

INSIGHT

Decorative wall treatments

Like the look of Fie Aspöck Jonsen's wall treatments? There are plenty of innovative ways to create the effect



Adding interest and impact to your walls needn't mean restricting yourself to traditional methods. Panels, transfers, wall stickers, artwork, murals and even ceramics are all ways to pack a style punch.

OUTSIDE THE BOX

From contemporary artwork and boldly painted walls to transfers and decorative plate collections, it is clear that the walls do the talking at the Jonsens' home. Unusual wall treatments inject personality and modernity into a decor. The key is to decorate in a way that has meaning to you, whether that's by using a favourite hue as a backdrop to family art or treasured ceramics for a 3D effect. Interior designer Deborah Heath of Design By Deborah suggests grouping pictures, mirrors, photographs – whatever you fancy. 'Try hanging plates, hats, ceramics and memorabilia such as old sports equipment or precious items that can be easily attached to a vertical surface. A display like this can be updated regularly, and it's simpler than completely redecorating.' Textured walls are becoming popular too, such as polished concrete or moulded plaster panels in a variety of shapes and patterns. They look great when lit subtly from different directions and work well in contemporary settings.

GET ARTY

Removable wall stickers or transfers (decals) make a statement. They were once just a useful tool for adding character to a child's bedroom, but new designs mean they can be used to great effect in grown-up schemes, too. There are several available, from colourful styles to elegant monochromes, sophisticated silhouettes, witty graphics and adhesive chalkboard, which is ideal for kitchens. 'Size and proportion are

important factors with wall art,' advises Deborah. 'Ideally you would accessorise one wall, grouping items so that they work together and not as a random collection. Bold wall accessories look great against a contemporary background, but solid, vivid colour would swamp a watercolour, for example, and an oil painting may look dark and imposing on delicately patterned wallpaper. It's a matter of trial and error, and personal taste.'

EXPERT EYE



'Wall panelling is attractive and versatile, adding focus and character to a scheme. The latest modular panels can be trimmed and primed to fit any wall and are quick and easy to install.'

GRAHAM KETT, DIRECTOR, FINEPANEL.CO.UK

PROFESSIONAL ADVICE...

- 'Thanks to digital printing and abundant image libraries, having a design printed into bespoke wallpaper or a mural is now affordable. If you are designing your own, the success lies in the pattern repeat – ask the printers for a digital proof showing how your design would translate into paper before it goes to print.'
- Textural papers inject some mid-century glamour into a modern interior. When hung vertically, however, the join is more visible, so ask your decorator to hang the paper horizontally; hard work, but worth it.
- Try combining two different wallpapers in a room: a bold graphic with a simple print or texture, but keep a linking element, usually in the colour palette, to make sense of the marriage.
- It's very easy to overdo a style because you love it, but knowing when to stop is important. Too much of anything is overbearing, so mix contemporary with traditional, and muted with bold.'

CLARE PASCOE, DIRECTOR, PASCOE INTERIORS

ADDRESS BOOK

- **ART FEVER**
01926 485017, art-fever.co.uk
Find many unique removable and reusable stickers and decals here, including a children's range.
- **HEAL'S**
020 7636 1666, heals.co.uk
Source contemporary wall

- stickers here, including some striking silhouette designs.
- **BRITISH INSTITUTE OF INTERIOR DESIGN**
020 7349 0800, biid.org.uk
Professional organisation for interiors designers with listings of suppliers and designers.