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MIXING Fabrics LIKE A PRO

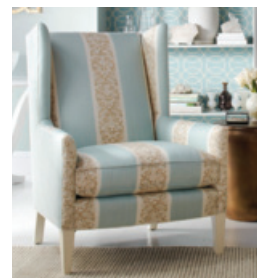
BY LINDA MAZUR

Over the last while we have been seeing the emergence of fantastic and inspiring fabrics bursting with colour and some of the most incredible patterns.

As a designer, I look forward to the start of a new project. I enjoy pouring over fabric books gathering ideas and direction, and have been known to design an entire space just from the inspiration of one fabric. The feel of lush velvets, the beauty of some richly woven silks and the simplicity of linen accompanied by rich, saturated colours is enough to inspire anyone to decorate. The question is however, with all of these fabrics to choose from how do you know what works together to achieve that “designer look” in your home.

To blend fabric patterns together successfully you need to remember to vary the scale of the patterns from small to large and

maintain the same depth or magnitude of colour. By that I mean if you're working with primary colours then don't look to incorporate fabrics that are pastels, you can create an imbalance. Generally, if you start with blending together a minimum of three fabric patterns you shouldn't have any problems. Your first pattern should be your most impactful one so choose carefully and select a pattern that is larger-scaled. The second pattern should be completely different, probably about half the scale of the first one and have some of the same colours incorporated throughout. For the third pattern it can be smaller scale and similar in pattern to either of the first two, with at least two to three of the colours found in the other patterns. So, for example, if you have selected a large scale floral as your first pattern, the second could be a bold stripe or perhaps a geometric fretwork pattern, and then blend in another small scale floral for the third or an alternative geometric. You can still add another pattern or two, or three, if you wish; maybe a small check, dot or something in a solid small scale texture. If you're more adventurous consider throwing an animal print in to the mix for a bit of fun! One of my “go-to” fabric suppliers is Robert Allen Designs.



Remember to balance the patterns throughout your space, the last thing you'll want to do is create a situation where the heavier weight of patterns are all at one end of the room; they should be well proportioned with solids and any other visible patterns in your room such as area rugs, wall coverings, fireplace surrounds to provide equilibrium and an aesthetically pleasing look. Also consider the feel of the fabrics you are selecting, are they formal or more casual? This is an important point to remember as you pair up your choices.

As fabrics can and will enhance the design of your home be bold in the choices you make. Toiles, stripes, florals, ikats and jacquards, there are so many different patterns, scales and colours that can be mixed together beautifully to compliment your room and add that “designer touch,” just remember to keep a common element throughout and watch your home come alive! **CL**



Designer **LINDA MAZUR** is the Principal Designer of Linda Mazur Design Group. With over a decade of experience this sought out multi-disciplinary interior design firm is known for providing innovative interior renovations and full-scale build projects that reflect both timeless style and optimal functionality. The firm services Toronto, GTA and surrounding areas.
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