



Epic Furniture Group

Upholstered walls soften and warm a room.

Put an End to Boring Walls

by Mindi Leatham



Seabrook Design

Subtle textured prints inspired by nature.

Walls *can* talk when creatively covered by San Diego's leading artists and designers. Wallpapers, paint, murals, plaster techniques, upholstery and metal tiles are all being put to work to tell stories of style for 2003. Whether you favor a mysterious wall that seems to be missing leather panels, or a sleek, chrome backsplash, you're sure to find ideas here that will give your walls unique voices.

Paper

Wallpaper has made a definite comeback in recent years thanks to new, subtle textures and patterns that give layers of visual and tactile appeal to walls. Anjum Razvi, ASID, of Design Studio Razvi said, "A home I did with Brenda Lanza had walls covered with custom, hand-made papers that mimicked the look of concrete." Kathleen M. Zbacnik, ASID, of KZ Design Group covered a bathroom in navy-colored paper sprinkled with gold stars. Monochrome colors can be made interesting with Andover's attractive variety of E-Z Hang embossed textures that reflect light. Other visionary designs and colors include Versa's designer-trusted line



Tropical print wallpaper transforms an ordinary bathroom into an oasis.

of creative wall coverings. Versa's unique wall textures include *Círculo*, an embossed damask design of burnished, free form circles, *Alloy*, the swirled texture of brushed metal and *Filigrane*, suggestive of wood grain and watermarks.

Papers inspired by natural elements, such as plants, stones and metals, are currently designers' favorites. Brewster Wallcovering Company's Asian Inspired line emulates the look of grass cloth. The intricate beauty of the forest floor inspired Versa's *Botannica*. Pigments from the leaves of *Morinda Citrifolia* were Versa's motivation for their batik coverings in organic colors. *E-Z Hang*, by Andover, offers textured marbles that subtly shimmer in green, gold, and ivory colorways. Stripes are available in metallic silver, gold, olive and ivory, as well as matte faux marble finishes in honey, cream, and taupe. *Silk Dynasty's Gilt Complex* and *Schabin Leaf* papers are made of 100 percent metallic leafed paper. *Gilt Complex* comes in 6 embossed texture selections and custom colors. *Schabin Leaf* has lovely botanical inclusions in gold, silver and rose.

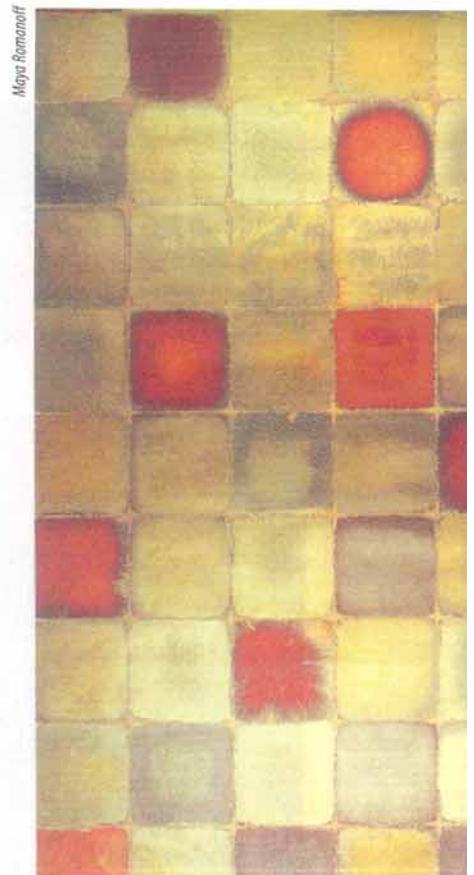
Paint

Paint is a wonderful way to achieve personalized, intriguing walls. Joel Sharp, of Sharp Studios Gallery, created a luxurious guest bathroom with regal, deep-blue glazed walls and an antiqued gold shelf and mirror. Donna Armani-Pineda, ASID, of Armani Town & Country, works with artists that emulate the look of hand-made

or torn papers with paint. Harold Pell, ASID, of Pell Interiors, likes a faux marble or stone finish on wood moldings or switch plates. "The faux marble looks so real," Pell says, "that if you look at it next to real marble, you can't even tell the difference."

Many designers and homeowners are also opting for timeless, old world patterns. Above kitchen cabinets, Sharp created a soffit motif with a glazed finish in rich green, auburn, bronze and gold tones. In a dining room, he painted a similar boarder with bronze and stone finished pillars and washed walls. A detailed leaf pattern in a square shape, painted by Sharp for a master bathroom wall, balances out a small painting hung in the center of the pattern.

Newly popular paints that are both functional and beautiful include blackboard and magnetic paints. Blackboard paints are excellent for studies, kitchens or anywhere where you leave notes, make lists or take down phone numbers. The paint functions just like a blackboard, allowing you to write on it with chalk, and erase the information when you're finished with it. Absolute Coatings' black-



Genuine metal leaf wall coverings turn walls into works of art.