

FLORIDA STYLE & DESIGN

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Designer Jackie Armour wanted something dramatic to ground the Gucci wallcovering, so she selected a geometric floor tile. She added a counter-mounted mirror later on.



TIP: BALANCE AND PROPORTION. *"One thing can't take over the room. The pattern can be the focal point, but it can't take over and be the only thing you see in the room."*

- Nichola Francesca DePass

ABOVE: In this office reimagined by Lori Morris, the wood floor's multicolored green palette is a complementary backdrop, while the geometrical Art Deco-inspired pattern creates interest and adds to the room's personality.

RIGHT: Of this living room, Nichola Francesca DePass says, "Patterns should interact like a team passing the baton, each element carrying the story forward without fighting for attention."



TIP: DON'T BE TIMID. "If you hesitate, it shows. Patterns and textures require confidence. Commit to the choices, and they'll carry the room."

— Nichola Francesca DePass

We're Seeing a Pattern Here

Talented design pros share insider tips for working with patterns and designs, helping your home feel vibrant yet balanced.

Written by **CHRISTIE GALEANO-DEMOTT**

Plain and predictable? Not anymore. In the hands of talented designers and their enthusiastic clients, homes are breaking free with bold patterns, lively prints and a fearless mix that makes every space feel like a personal statement of style.

A SPECTRUM OF PATTERN

Designer **Lori Morris** aimed to reflect her client's fabulously stylish personality in the elegant lounge she designed for his Boca Raton vacation home. Morris transformed his office—a prime space off the foyer—into a sexy, romantic room perfect for evening cocktails paired with piano tunes. She balanced deep jewel tones with black lacquer cabinetry and used the archway's detailed moldings to add timeless architectural detail and dimension.

However, patterns don't always need to be big and brash; they can also be soft and subtle, like in designer **Nichola Francesca DePass's** chic living room. "Pattern doesn't have to shout to make an impact—it just has to flow." She achieved this by choosing

a marble for the feature wall. It appears soft at first glance, but it is actually bold in both presence and placement, running horizontally to contrast with the vertically fluted fireplace. "That intentional tension between horizontal and vertical lines adds dimension and movement to the room," she explains. "It draws your eye in, then lets you breathe." DePass believes in being bold, not busy. "Boldness doesn't mean chaos. Patterns can have an impact even in subtle applications if they're used thoughtfully."

This was the case when designer **Jackie Armour's** client fell in love with Gucci wallpaper featuring a crane (see lead photo); Armour made it a focal point in the Palm Beach Gardens home. "I've never met a pattern or color I didn't like. It's always fun to take a small space and do something really dynamic and create a wow factor," she says. The stunning heron-and-dragonfly design serves as a striking work of art that requires little else, prompting Armour to complement it subtly with a custom vanity.



TIP: CONSIDER LIGHTING WHEN SELECTING A BATHROOM PATTERN. *"Test in the bathroom light to ensure the right ambiance."*

- Ritzy Christensen of Bô Casa

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Patterns in bathrooms can also add depth and interest, whether they envelop the entire space or appear in select areas. This powder bath, designed by **Ritzy Christensen of Bô Casa**, feels calm and soft; yet the leaf-patterned wall delivers visual interest with an exotic touch. To create that peaceful-yet-impactful vibe, Christensen chose soft beiges, warm whites and muted browns to complement the stunning Italian leaf porcelain tiles, a premium choice over wallpaper or paint.

On the other end of the pattern spectrum, **Morris's** powder bath bursts with endless flower power. The designer chose a textured, pleated floral wallcovering in an abstract floral motif to complement the custom mosaic floor. She finished the romantic color palette with the custom green-and-pink vanity to create a "delicious ice cream cone of a bathroom" that instantly puts a smile on your face.

CUSTOM WALLS

To create the impression of a spacious dining room, designer **Gil Walsh** selected a large-pattern mural for this home. Her clients enjoy entertaining, so this space was a key part of the house and needed an artistic focal point that adds character and depth. The walls are also curved, which made wallpapering and placing an area rug challenging. Instead, Walsh chose this hand-painted mural by Bob Christian to bring warmth and visual interest.



TIP: THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO STEP OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE. *"Use a powder bath to try a bold color and pattern."*

- Lori Morris





ABOVE: To successfully create interest in a space, designer Gil Walsh mixes patterns with geometric designs, incorporates textured fabrics and uses decorative trims.

TOP LEFT: Lori Morris believes there's a misconception about pink. For her, it's not childish or girly, but a neutral color she enjoys using in a variety of spaces.

BOTTOM LEFT: "Highlight a bold pattern to create a visual anchor without overwhelming the space," says Ritzy Christensen.

TIP: DON'T FORGET TO LET YOUR TABLE SETTING PLAY A ROLE. "Placemats, napkins and dishware are great opportunities to introduce patterns in a way that's easily changeable."

- Gil Walsh



TIP: MIX IT UP. *"It's amazing how much pattern a room can take. You have a lot of artistic license, so don't be afraid to mix patterns."*

- Jackie Armour

The hood adds another layer wrapped in rift-cut oak.

POPS OF COLOR

Shying away from an all-white kitchen, **Armour** embraced these turquoise cabinets as a starting point and balanced the kitchen space by incorporating patterns of varying sizes to complement the room's diverse colors. She chose a small, grid-like wallpaper for the window wall that echoes the similar grid design of the island stools. To create balance, Armour selected a quartz countertop that plays off the wavelike print on the bar stools with a softer, more organic interpretation, counterbalancing the angularity of the breakfast area.

