

Confessions of a wallpaper addict



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GO DESIGN IT

It's time for a designer confession. It may come as a quite a shock but I have an addiction issue that has been hiding in plain sight for many years. I think now I'm finally ready to open up about my addiction to — wallpaper. I'm a huge wallpaper addict! I mean, I celebrate it every week in my office and online with Wallpaper Wednesday. I'm not kidding.

If there's a wall, I want to paper it! So it always surprises

me when so many people have such an intestinal dislike for the incredibly beautiful wall coverings available today.

I think most of it stems from childhood horror stories of parents making their children scrape layers of paper off walls. Or it could be a later-in-life-nightmarish experience of trying to hang wallpaper.

I ask you to put all your design tragedies and traumas aside and reconsider the glory

and wonder of wallpaper.

Wallpaper works well in almost every room. I wouldn't use it in a bathroom as steam is its mortal enemy nor would I use it in a kitchen as a backsplash — it won't last. But everywhere else it's great. It provides interest, drama, surprise and decorative sophistication that is often lacking in most homes — and all this for relatively little money.

Here are the best places to use wallpaper:

- Accent walls. In theory I'm not a huge fan of accent walls but I admit to having one in my own living room behind my sofa. My only problem with accent walls is that people so often choose the wrong

wall!

- The wall behind a headboard, this anchors and highlights the bed, the focal point of any bedroom.

- A long continuous wall, such as in a hallway or stairwell, provides interest and adds depth to a sometimes very tricky space.

- The wall surrounding a fireplace. This heightens the impact of the room's focal point and provides an extra layer of decorative complexity.

- On the ceiling. I have used wallpaper on ceilings many times for clients. When I first suggest it they look at me like I'm from another planet and usually say something like, "are you serious?"

To which I reply "absolutely!"

Wallpaper on the ceiling creates a new and unexpected dimension in a room. It provides a lot of bang for relatively little buck. Try it!

- In a linen cupboard or pantry. There is something about the surprise I get when I open the door to a what is usually a service oriented space such as a linen cupboard or pantry and find an incredibly beautiful wallpaper hung there. It's completely unexpected and a therefore a very pleasant component of a decorative scheme.

- Powder Rooms. Wallpaper for me, is all about drama. When you open the door to a small powder room covered

in a spectacularly patterned or even a simple textured paper, gasps of amazement are often quite loud. So go ahead create a little jewel box out of the most unassuming room in your home.

I hope you try using wallpaper in your next design project. The results will be spectacular. If on Instagram or twitter follow me for more inspirations @willmacdesign for #wallpaperwednesday.

— *William MacDonald is a Toronto-based designer and principal of WillMac Design, a firm known for creating stylish spaces that evoke a simple, timeless elegance. Visit www.willmacdesign.ca*



Wallpaper provides interest, drama, surprise and a sophistication often lacking in most homes.



Wallpaper behind a headboard anchors and highlights the bed and creates a focal point.



Accent walls are a great place for wallpaper as long as you choose the right wall such as in the living room behind a sofa. Photo supplied by Porter Telco Wallpaper.