WALLPAPER TRELLIS

It brings the outdoors in, makes the ceiling look higher, adds a sense of architecture. Now, if only a trellis would help with those last 10 pounds...

Produced by ORI BEN-DOR

Bamboo Trellis
Two patterns—one diagonal, the other climbing—make it doubly chic. Paper shown in Light Blue. ASHFORD HOUSE THROUGH YORK: 800-379-9675, yorkwall.com.

Alyssa

Birgitta Trellis

Trellis
Arts and Crafts pioneer William Morris based this first paper design on his own garden. Paper shown in Ivory. Rose. WILLIAM MORRIS THROUGH ZOFFANY: 800-395-6780.

Trellis
Arts and Crafts will make any room feel alfresco. Paper shown in Sky. WALLQUEST: 800-888-4355, wallquest.com.

Branches
Never thought we'd call a trellis "cosy," but this warm red fills the bill. Vinyl-coated paper shown in Terracotta. THIBAULT: 800-229-9704, thibautdesign.com.
"We want to go glam for the holidays"

Ten readers get the star treatment with fabulously flattering dresses

Get into the spirit of the season with a new outfit that won't make a major dent in your budget. These gorgeous styles will play up your assets and play down figure flaws. Best of all, they're easy on the wallet, too, with prices starting at just $40.

Background: Ronald Redding Designs' Bronze Age. For information on Bronze Age wallpaper, visit ronaldreddingdesigns.com.
Dress for real life

Be a knockout in black

Choose the perfect little black dress

Crisp taffeta shows off 36-year-old Alida Cloer’s shape, while the gathered waistline cleverly cinches her in and hides her tummy.

Dress, $80, sizes 0-12; at Marshalls. Earrings, $8, at Forever 21. Shoes, RSVP $65, sizes 5-10; zappos.com.

Find ladylike chic

This retro style suits the curvy shape of Audrey Blake, 33, and the black sash accentuates her narrow rib cage.

Dress, $149, sizes 2-24; at David's Bridal. Necklace, M. Haskell, $28, at select Macy's stores. Bracelets, M. Haskell, $15 for a set of 3; at Billini's. Shoes, Nina, $89, sizes 6-12; ninashoes.com.

Experiment with modern lines

Mandy Caughhey, 32, says this edgy, asymmetrical look “is definitely me.” The simple cut elongates her petite frame.


Background: Ronald Redding Designs' Bronze Age. For information on Bronze Age wallpaper, visit ronaldreddingdesigns.com.
Paper, Paper on the Wall

Before you break out the brushes, consider opting for the wall covering that's fit for prints.

BY ERIN DE JESUS

Metrosource, continued

Wallpaper: Cobble on Champagne Non-Woven with Natural Sand (TA6980) from Designer Resource, Third Edition, Ronald Redding Designs; Cobble River Rock on Copper Non-Woven with Natural Sand and Glitter (TA6982) and Boxwood in Silver Non-Woven with Sand (TA7030).

FORGET THAT UGLY FLORAL TRAGEDY that once hung in your grandparents’ living room. From nature-inspired designs to the trendy Damask patterns that have become ubiquitous in interior designers’ portfolios, the use of wallpaper has never looked more current. The modern wallpaper revival features a wide range of patterns, prints and textures made from everything from bamboo to glass to Swarovski crystal — recent trends have included styles touting bright colors or offering the comforts of greentones. Several companies even offer eco-friendly wallcoverings inspired by natural designs that are vinyl-free or made from recycled materials.

For the cold winter months, we especially love the idea of a little texture decking the walls. “The tactile feel of a sand-infused wallpaper adds a special touch to a room,” says Ronald Redding, Design VP at York Wallcoverings, the oldest and largest wallcovering manufacturer in the United States. “The texture eliminates any glare on the wall — it actually produces a soft effect.” York’s luxurious-looking tactile wallcoverings feature repurposed sand and recycled windshield glass in elegant patterns. In certain collections, Redding infuses metallic elements by mixing in subtle glitter or layering...
Metrosource, continued

Metallic ink right over the tactile element. But even if you're considering a more traditional look for your wallcoverings, there are a few tips and tricks you may want to consider before hitting the store. Redding offers the following design suggestions:

1. **First Consider the Style of the Room and the Space's Color Scheme.** Regardless of style or color, wallpaper is an important visual component of the room. It serves as the background for your whole design scheme,” Redding says. “You may want to complement the furnishings, upholstery and rug by repeating design motifs or colors in your wallpaper.

2. **Don’t Feel Confined by One Wallpaper Choice.** Who says that all the walls have to match? You can use one bold pattern for a statement wall and a coordinating texture for the other three walls in a room.” Redding suggests “Or I like to use different wallpapers from room to room, carrying the color scheme all through the house. Most wallpaper collections feature coordinating patterns, ask your designer or consult the photos in the collection book for design ideas.

3. **Don’t Be Afraid of a Little Sparkle.** “Shimmer or metallic color is so interesting and gives the room a more modern, contemporary feel,” Redding says. If you’re wary of design overload, ease into the idea of tactile paper by choosing a wallpaper with a neutral color or a non-directional pattern — it won’t compete with the rest of the furnishings in the space,” according to Redding.

