme, can create an eclectic but cohesive look. Remember that the result will be too disparate if many patterns and colours are used in similar scale without reference to one another. Every room needs a balance to be effective.'

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ADDRESS BOOK

● BRITISH INSTITUTE OF INTERIOR DESIGN

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● COLOUR DECONSTRUCTED BY TRICIA GUILD

£30, Quadrille Publishing.

Has tips on incorporating colour and pattern in the home, from the founder of Designers Guild.