

# Wallpaper is budget remodeler's best tool!

By LIS KING

Call on color and pattern if you're looking for ways to remodel without taking out a hefty home improvement loan.

For a couple of rolls of wallcovering, a few yards of fabric and a can of paint can perform outright miracles . . . such as playing down a room's defects, playing up its assets, creating illusions of space and depth, concealing architectural shortcomings, lending distinction to nondescript rooms, unifying clutter and even reshaping walls.

### From the drawing board

To learn how it's done, check these ideas from the drawing board of David Hardie, director of design for Style-Tex wallcoverings.

• Few rooms need more cheering up than kitchens. Bombard the walls with a sensational pattern and make curtains or window shades to match.

If you don't have much wall space, think of covering the ceiling, too. Scarred cabinets can also benefit from a wallcovering facelift. Choose a fabric-backed vinyl product for toughness and easy care.

• Don't limit yourself to "kitchen patterns." A bandana, patchwork, Aztec geometric or floral design is right as rain for your kitchen . . . as long as you like it.

### Pattern power

• Pick a dominant geometric or small over-all patterned wallcovering for difficult-to-decorate attic rooms with dormer walls. The pattern power will make an asset of the architectural defects.

• Cover ugly ducts and pipes to match the walls. They'll "disappear" out of sight.

• A lattice-design wallcovering will lead the eye beyond the wall, and so seem to stretch your space.

• A dark wallcovering on the two short walls of a long, narrow room will make it seem wider.

• Geometric patterns give a room an orderly, architectural look.

• To raise a ceiling, use a vertical, striped pattern. It'll lead the eye upward. Or use a sky-blue pattern on the ceiling.

• To give a boxy room architectural interest, add a chair rail (molding from the lumberyard will do it) and hang wallcovering above it. Or think of adding wallcovering panels, each surrounded by molding.

• Use patterns with red, pink, terracotta or peach accents to warm a room. Blue, green and grey are cool colors for a too hot room.

Go with the sunniest yellow in a dark, northern room. Those popular earth colors are serene, but dull unless you use some bright accents.

### Bathroom boldness

• Pattern power is terrific in the bathroom. Since this is a room where you don't spend that much time, not even the boldest design will tire you.

• Settle clutter and confusion with one great pattern. That means not stopping with the walls and draperies. Cover valances, lamp shades, pillows and tired furniture, too.

• To save important dollars, do it all yourself. Hanging wallcoverings and stitching draperies are easy ways to express your creativity.



INDIAN-INSPIRED wallcovering design, "Navajo" by Style-Tex, brings chic to an architecturally awkward attic room. Do-it-yourself platform bed is covered to match the walls. Beams are painted to emphasize the wallcovering's most important color.

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