



Fabrics to Inspire

By Linda Mazur

Linda Mazur is a nationally publicized designer and Principal of Linda Mazur Design Group. With almost two decades of experience, this in-demand multi-disciplinary design firm is known for creating relaxed stylish spaces and full-scale design builds within Toronto, the GTA and throughout Canada.
www.lindamazurdesign.com @LindaMazurGroup

Whether florals, damasks, geometrics or solids, we know fabrics are inspirational and a great starting point when designing a room. This year, we have been seeing many amazing fabrics full of lush colours, texture and incredible patterns. But there's more to fabric than just pretty colours and impactful patterns. When working with clients, I try to educate them in all aspects associated with the fabrics we are suggesting for their home, such as durability, care, pattern intricacy, the hang of a fabric and, of course, colour.

The durability of a particular fabric is determined by the "double-rub count." Fabrics are tested for the number of times a machine can pass back and forth over the fabric before it wears down. We now have an abundance of extremely durable, high-performance fabrics that not only have high rub-counts, but are also anti-microbial, and stain and moisture resistant. These fabrics are beyond "forgiving" and are fantastic for high-traffic homes, especially those with kids and pets. One company to look at that offers a vast array of fabrics is Alendel. They have recently launched eight new collections that are bursting with colour and versatility, ranging from lush velvets to decorative upholstery fabrics and faux leathers. One of my favourites from this season's launch is the Pandora collection. Plush, luxurious yet casual with an understated elegance, this beautiful velvet comes in close to a hundred stylish colours that are trendy, timeless and definitely durable.

As a designer, I love playing with fabrics – not just colour, but pattern and texture as well. Pattern play is a great way to elevate the design of your living space. When blending fabric patterns together successfully, it's important to remember to vary the



scale of the patterns from small to large, and to maintain the same depth of colour so as not to create an imbalance. Start with blending together a minimum of three fabric patterns and you should be fine. The first pattern selection is your most impactful one, so choose carefully and select a pattern that is larger-scaled. The second pattern should be completely different, about half the scale of the first one, and should have some of the same colours incorporated throughout. The third selection can be smaller scale and similar in pattern to either of the first two, with at least two or three of the colours found in the other patterns. For example, if you have selected a large-scale floral as your first pattern, the second could be a bold stripe or a geometric fretwork pattern, and then blend in another small-scale floral for the third, or an alternative smaller geometric. Consider adding another pattern or two, or three, if you wish, maybe a

small check; a dot is always favourable or perhaps something in a solid small-scale texture. If you're more adventurous, consider throwing an animal print into the mix for a bit of fun!

Inspiring fabrics will not only enhance the design of your space, but will complete it. Fabrics have the ability to complement architectural features, establish your colour palette, create a theme in your space or add excitement with pattern and texture. Have fun with the fabrics you find and make your space come alive.

