

# ON THE Bright Side



*All-white spaces are a wash. Today's top designers are letting the client dictate the design while serving up heaping helpings of color.*

**Text** Laura Kostelny

**TICKLED PINK**  
Rosy shades and happy patterns imbue personality in this space by Yates Desygn.

**Photo:** Michael Wiltbank

**Photo:** Stephen Karlisch



**SULTRY SHADES**  
The Yates Desygn team intertwined color, pattern, and form to create a moody game-night basement for the Kips Bay Decorator Show House Dallas.

**Photo:** Michael Wiltbank



**ALL FOR THE GRAM**  
Alluring design "is all about adding layers and contrast," says designer Bryan Yates, who has created vivid spaces with floor-to-ceiling flamingo-pink walls (above) and a powder room with wallpapered cabinets.

**Photo:** Stephen Karlisch



**Photo:** Michael Wiltbank



**THE DESIGNER:** Bryan Yates of Yates Desygn

**PERSONAL BEST:** Dallas-based Yates says now more than ever, his clients are looking for ways to inject more personality in their spaces, whether it's via a graphic wallpaper, painted walls, or fanciful furnishings. "We've all pivoted into a different era—everyone was at home for so long—so people are interested in something different. They're all about color, and they're open to taking more chances."

**VIEW FINDER:** Artwork is a great way to add a little something extra, but don't discount the beauty of the all-natural landscape just beyond the panes. "We had a recent project with a pair of huge windows that brought in a lot of color and ultimately became the backdrop for the room," Yates says.

**SMALL WONDER:** For those looking to inch their way into making a splash, the designer says, go to the (accent) light. "Try a sconce with a fabric shade that has a little pattern to it. Grandma chic is in now. Bring that into the mix."

**FINISHING TOUCHES:** Yates likes to use an array of finishes and metals in spaces to create a timeless, collected-over-time feel. "A painted element alongside natural wood adds a little more depth to a space instead of something that's all one note. It's all about adding layers and contrast," he says.



**Photo:** Stephen Karlisch  
Mike Yates (left) and Bryan Yates of Yates Desygn

**THE DESIGNER:**  
Shay Geyer of IBB Design Fine Furnishings

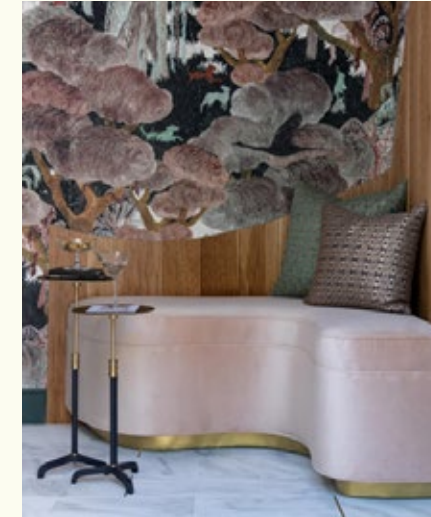


All Kitchen Photos: Dan Piassick

**VENT ON POINT**  
A thoughtful range can make all the difference in designing an interesting kitchen, says designer Shay Geyer, and offers a surprising source for intersecting color.



Photo: Michael Hunter



**SHAKE IT UP**  
For a stunning bar room in the Kips Bay Decorator Show House Dallas (also bottom right), Traci Connell mixed hand-painted wallpaper, a velvety gilded banquette, and an unexpected shade of green that capitalizes on the architecture.

**THE DESIGNER:**  
Traci Connell of Traci Connell Interiors

**COLLECT CALLING:** Connell says when people form a personal connection to a bold piece of art, they're more likely to embrace bringing it into even the most neutral of rooms. "When we have an artist explain his passion and inspiration—or why he used a mini blowtorch to create the design—a buyer can more easily relate the piece back to his life. It becomes personal," she says. "That artwork, painted wall covering, or really interesting rug becomes experiential."

**PAPER TRAIL:** The designer likes to incorporate wallpaper in fun spaces like a lounge, but she suggests considering other alternatives in a hardworking space like a bar. "We're currently using a hand-painted wall covering by Porter Teleo in a project," she says. "You can also try vinyl or a hand-painted paper covered with a thin sheet of glass, and you'll have something that's durable and artistic as well."



**UP, UP & AWAY:** Clients who are unsure about adding an abundance of pattern should consider papering the "fifth wall," says Connell: "I don't love accent walls, but if you suggest adding a fun pattern to the ceiling, that seems to be more of a comfort level for most people."

**BOLD BATHS:** "I'm all for painted cabinets and vanities in bathrooms," she says. "Really, everything boils down to how you want your space make you feel. The color and textures in a space should help create a feeling. If super bright colors energize you, then you should absolutely go for it."

Photo: Stephen Karlisch



**RANGE ROVER:** Folks who can't afford a navy or charcoal Lacanche range in their kitchen, for example, can still experience a little piece of heaven while cooking, per Geyer. "A custom vent is a fun, high-impact way to add 'jewelry' to the kitchen," she says. "I hate a boring vent hood. They're almost always the center focal point of the kitchen, so why not do something beautiful and thoughtful?"

**COUNTER CULTURE:** Don't discount marble when it comes to adding more character to the space. "We're mixing it with metals and different inserts, which can create interesting borders and add to the design," Geyer says. If you have your heart set on taking bigger risks with more graphic tiles,

she says start with the butler's pantry. "We might do a main kitchen that's timeless, but a pantry can be opportunity to get really fun and crazy."

**BROAD STROKES:** Paint is an easy, fairly noncommittal way to expand your horizons. "If you paint your kitchen island a funky color, and three years later, you decide it's over, that's only a weekend job to repaint it," Geyer says.

**BRIGHT IDEA:** "Lighting is a place where budgets are rarely properly allocated, but it's so important and it really transforms a space," she explains. "If you're looking for a quick fix, bring in some drum shades in fun colors."

Photo: Stephen Karlisch

Photo: Michael Hunter



**TOUCH OF THE SUN**  
Connell never shies from a bold hue, and has a knack for making even the cheeriest shade of yellow subtly pop.



AD

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Learn more about the “going bold” trend at **11 a.m. on Sept. 14 on the First Floor of the World Trade Center** during our **Dallas Design Week** panel discussion, **“The Power of Personality & Personal Touch in Spaces,”** moderated by Paulette Pearson, homes editor of *Luxe Interiors + Design*. Person will be joined by our story’s design experts: Mike and Brian Yates of Yates Desygn, Shay Geyer of IBB Design Fine Furnishings, and Traci Connell of Traci Connell Interiors.

**BOLD-FACED**  
Graphic wallpapers in vibrant shades lend a youthful, edgy feel to spaces designed by Traci Connell of Traci Connell Interiors.

Photo:  
Michael  
Hunter