



**INTERIORS**  
by Decorating Den™

## **DECORATING TRENDS, TIPS AND TRICKS**

*The process of selecting patterns and prints can become a huge puzzle! What to use where? How to balance the scale and design of the patterns and prints you love? How much is too much? How much is too little? The questions go on and on! Of course, working with a professional decorator will definitely help you take the guess work out of this common design dilemma. —Barbara*

### **Tips for Mixing Patterns**



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**INTERIORS by Decorating Den is pleased to introduce you to Barbara Tabak, owner and international award winning designer celebrating 11 years helping area homeowners decorate their homes and offices with top quality home furnishing products.**

Generally speaking, strong patterns work best when given top billing in your design plan. For instance, a large scale floral will work well with a medium scale geometric pattern or even a mini print. So begin with a “statement print” that you love. This is the print around which you will design the rest of the room. Select a large-scale print with several colors so you will have many options for mixing and matching. Let the statement print dominate in the room by using it on the larger items in the room. In this month’s “before & after” makeover we used a “signature print” on the bed’s coverlet and window treatments.

Next choose your coordinating patterns. You’ll want to mix no more than 2-3 mid scale and small scale patterns that color coordinate with your signature print. Freely mix and match florals, stripes, plaids, checks or textures. Let one color from your signature print dominate throughout the secondary patterns. Note that in this month’s “before & after” room we chose a check fabric for the bed skirt and pillow shams, a stripe pattern for the wall treatment and a small ditzzy print on the chair.



### **BEFORE AND AFTER**

#### **The Challenge**

This project was a bedroom and bath addition to an existing home and therefore, a blank

## AWARDS

2009, 2007 and 2006  
*Window Fashion's Vision Magazine's international Design Competition, WOW Award, draperies and valances.*

2009 *Simply the Best, Window Treatments in Harrisburg Magazine's Readers' Poll.*

2009 & 2008 *Readers' Choice Award for Interior Designer in Harrisburg Magazine's Readers' Poll.*

2008 *Central PA Magazine's Hot List, Best Interior Designer/Decorator.*

2009, 2008 and 2007  
*Pyramid Award from the Metropolitan Harrisburg Builders' Association for Outstanding Interior Decorating.*

2009 and 2005 *INTERIORS by Decorating Den's International Dream Room Contest. Awards in the categories of Bathroom, Dining Room and Window Treatments.*

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## PUBLICATIONS

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canvas. We began this project by working with the client to define her design style and color preferences to be sure that her finished bedroom and bath reflected her design expectations.

## The Solution

the multiple windows and doorway, and the grand mahogany planter beds, the decorator picked a white cotton sateen fabric sprayed with flowers and birds, in lush tropical limes and corals. Instead of paint she selected wallpaper, another product making a comeback. The striped paper in shades of green became a pleasant backdrop for the drapery panels and gently tassel-fringed valances. Complimenting the more formal floral print is a bold green and white check, which was used for the dust ruffle and pillows. The introduction of black, especially as the ground color for the wool rug with large colorful orchids, supplied a touch of drama.

We brought the client's bedroom and bath to life with a mix of bright and cheerful colors and a wonderful mix of patterns. To grace



Whether the client is in the mood for reading or taking a nap, the newly recovered red chair and ottoman, positioned by the door, is the ideal place to relax and capture a refreshing afternoon breeze.

White shutters are in keeping with the sophisticated tropical atmosphere, but on the practical side they are easy to adjust for sunlight and privacy. Topping off the room's graceful manner is a

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**Window Treatments**

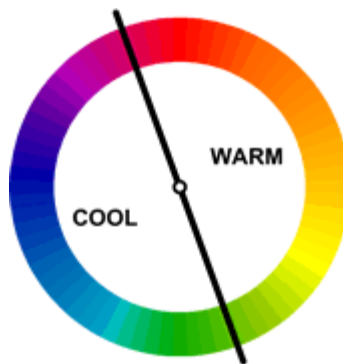
**Interior Designer**

charming mix of accent furniture and accessories.



For the adjacent bathroom the decorator duplicated the master bedroom's light and sunny décor. Walls were covered in the matching paper to the bedroom's floral and bird print. Underneath the black patterned rug is an eco-friendly, durable bamboo floor. Waking up in the morning in this delightful master suite is a beautiful way for our client and her husband to start their day.

## Color Tip of the Month



As I write this month's color tip, the temperature outside is 93°, and the humidity is around 80%. Its HOT, HOT, HOT! So what better way to cool down than to think “cool”, conjuring up images of cool blue water, the coolness of a deep green forest, the white of a new fallen snow. Blue, green, white, fuchsia and purple are all colors that, in color therapy, are on the “cool” side of the color wheel. Cool colors are passive, staying in the background, creating a calm mood. In this month's “before and

after” bedroom, note how the light green of the walls and the white background of the large floral pattern on the bedspread and draperies create a serene bedroom.



Mixing cool colors with a color from the opposite side of the color wheel—the “warm” colors -creates a striking contrast. Note how the cool colors of our “before and

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**and The Art of  
Pulling It All**

after” bedroom are complimented by the addition of the rose hued lounge chair. Mixing cool colors with warm colors brings a punch of contrast color and adds interest to the room.

The sunroom pictured here is another example of a “cool” color scheme, with its blue/white hues. It might be a sunroom, but it’s COOL, COOL, COOL!

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