

"NEVER BE AFRAID
TO MIX YOUR
PATTERNS—BOTH ON
THE TABLE AND
IN YOUR ROOM!"

—Melissa Rufty

EXPERT
ADVICE

A wallpapered
ceiling gives
any room more
patina and depth
of color.



PUT ON THE GLITZ

New Orleans, Louisiana

DESIGNED BY
MELISSA RUFTY
mmrinteriors.com

WHY IT WORKS

PLENTY OF SHIMMER

There's no shortage of metallic tones in this classic New Orleans dining room that piles on the shine. Textured wallpaper with a subtle damask print, gold-painted trim, brass sconces, and a wallpapered ceiling create a jewel box of a room that feels formal and romantic.

CREATIVE REUSE OF

SALVAGE Melissa fashioned an enormous, almost floor-to-ceiling mirror from a piece of architectural salvage—an antique door surround—and fit it with mirrored squares of antique glass. The result anchors the room and makes an excellent conversation piece.

UNEXPECTED NATURAL

ACCENT To counterbalance all of the shine, Melissa chose antique dining chairs (from Karla Katz Antiques in New Orleans) that are covered in hair-on hide. "It's my go-to fabric for upholstering dining chairs," she says. "It's indestructible. Red wine? No problem."

ENCHANTING

CENTERPIECE Even on days when the table isn't set for entertaining or a special occasion, an 18th-century glazed ceramic French brazier holds court in the center. Melissa tucks stems of roses, succulents, pepper berry, and fragrant eucalyptus into the holes for a dramatic effect.



AMP UP TRADITION

Charlottesville, Virginia

DESIGNED BY
CHRISTY FORD
andgeorge.com

WHY IT WORKS

TRADITIONAL MEETS EDGY

Neutral walls and white-washed furniture get a kick with graphic hits of black and navy, including black candles, leather chairs ("You can't go wrong with leather when you have small children," says Christy), and chandelier shades.

A CENTRAL SERVING

BUFFET On center stage in this dining room is a beautiful antique sideboard with a light gray finish that serves multiple functions. When entertaining, it can be set up as a serving station; every day, it's a large surface for displaying silver serving pieces and blue-and-white pottery.

WE LOVE!
colored
chandelier shades
used on sconces
to match a wall
or trim color

EXPERT
ADVICE

Change the look
of any tired bathroom
by repainting the
existing vanity in a bold
color in a high-gloss
finish and swapping
out the knobs.

PLAY WITH PATTERN

New Orleans, Louisiana

DESIGNED BY
MELISSA RUFTY
mmrinteriors.com

WHY IT WORKS

TRADITION WITH A TWIST

Melissa took a familiar toile pattern and gave it new life in a vibrant magenta-and-orange colorway. The wallpaper (Bengale in Paprika by Manuel Canovas; manuelcanovas.com) now envelops the room. She then took the look one step further by painting the cabinetry, trim, and shutters a pinkish red (Mardi Gras by Benjamin Moore) and adding some coordinating towels monogrammed in pink. Melissa's small-space advice: "Take the opportunity to splurge here; the quantity needed will be less," she says. So if you've been eyeing a fabulous (and pricey) wallpaper or tile, try it in a small bathroom, where you'll spend less but still make quite an impact.



WE LOVE!
a claw-foot
tub centered
under a window,
adding old-
house charm

STAY AUTHENTIC

Charlotte,
North Carolina

DESIGNED BY
HOLLY PHILLIPS
theenglishroom.biz

WHY IT WORKS

CLASSIC PALETTE The design of this bathroom matches the home's circa-1929 roots with plumbing fixtures, faucets, lighting, and medicine cabinets that are new yet have a retro vibe. White porcelain console sinks and a cast-iron claw-foot tub are period-appropriate but still fresh against the modern marble floor tile.

UNIQUE WALL TREATMENT

Classic white painted beaded board works like wall paneling and runs three-quarters of the way up the walls. For added interest, blue medallion-print wallpaper (seabrookwallpaper.com) crowns the top of the room for a hit of color and pattern. Another unique feature is a tall baseboard made from the marble floor tile.



CORNER THE MARKET

New Orleans, Louisiana

DESIGNED BY
MELISSA RUFTY
mmrinteriors.com

WHY IT WORKS

SMART USE OF SPACE

Melissa made the most of a super-tiny space (with not enough room to fit both a standard toilet and a freestanding sink) by tucking a marble-topped chinoiserie sink base into the corner of the room. She hung a Baroque mirror above for another luxe addition.

DRAMATIC FINISHES Every guest will always remember a trip to your powder room when you trick it out like Melissa did, with ornate wallpaper (Summer Palace by Osborne & Little; osborneandlittle.com), lacquered trim, a painted floor, and a red silk window treatment with beaded trim. Even the wastebasket coordinates with the glamorous feel.

GO FOR GLAM

Houston, Texas

DESIGNED BY
BAILEY MCCARTHY
peppermintbliss.com

WHY IT WORKS

CUSTOM MILLWORK

Bailey relocated the tub and tucked it into a cozy surround of dark millwork (painted Black Satin by Benjamin Moore) that includes a pair of glass-shelved hanging cabinets and an inset beveled mirror. The mirror adds sparkle and enlarges the space, while the rows of open shelving give the room lots of storage and a vintage-chic apothecary feel.

SIMPLE—BUT DRAMATIC—PALETTE

There's a lot going on in this tiny bathroom, but the classic black-and-white palette with brass accents keeps things from looking chaotic. The millwork's lacquered finish adds depth and polish, and the traditional pattern of the marble hex floor tile is a nod to the home's 1930s roots.

SHOWSTOPPING SINKS

As part of the bath's remodel, Bailey made sure to carve out room for a facing pair of handsome Carrara marble-topped washstands with polished brass legs. Their generous size doesn't leave a lot of extra floorspace, but, for Bailey, the sacrifice was worth it. The medicine cabinets above replace lost storage space.