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WIN A BEAUTIFUL BEDROOM MAKEOVER, pg. 40

Victoria Neale

D.C. Design Center Showhouse

Washington, D.C.

With apple green and pink in a large-scale peony pattern on the walls, this girl's room has a spirit of unfettered joy. Inspired by twin beds she discovered at a flea market, designer Victoria Neale created a space that veers toward the whimsically youthful but has enough sophistication to double for guests.

"This was a tiny room, so I needed to make a quick, big statement," explains Victoria. "The vibrant colors are for a young girl, but with a quick change of accessories, the room is really ageless, more of a fantasy look straight from a dollhouse."

Because space was at a premium, the designer had to make the most of what was left for furnishings after the requisite pair of beds was installed. Instead of each bed getting its own side table, a mirrored chest placed between the two offers plenty of surface to share, and its reflective finish doesn't fight with the bold colors on the walls.

Next to the overscaled print on the walls, a mini-check on the windows would have read as a solid. So Victoria instead chose a large-scale coordinating check for the window treatments and bedskirts. To provide a place to perch, she positioned a bench upholstered in a dotted stripe and topped with floral pillows in front of a window.

Produced by Eileen A. Deymier Photographs by Gordon Beall

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COLOR CHANGE

Add a design element—in this case stylish black beds with intricate detail—that throws a curve to the color palette established by the dominant pattern.

Gerald Pomeroy

Boston Design Center Showhouse

Boston, Massachusetts

If a dining room is destined for special occasions, with special dinnerware and special meals, then it only makes sense that its decor be exceptional as well. Designer Gerald Pomeroy chose a dramatic and shimmery hand-painted wallpaper to star in this elegant dining room that makes period pieces seem timelessly chic. The wallpaper's delicate pattern of plum blossoms in bold coral is grounded by a graphic Billy Baldwin-style rug in chocolate and cream. Cream-colored moldings pull the two elements together.

"Since the wall covering wraps the room on all four walls, it makes you feel like you are underneath a tree," explains Gerald. "I wanted the floor to serve as a strong grounding for the wallpaper, and the bold patterns of each disguise the narrow room's proportions."

To coordinate with the moldings and accents in the rugs, an array of other cream-colored elements gives the space warmth. A Federal-style fireplace surround commands attention between two windows shaded by putty-colored wool panels and ivory sheers. The oak patina of the X-based dining table is in contrast to the ivory frames of 19th-century armchairs and six oval-back side chairs. A stone-colored linen, used for all upholstery fabric, offers an understated elegance against the table's rustic appeal. ➤

