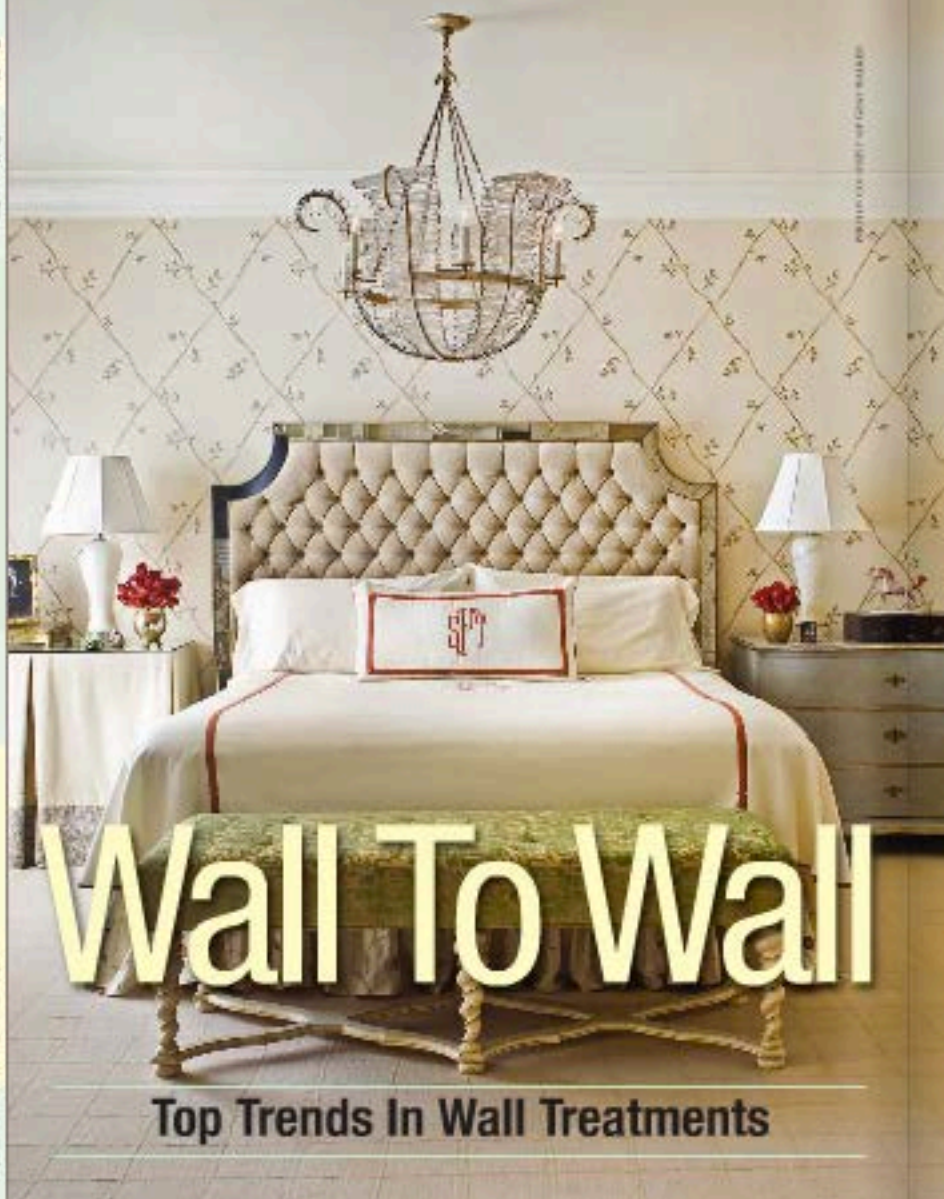




ROBERT ALLEN WALLPAPER COLLECTION

Wall To Wall

Top Trends In Wall Treatments



one decor like
bushes, is a great
moving force — with things
going in and out of style faster
than you can say "on again." But
did you ever really think that
wallpaper would be back in style?
Well, it is, and in a big way.
Wallpaper treatments, along with
unique paint techniques, are suddenly
one of the hottest trends in the
home decorating world, providing a
unique way to revamp homes with a
pop of color and a touch of texture.