NO ROOM LEFT BEHIND

Main living spaces shouldn't have all the fun. Designer **Michael Cohen of Marc-Michaels Interior Design** imagined a colorful laundry room for this Palm Beach home; his client wanted one of her two laundry rooms to be girly and pink. To evoke a Palm Beach vibe, Cohen chose a tropical-fruit-patterned wallcovering to complement the colorful cabinets. But he didn't stop there. Instead of relying solely on a light fixture, Cohen celebrated the ceiling by adding wallcovering to the overhead surface, its polka dot pattern coordinating with the walls and cabinets. "It was important that the ceiling still had a feeling of lightness. Bold patterns can sometimes make the room feel closed in, so the white background helped with that."



CARMEL BRANTLEY

Benjamin Moore's Pink Peach cabinet color adds cheerful vibrancy to this space designed by Michael Cohen.

JESSICA KLEWICK GLYNN



TIP: ENJOY THE PROCESS.
"Have fun with it! If it makes you happy, do it!"

- Michael Cohen
 of Marc-Michaels Interior Design



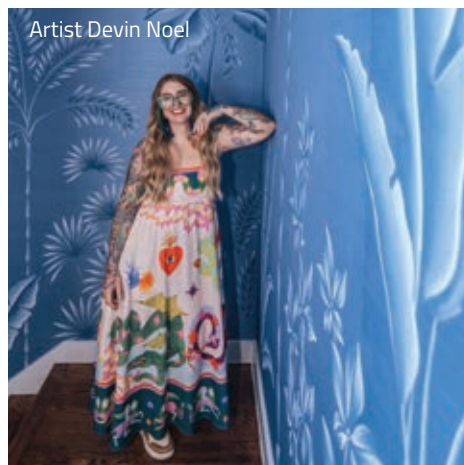
TIP: PICK A STATEMENT SURFACE. "That includes the floor. Then mix in small-scale patterns for balanced layering."

- Michael Cohen of Marc-Michaels Interior Design

A DESIGN ALTERNATIVE

Want to enhance your space with a pattern, but don't necessarily want to use wallpaper? Local muralist **Devin Noel** has the perfect solution. Murals can serve as a striking focal point or completely transform how you experience a room. Noel excels at creating unique, immersive environments for her clients. Who needs artwork when a mural can enrich a room so perfectly?

Devin Noel Designs was born out of the pandemic lockdown after Noel's bartending jobs ended. She grew up in a family of practicing artists and had always done art on the side, but 2020 gave her the push to start her own business. Today, she's a master at creating exclusive, one-of-a-kind murals for her clients that feature whimsy and wonder played out on a grand scale. Her next goal: adding 3D elements to her murals. devinnoel.com



Artist Devin Noel

STEPHANIE GIOLETTI

ABOVE: Stripes are versatile, but keep scale in mind, Michael Cohen warns. "Smaller stripes feel more balanced when paired with larger geometrics."

BALANCING ACT

Cohen continued playing with patterns in this home's foyer. His client's young family wanted a bright, colorful retreat with touches of elegance and glam that instantly transported them into vacation mode when they stepped inside. So Cohen chose a bold, large geometric-patterned floor to set the tone for the space. He decided to use neutral tones for the floor and the wall paneling to balance the more vibrant patterns of the settee and staircase.

PEACE AND QUIET

In a bedroom where everyone longs for tranquility, patterns can feel overwhelming for some—unless you know how to use them effectively. Designer **Margarita Bravo** layers patterns and weaves in textures to create a space that reveals itself gradually. To satisfy her clients who wanted a guest suite that felt collected rather than overly decorated, she enveloped the room in a whimsical flora and fauna scene and anchored it with a cracked-stone geometric area rug. She then echoed the rich raspberry from the wallcovering onto the tweed headboard and added white bedding and a linen lampshade as visual breathers to prevent the patterns from competing.

In another example of crafting a sanctuary-like bedroom, **Laetitia Laurent of Laure Nell Interiors** envisioned a mid-century home retreat where bold design elements—like the striking patterned ceiling and artwork—blend seamlessly with soft textures and sleek furniture, adding visual interest without overwhelming the space. The bedroom's star is the suede-textured wallcovering in a soft, grey tone, which adds a sense of movement and drama. She then grounded the room with a woven rug, plush textured bed pillows, and furniture with clean lines. **b**

ABOVE RIGHT: "When pattern and texture collaborate, a bedroom transcends decoration and becomes an experience—exactly what this guest suite was always meant to be," Margarita Bravo says.

RIGHT: Laetitia Laurent says, "I use pattern to add depth and personality, but it has to feel intentional. A bedroom should feel like an exhale. Every choice—from the ceiling detail to the art to the rug—is about creating visual interest that still invites calm. That balance is what makes a space feel elevated but livable." Seashell art by Iran Issa-Khan



TIP: MIND THE PALETTE. "Let every print borrow at least one color from another element so the eye registers continuity."

- Margarita Bravo

TIP: IT'S NOT A COMPETITION.

"Two strong patterns side by side will make a bedroom feel busy instead of restful. Choose one hero and let the others play a supporting role."

- Laetitia Laurent of Laure Nell Interiors

