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Dress your home in Vivienne Westwood's finest

Decorating Interior design expert Gill Richardson from Goodchild Interiors explains the fashion for pattern – illustrated with Vivienne Westwood wallpaper in this Clifton property

There is something glorious about a riot of pattern within an interior design scheme and wallpaper is a bold way to achieve it.

Not for the fainthearted, a strong repeat with a cacophony of colour will tease the eye and create a dramatic visual impact.

It has a shrouding effect as it covers the walls and drapes around corners, sliding round hard edges and softening sound.

A quality wallpaper, expertly hung, has a way of cloaking the surfaces and making it feel “dressed” somehow; better looking, smarter, and properly presented. It’s not surprising paper is back on trend and, with so many wonderful ranges to choose from, it’s a great way to change the character of a room.

With the whole mid-century craze being the zeitgeist of the day, patterns are being released and regenerated from wallpaper archives. Original Fifties designs are flooding the stores and we are seeing a popular resurgence

in geometric, floral and vintage motifs.

Playing with the effect of pattern upon walls means we can stretch the perspective like a painter and make walls seem taller or shorter; we can shrink or expand horizontal widths and completely transform space.

Vivienne Westwood – best known for her eponymous fashion designs – has created “Squiggle” wallpaper for Cole & Son, taken from her Pirate A/W 1981 Collection, and it is this, shown in the blue colour-way, *above*, that we proposed for the Clifton hallway, *pictured*, belonging to our clients.

We selected this scheme to contemporise a very dated (1990s) hallway and to banish the existing yellow tones by using blue and white. The look also needed to tie in with other refurbishments carried out throughout the house.

We wanted to take advantage of the high ceilings and period features by framing them within a modern context. In this way, the wonderful cornice, which

was repaired and repainted, became the architectural icing on the cake – a major feature of the space balancing the strength of pattern and lit by the splendid George Nelson “Bubble” pendant we introduced over the stairs (another nod to the trending Fifties).

To cover mismatched timber flooring and add to the clean lines of the hallway, we used Farrow & Ball’s floor paint to make the space seamless and to add to the feeling of “wrapping” that wallpaper creates.

Paul Goodchild designed the wonderful coat stand/shelving rail so that bike helmets, racquets, coats, shoes, wellies and umbrellas – family clobber in general – could be stored practically and yet feel easy on the eye. Painted in Farrow & Ball’s Pitch Blue, it is contained within the blue and white scheme so that it achieves the feeling that it’s meant to be there, rather than standing out.

Roger Oates’ stair runner, from Matt at Design Flooring in Clifton, makes a great stair

carpet and the crisp brown is a pleasing complement to the blue. Marie at Oskar Furniture in Clifton can supply the Bubble light and Duncan Murison did a remarkable job in hanging wallpaper in tricky spaces such as this.

If you are planning to create your own patterned walls, I would advise selecting a good quality paper and to remember that the most difficult to put up are metallic or reflective prints. They will show every bump on an uneven wall and need a skilled installer and much prep work. However, don’t be deterred. Vivienne Westwood on a wall, or two is still a wonderful way to “dress” your home.

To contact Gill at award-winning architectural design business, Goodchild Interiors, call 0117 927 9475, email gill@goodchildinteriors.net, or see the new website www.goodchildinteriors.net.

