



A Luminous Look

THE TALL ARCHED WINDOWS in this living room let in natural light and illuminate the light pink walls. The hanging chandelier adds radiance to the room and enhances its whimsical appeal.

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOHN BESSLER

The Pattern Princess

Whether it's time to revamp a room or complete a remodel, use patterns and prints to add character and signature style to your interior.

It's a new year,

which means it's time to refresh your cottage.

Dress up your home in patterns, prints and textures with tips from John Loecke and Jason Oliver Nixon's new book *Prints Charming*. Otherwise known as the Madcap Cottage gents, John and Jason are here to help you pick the perfect theme for any room in your house and add personalized décor to give your cottage a fresh, homey feel.

The delightful duo, known for their blend of bright vivacious palettes and classically-rooted interiors say that pattern is not only what can take your rooms from vanilla to a rainbow of flavors, it's what can infuse your space with the timeless charm of cottage style. "All white walls and neutral furnishings and accessories lack a history or provenance," they write. "Pattern is gutsy. Interior design is about bringing fantasy and story line to life: with a little vision and inspiration, you can easily create an alternative reality in which to—quite literally—live."

So if you're stuck living in a beige world, where do you start? Here, they break it down into the big ideas.

THINK THEME

To create a lively storyline in a room, start by picking a pattern or print to function as a theme. The possibilities for patterns are truly endless. "Use painted furniture to carry a pattern story from fabrics and wallpapers onto three-dimensional pieces, such as mirrors and accessories," the designers write. Not only does this expand your options for creativity, but it also gives you the opportunity to add personalized décor to the room. For example, if your curtain pattern has brightly colored tropical birds, choose a complementary pillow pattern of tropical flowers, and a sisal rug that resembles sand. Then add travel pieces to complete the look and embellish the room with your favorite mementoes.

Delightful Dining

THIS DINING ROOM is bursting with floral patterns including curtains, upholstery and even a wallpaper treatment on the ceiling. "Flowers hold the scheme together," the Madcaps write, while monochromatic furniture provides neutrality to the otherwise vibrant color scheme.



Come Together

TRADITIONAL AND contemporary décor blend together in the foyer, with classic Chinoiserie wallpaper and green-painted walls, which add a pop of color to the room.



Top to Bottom

THE MADCAPS CREATE a garden theme in this kitchen, with lattice-patterned wallpaper on the ceiling and floral squares on tiles above the stove. Meanwhile, the dark wood floor grounds the room, balancing out the abundance of color in the kitchen.



Add travel pieces or family heirlooms to embellish the room with *sentimental* items.

Overhead Opportunity

THE DESIGNERS "BRING IN OVERHEAD INTEREST with inexpensive paper lanterns, bunting, and string lights." These pieces prove essential to the patio, adding bright colors to the pastel ceiling and refreshing the room's cozy charm.

BE CHEEKY

Pattern should have personality. Whether you choose to blend patterns that are a nod to the past, an ode to a place you've traveled or simply an exercise in artistic expression, have fun with it!

"Interior design should be fun," they write. "It should be an adventure—one whose end result is rooms that burst with personality and that put a smile on your face the moment you step through the front door."

KEY PIECES OF DÉCOR

Get down to the details with stylized décor pieces. Lighting, vases and clocks are great because they're both functional and decorative. "Think eclectic frames and matting treatments to amp up the pattern play and keep the eye constantly engaged," the designers write. These décor elements add subtle yet playful character to the room.



Pattern Play

THIS BEDROOM BRINGS TOGETHER 16 different floral patterns. Can you spot them all? The bedroom is a great place to make use of patterns because you have so many options; liven your place up with shams, decorative pillows, blankets, lampshades and a rug.

Common living spaces and bedrooms can feel cluttered by too many décor pieces, so also make use of your entryways and hallways to display family photos or traditional paintings. As the Madcaps say, "Pass-through spaces should be savored, not overlooked."

And use your big statement pieces to anchor the room and make an impact. The gents are particularly in favor of eye-catching classics like canopy beds and curvy armoires, but even something as simple as your stair risers are great places to make a memorable design move.



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