



Bold and beautiful

Dress up your walls this spring with bright colours and striking wallpaper.

ARTICLE Stephanie Matheson PHOTOGRAPHY courtesy of Resene

Happy hues, tempting textures and precious patterns – this season's trends offer endless options for refreshing your home. It's time to get adventurous and add character to your rooms.





Colour

Following the dark, moody tones of winter, softer colours and pastels start blossoming on our walls this spring. Resene is just releasing the new The Range fashion colours fandeck, with a whole range of fresh and revitalising tones for you to choose from.

"Yellow is very popular at the moment; take Resene Wild Thing for example – it's such a happy spring colour," says Resene colour consultant Nikki Morris. "We're now moving more into the mustard hues, which is a trend in fashion this season. We're also seeing quite a bit of purple. I think it may move from the luxurious, masculine shades to more lilacy

hues." Pink is hot this spring, too, with Resene Smitten a popular choice. Here again, the trendy tones may shift towards a pastel palette and the many sunny sherbets.

One of the main highlights this season is the revival of blue. A bright colour like Resene Optimist adds a splash of cool, but the real stars this season are soft, pastel blues.

"We haven't seen blue on walls for a long time, except perhaps in the odd bathroom," says Nikki. "But we'll certainly see many shades of pastel blue this spring, probably more in wallpaper than in paint as they tend to be softer and lighter."

Wallpaper

Wallpaper has seen a real revival, with the return of bold patterns and textures. "Wallpaper is no longer old-fashioned, it's a modern, trendy take on older motifs, and we're seeing a lot more texture and pattern this spring," says Nikki. "In addition to the floral prints, many geometrical, more masculine shapes are now coming in. They are influenced by the past, but we're glitzing them up with bolder colours and metallic effects – our brocade prints are a great example of this."

The combination of geometric patterns and vivid colours creates drama without being too overpowering. The same is also true for very intricate patterns, whether classic or retro inspired. Many are tone on tone, which creates a more subdued look for busy patterns. Pin-stripe patterns and very big stripes are another hot ticket.

Botanicals are still very popular and the Resene WallTrends II collection offers a selection of textured koru-designs – from rich black on a silver metallic background through to a subtle cream on a pale beige metallic background. An embossed fantail design and bold, stylised leaf designs also feature in the collection – quirky and playful, but still elegant.

Aside from pretty patterns, textures are very much in fashion. Perhaps the most popular of them is the velvety feel of flock papers. Small fibres are applied to an adhesive-coated surface, making the paper look and feel like velvet – a great option for



large floral or damask designs. A different tactile experience is created by grasscloth wallpapers. Manufactured using natural fibres of jute, reed and arrowroot, these nature-inspired papers express a love for eco living and add warmth to a room.

When it comes to selecting the right wallpaper for your home, Nikki doesn't hesitate to advise picking a pattern that you really love. "Pick the wallpaper that makes your heart race," she smiles. "Something that reflects who you are and what you are doing in the room. Bedrooms, for example, tend to be tranquil spaces and feature walls are often dark and moody. You can create a romantic and cosy retreat – it's all about making the best use of your space."

Feature walls are the most common way of bringing wallpaper into New Zealand homes. They're a cost-efficient and easy feature that adds a touch of drama. However, wallpapering the whole room is also becoming more popular again, often with a feature wall and connecting wallpaper on the other walls.

"Having connecting wallpapers around your feature paper eases the transition from high impact to normal wall," explains Nikki. "You can also achieve a harmonious look with accessories that tie the wallpaper's key accent colour into the whole room."



If you decide to combine wallpaper and colour, it's important to pick a colour that complements and supports the wallpaper, and doesn't distract from it. Work from the wallpaper backwards and bring a sample along when you choose the paint. At Resene, you can order paper samples that are half a metre long, along with A4 colour samples or test pots, so you can test the combinations on your wall.

Murals

From cityscapes and sport themes through to farmyards and forests, murals transform an entire wall, and there's a vast choice available for both kids and adults. "Natural murals

are definitely a trend," says Nikki. "They can create a holiday feel and add a real feature to your house. I think you get the best wow factor if you leave the mural wall unobstructed or perhaps dress it up with an occasional chair."

Nikki recommends considering your wall size carefully to ensure that you get the best mural to fit your space: "Murals come in certain sizes, so not all murals work equally well in all rooms. Take your wall measurements along to a Resene ColourShop to find the best match."

Wall stickers

Decals and wall stickers are a cost-effective, easy and fun way to spice up your walls. Often made from vinyl, they come in different sizes and in many cases can be cut to fit. "You can get really creative with decals," says Nikki. "They're easy to remove and change, so you can really experiment and try out different things without damaging the paintwork."

This makes them a great option for use in rentals as well. You can quickly add fancy filigrees, retro spheres or classic chandeliers anywhere in the house, or choose one of the popular Kiwi motifs with tuis, ferns or koru-inspired designs. In addition, there are endless options for kids' rooms, including dinosaurs, alphabet animals or funky flowers.

Sticker packs usually contain a range of colours, so there is sure to be a scheme that will work with your existing wall hues. Black and white decals are also available. Nikki adds: "White decals are making a big appearance on boldly coloured walls. I think we're getting more playful and colourful with paint colour and wallpaper, so white decals and neutral accessories may become more popular."

Whichever decorating option and colour scheme you decide to go for, it's a great way of making a statement and creating a bold and beautiful feature. ■



Wallpapering

Tips & Tricks from Resene

To help you make the most of your wallpaper, the experts at Resene recommend that you carefully and correctly prepare your wall surface. It needs to be clean, dusted, dry and sound.

For cutting and matching, measure the distance from skirting to ceiling and add 50 millimetres to both top and bottom. Paste-the-wall papers don't require trimming to length.

Always work away from the main source of light (starting in a corner) and finish in the least conspicuous corner. Hang your first strip in line with a plumb line; you can make one yourself by cutting a length of string and tying a weight to the bottom.

Measure the width of the paper. Then measure this amount out from the corner (in the direction you are going) less 15 millimetres if you're wallpapering the whole room. Hang your plumb line here and mark the wall down the line every 300 to 400 millimetres – this will give you a good vertical line to hang your first length to. The extra 15 millimetres of paper wrap around the corner, providing an overlap for your last length.

Follow the soaking and pasting instructions on the wallpaper, as these do differ from paper to paper. Some are supplied pasted, some unpasted, but they all need to soak so the material can relax and expand before being hung.

Step up to the ceiling with the paper and press it against the wall at the top. Moving down, position the paper against the plumb line. Smooth it over from the centre to the edges, pushing any air bubbles away as you go. Trim at the top and bottom and wipe off any excess paste. Butt the edge of your next length to the already hung one, taking care to match the pattern.

For a full set of instructions, download Resene's information on measuring, cutting and hanging wallpaper from www.renovatemagazine.co.nz.

We're interested to know how your wallpapering project worked out, so share your experiences and photos with us on Facebook www.facebook.com/renovatemagazine.

