



The Wimborne Papers and Tented Stripes wallpaper patterns from Farrow & Ball

The Wonderful World of **wallpaper**

**IT'S NEVER BEEN MORE IN STYLE AND MORE FUN
TO GET THE HANG OF WALLPAPER!**

Everyone has a wallpaper horror story to tell. My unforgettable experience took place when I was young enough for it to be forever etched in my memory. I was helping my parents renovate a house they had bought to rent out, peeling off layers upon layers of old wallpaper. When we finally got down to the final layer, I realized why it had been covered over so many times – there, in all its colourful glory, stood a mural of the Toronto skyline from the '70s. It was enough to turn me off wallpaper for decades.

Forget the dreadful wallpaper from the past, because 2005 signifies the re-emergence of magnificent wallcoverings. What better way to inject colour as well as your own personal creativity into every room in your house? And the choices are seemingly endless – whatever your vision may be, there's a wallpaper out there for you.

Today's wallcoverings are introducing oodles of colours and patterns – it's like nothing we've seen before. And according to Helen Mullett, colour commentator for Color Your World, wallpaper brings colour, texture and impact to

a room and takes the difficulty out of creating complex and sophisticated effects.

"Home decorators can incorporate wallpaper into any vision they have for a room or a space," says Mullett. "Innovation and creativity in the development of papers today make it an ideal resource for any design idea."



Color Your World has more than 18,000 wallpapers available

Excellent for something as simple as covering an imperfect wall or as a quick-fix for creating faux finishes, says Mullett, "Today, manufacturers are focusing on strong and creative design. Wallpaper can be a feature element or it can be a complement to other design elements, such as paint, accessories, window coverings and even artwork."

Often thought of as a traditional décor element, wallpaper can fit into any trend, whether it be classic, contemporary, modern, or just plain old funky fun. Kids rooms,

urban lofts, dens, foyers – it's open season on boring rooms.

Wallpaper aficionados are going with larger-than-life prints. Miriam Grenville of Grenville Designs and self

proclaimed non-conformist wallpaper designer, urges homeowners to go big or, well, go home. "Put up something intense in the space you always spend time in with company... get something going!" She suggests prints that you'll often find in drapery and upholstery, like traditionally rendered flowers, leaves, botanical, etc. — then super-size it!

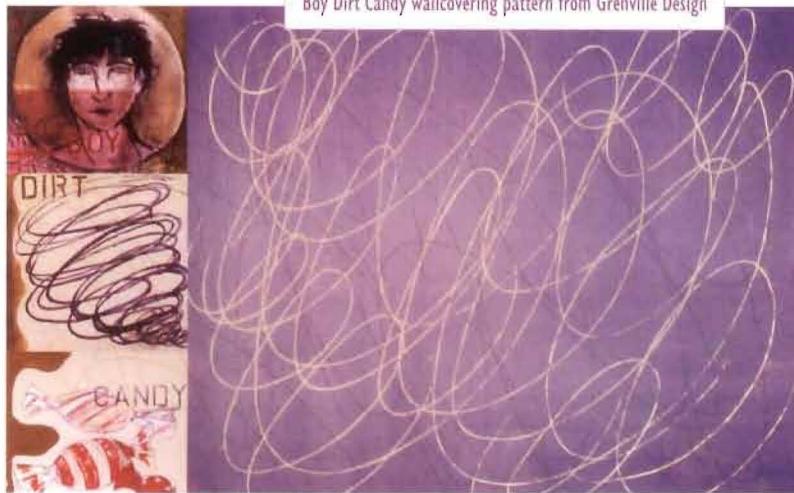
Miriam creates her ultra unique wallpaper by using gouache (a method of painting with opaque watercolors mixed with a preparation of gum) and charcoal on paper, and then scans them at a high resolution. Next, these scans are printed on a vinyl-type canvas, which is based on the client's wall dimensions. The finished



A few examples of rooms decorated with some of Grenville Design's wallcoverings, including the Taboo Resort in Muskoka



Boy Dirt Candy wallcovering pattern from Grenville Design




product — a wallpaper that transforms a wall into a masterpiece. At \$35 per square foot, Miriam's wallcoverings are a wise investment that will heighten the richness of your surroundings.

The goal of Grenville Design is to get you to break away from beige. "They're your walls, don't be afraid of them... let them make you happy," says Miriam. "Decorating for resale value is the bottom line for many people, but the truth is a happy, personalized, yet clean and uncluttered home is best. It says, 'I love living here, you will too.'"

Other suggestions she makes are to combine large scale prints with paint and wood paneling, and pair fun fabrics with high end designer wallpaper. Or, if you're overwhelmed with a pattern on all four walls, why not use both paint and

wallpaper? Just wallpaper your feature wall and paint the others. Then, add art work and voila! You've got yourself a room like no other.

And if you're going to shell out the money for quality wallcoverings, it's best to use a professional installer. Higher-end wallpapers are applied using a brush and paste, so it more than just soaking in water and hanging. If you're doing it yourself, and it's been so long that you don't remember what has been put on your walls, remember to prime them with oil first.

So shop around — there are countless choices of wallpapers out there, and you're bound to find one that suits you and your surroundings perfectly. Once you get the hang of wallpaper, you'll wonder how you ever went without it! 

WALLPAPER DECORATING TIPS

Helen Mullet, colour commentator for Color Your World, offers several ideas to add wallpaper to home decorating techniques.

- Try mixing patterns, and match them using the same colour or values of that colour.
- Try a paintable textured wallcovering — simply paint the paper over for a striking effect.
- Try papers that are designed as cut-outs that you can place anywhere you like to create a customized scene. Popular designs include cartoon characters, flowers and abstracts.
- Paper a feature wall and paint the others.
- Bring artistry or real-life to your walls with a mural featuring a photograph or an artist's rendition.
- Paper all the walls of a room and paint borders and trim.
- Visit Color Your World online at www.coloryourworld.com for tips and how-to instructions, and use the calculator to estimate the amount of wallpaper you'll need.