Texture Me
Pretty
Ways To Wallpaper

ing Walker offers tips for those who are looking to incorporate wall treatments into their homes:

What is it about wallpaper industry? 'Texture is so key to the resurgence in wallpaper's popularity,' she says. 'The natural materials offer great texture, like grasscloth, seaglass and jute. And then there are fantastic flocked papers now — they have almost the same texture as a cat velvet cloth. I also like the papers that look purposely crinkled on the wall. That's a fun texture.'

What colors are popular?
Walker says that designer Pantone's proclamation that radium orchid is the color of the year, she has found that blue is the most popular hue. "That includes pastels in purple-blues to green-blues to deep navy and bright cobalt. And gray is still going strong, which of course I love," she says with a laugh.

Is this a resurgence of laissez-faire?

The types of paint techniques that are popular now are more about geometric shapes and colors than paintings that mimic landscapes or drapery form," she says. "It's a bold big bold stripes and chevrons, and even graduated colors that start out lighter near the ceiling and get darker closer near the floor—that's a fun color technique. Like the one that we're doing today in women's hair color."

Describe your favorite trail-treatment design that you've completed recently.

Walker says her favorite technique is found in her own home. 'The silliest I've seen me carryway, which features hand-painted butterflies in a bold, cool color,' she says. 'I've also done a big stripe in brown and green in a girls' room that was fun to do. And I am crazy about any kind of wallpaper - so I use those frequently.'



"There is no limit to what you can do, and that really appeals to the creative side of interior design. I think people have become bored with plain walls. Wall coverings and paint treatments allow you to change things up."

— Gary Walker

They Call It A Comeback

Interior designer Gail Walker says wallpaper and paint treatments became a "trend" back in the 1990s, but in the last year, she has seen a revival of the technique. But step that thing to modern! Walker insists that the new style of wallpaper has eliminated all the things you once hated about wallpaper — namely the grossly impossible mess of applying, and the even more impossible task of making it down.

The new wallpapers are not like the ones that gave wallpaper a bad reputation — they are easier to apply

natural look with pine or greenish-brown, a glam style with foil or flaked paper, etc. If you have a steady hand and a good roll of tape, you can create your own designs with paper, including bold stripes or chevrons.

What inspired the wallpaper creation?

"One was that the papers and coverings themselves have changed," she says. "The original reason that people began to dislike wallpaper is that it almost took a revolution to get it off your wall once it was on there! That isn't the case today."

She adds, "The second reason is because the designers are so inspiring and there are so many ideas to choose from. You can go geometric, have a subtle floral or even add texture to the wall. There is no limit to what you can do, and that really appeals to the creative side of interior design. I think people love, because being with plain walls. Wall coverings and paint treatments allow you to change things up."

Walker doesn't just love wallpaper; paint is a fun design tool as well. "For paint, I love Benjamin Moore, particularly

1937 Modas, which is a green and red," she says. "I also love Farrow & Ball's 90 Chinese Blue — it's the perfect old world blue with a serious pop for glaze." I then find that I create my new colors by invoking the formula, which you can do for your home, too:

For the general public, it's somewhat of a mystery who decides what trends are hot or cold. Walker says the best ideas for basic design come from his sleep world — fashion.

'I think the focus ideas create rights off the runway,' Walker says.

The points out that on recent outcrops there has been a really strong trend for metallic fabrics and patterns. Likewise, foil wallpapers are becoming popular. Walker says they add the same sheen and reflective light that make metallic fabrics so popular.

And honestly," she says, "nothing is really new. It's how we imagine things from our past, how we turn them and make them something different that really gives us great ideas for today. **[TOWNS]**

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