



BALANCE IT

"When you use a bold pattern, the size of the pattern matters," says Port Washington designer Keith Baltimore. "If it's a big pattern, you have to compensate. It needs something to hold in that paper." Here, in this Atlantic Beach bath-

room, the black and white of the floor balances the black-and-white pattern in the wallpaper. If everything else is a solid, the wallpaper pattern takes over. Adding another pattern makes for a more cohesive design, he says.

flocking back

Wallpaper — some of it flocked, graphic, metallic — finds new fans

BY KAY BLOUGH
Special to Newsday

Coming soon to a home near you — big, bold and beautiful wallpaper patterns that let you make a statement about just about anything.

These large-scale and often colorful patterns are not only fun and bold but a great way to bring another design element into a room, says Merrick designer Marlaina Teich.

There are ways to make these brash and bold new designs work in even the most conservative interior. Teich, of Marlaina Teich Designs, is using a navy paisley wallpaper on the top half of walls in a dining room in Melville, with the bottom half toned down with paneling. "It complements it, plus you have another texture with it," she says. Since part of the dining room is visible from the foyer, the color on the walls outside that room work with colors in the dining room. "So you get a jolt of fun, pattern and vibrancy from seeing the crazy wallpaper, but it's not overwhelming for the people living there," Teich says.

Years ago, people were traumatized by "flocks on foil," says Keith Baltimore of Baltimore Design Group in Port Washington, referring to raised velvet patterns on metallic foil wallpaper. "We use bold paper more now because it makes such a great statement. You can be really gutsy with one wall of paper. It can stimulate a design."

Bold wallpapers are popular now because "people get tired of the same old, same old," Teich says. "The patterns and texture add so much more excitement and personality. It

can get very boring to have painted walls everywhere."

One popular new design is the strongly vertical Woods pattern, part of the Contemporary II collection made by Cole & Son, the English company that draws on antique, hand-carved wood printing blocks that it reimagines in contemporary colors. The pattern, which comes in several colors, is popular in washrooms and mudrooms because people feel comfortable experimenting in small spaces.

The Woods pattern is popular because of the linear, hand-drawn element, says Nancy LaCalamita of Twice as Nice Interiors in East Islip. "It's fun and whimsical, and works in modern or traditional looks."

Other popular bold papers include metallics, often on the top half of a wall, while the bottom half is tiled, and damask-style patterns. And even your grandmother's wallpaper is making an appearance again, Baltimore says, though the scale today is larger than when the flocked wall covering was standard on drawing room walls.

Today's flocks are a twist on a classic, LaCalamita says. "They've changed the pattern so it's modern looking, made it larger, and the metallics are