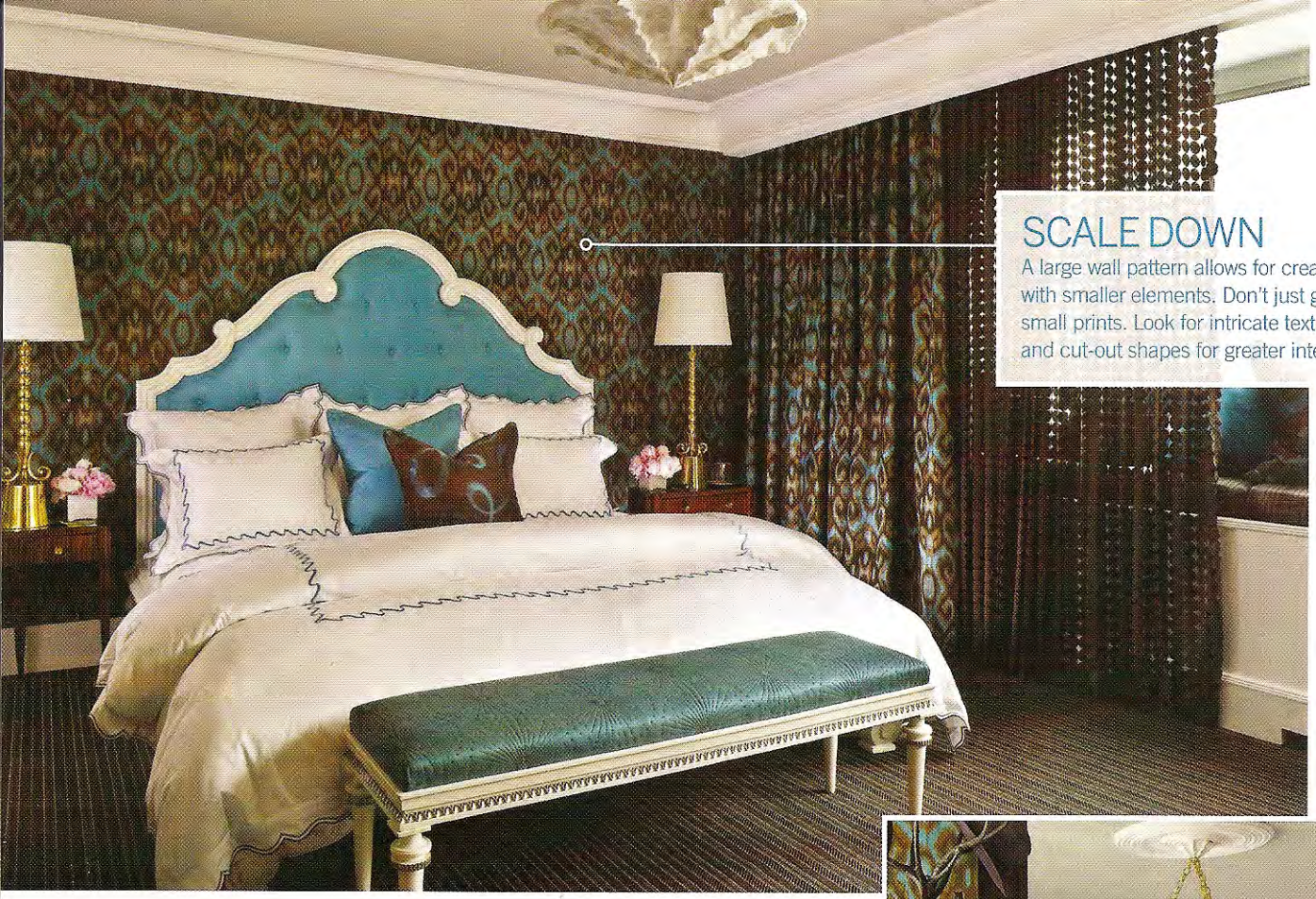
Produced by Estelle Bond Guralnick Photographs by Bruce Buck

SURFACE TALK

Make the most of a wallpaper's background. This light and airy base color plays up reflective accessories that enhance its luxurious shimmer.

SCALE DOWN

A large wall pattern allows for creativity with smaller elements. Don't just go for small prints. Look for intricate textures and cut-out shapes for greater interest.



Larry Laslo

Kips Bay Boys & Girls Club Showhouse

New York, New York

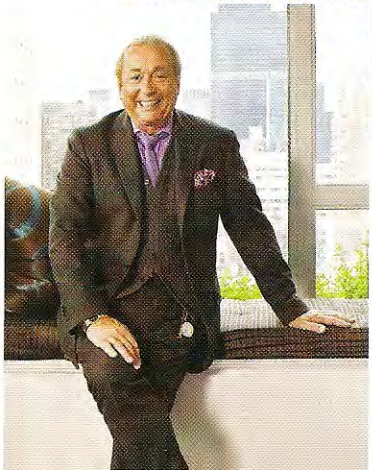
With a bold striped pillow here and a small bench upholstered in a bright color there, some designers use color and pattern as writers use exclamation points: sparingly. Not so with the exuberant Larry Laslo, known for using daring palettes and patterns not just for punctuation but for big-time personality.

"Do color and pattern as a big statement, or why bother," says Larry. "I'm always drawn to the rooms of the 1960s; when people used pattern in a room, everything was done in it."

In this master bedroom, an intense turquoise was paired with browns in a masterful mix of masculine and feminine. The handsome space was made intriguing with a handful of feminine lines. A tufted headboard with a curvaceous white lacquer frame provides a striking contrast to the masculine ikat textile that upholsters the padded walls and the striped woven leather rug that spans the floor. The quilted pattern of the fabric on the bench balances its carved frame. Instead of adding more darkness with additional brown elements, Larry relieved the palette with white moldings, bed linens, and a pendant light.

The ikat fabric on the draperies combines with a laser-cut brown sheer to stretch the length of one wall, enveloping a cozy window seat that glows with a striped silk cushion and an array of tweed and silk toss pillows. ➤

Produced by Bonnie Maharam Photographs by Bruce Buck



BY KRISSA ROSSBUND

saturated chic

Often we hear the phrase "less is more" used to describe elegant interiors. But these three showhouse rooms—pulsing with color and pattern—prove that "more can be more," too. Sometimes excess is just what is needed to compose a sophisticated space. ➤