4. **Once the Design is Out of the Way, Don’t Be Deferred by the Physical Aspect of Hanging Wallpaper — It’s Not as Tricky (or as labor-intensive) as you Think.** “Wall preparation is the most important factor,” Redding says. “Use a non-staining, water-based paste and invest in the proper tools. You can buy a wallpaper installation at a Lowe’s or Home Depot, and the tools last forever.”
Fill Your Home With Good Fortune

You can turn your home into a magnet for prosperity, health and love by following these simple feng shui secrets.
Wallpapered stair risers

Step up the visual interest on one of your home's most handsome focal points—the front stairs—by papering the risers with a playful design. All you need is a single roll of wallpaper, so even a pricey version won't break the bank. Since most wallpaper widths are narrower than typical staircases, pick a pattern that looks good sideways to avoid having to piece strips together. And pay attention to scale: Too-small prints can feel fussy, while a too-large print may end up unrecognizable once you cut it up. A bold retro design, such as the one shown here, adds a whimsical touch to an older home. Just be sure to use coated or vinyl paper so that you can easily wash away scuffs.

These playful patterns would look good with natural or painted treads. Near right: The Wallpaper Company, $4.95 per roll, homedepot.com. Far right: Antonina Vella Designs, $99 per roll, yorkwall.com

got a smart idea?
Your handwriting may appear in our Reader-Created issue. Send photos to readers@thisoldhouse.com
CHECK IT OUT » NEW DÉCOR FOR THE NEW DECADE

How to decorate your home: Interior is a big decision. It sets the mood for your life in that space. If you’re moving into a new home, or redecorating your current one, here are a few new trends to look for in 2020:

- With the economy struggling, and threats of global warming, the idea of natural, "green" products has taken a hold that resonates throughout the house. Nature-like patterns featuring the colors of sand, sea, sky and trees are in full force, while materials from the earth, like stone, wood and glass, predominate.

- Just as the fashion industry is cyclical, so goes interior design. Vintage is in, especially looks from the 90s and colors such as beige, off-white and faded yellow. Pieces with a history, such as a burned-in shade of aged wood, can serve as centerpieces of rooms in the new decade. And wallpaper is back — this time with larger, bold, graphic eye-catching prints.

- The watchword for the new decade is "adventurous." Redecorators are encouraged to layer and mix fabrics with a variety of patterns and textures. Or embrace your inner Bohemian with bold colors and funky styles.

- In 2020, kitchen appliances will be all about convenience and sustainability. Stainless steel remains a strong trend and, because the surface isn’t magnetic, it tends to stay clutter-free without the mess and magnets. Also, appliances “disappear” when covered with overlays that match the cabinetry, another look that’s gaining traction in the New Year. — Arlana Gomary

Earth First
From dodging the power grid to fixing your face, green options abound

Against the Wall
CLD Pure by Carey Lind Designs for York, the latest eco-friendly wall-covering line, features bold, graphic patterns that we’re obsessed with. Made with a combination of synthetic and natural fibers harvested from sustainability managed forests, all designs are printed with low-VOC water-based inks without lead or cadmium to eliminate the off-gassing associated with normal wall coverings. Aboff’s, 352 Montauk Hwy., Wainscott, 537-9700.
Wallpaper: Guinevere (RV9654) from Ronald Redding Designs.
Wallpaper: Prescilla (TX5396) from Antonina Vella.
Metrosource, continued

Debunking the old mythology of wallpaper uncovers beautiful possibilities

Wallpaper: Prescilla (TX5396) from Antonina Vella.
Homeowners can **mix and match** wallpaper patterns,

For many, the idea of wallpaper conjures images of bad floral patterns courtesy of labor- and time-intensive installation. But thanks to a bevy of technological advances and an endless array of looks, materials and makers, today’s wallpaper can be an easy and beautiful addition to any home style.

The Wallcoverings Association tackles off-the-wallpaper myths by debunking common concerns homeowners might have regarding design and installation. So, if the room needs a face-lift, tear down these five tired old wallpaper hang-ups to make room for displaying beautiful walls:

Wallpaper: Seabury (SX7744) from Ronald Redding Designs and Zen (NW6464) from CLD Pure.
textures and styles in a home, room or even on a single wall.

MYTH 1—Wallpaper is stuffy and old-fashioned.  
The real deal: Although wallpaper has been around for hundreds of years, it remains fashion forward. In fact, the fashion industry continues to embrace modern wallpaper by utilizing its patterns in advertising campaigns and pictorials for magazines such as Vogue. Hand-printed, custom, limited-edition and designer prints created by artists or those in the fashion industry help wallpaper stay ahead of the trends.

Richard Miller, owner of Miller VanOrder Interior Design in Columbus, says wallpaper goes great with the trend toward natural-looking, rustic wood, or when softening a modern space. In addition, he says, properly selected wallpaper gives almost any space a finished and polished appearance.

MYTH 2—Wallpaper is limiting.  
The real deal: wallpaper is only limited by a homeowner’s imagination or budget. The old restrictions of wallpaper no longer apply. Homeowners can mix and match wallpaper patterns, textures and styles in a home, room or even on a single wall. Fancy a horizontally striped pattern but want it to run vertically? Go for it. By keeping styles and colors of papers complementary, homeowners can get away with mixing, matching and reconfiguring until the interior decorators come home. Try using a large-scale pattern in a small room for an especially striking effect. In fact, Miller says wallpaper most popularly is used in small spaces. He especially enjoys incorporating paper into a petite powder room to give the impression it’s more than simply a sink and toilet.

Wallpaper: Guinevere (RV9654) from Ronald Redding Designs and Cobble (TA6981) from Ronald Redding Designs.
MYTH 3—Wallpaper and modernism don’t mix.
The real deal: America’s love affair with modern design has only deepened in the last decade. But minimalist modern interiors sometime feel too sterile to be comfortable. As a solution, designers often apply graphic paper on a single wall. They also will juxtapose a traditional pattern — such as floral or chinoiserie in vibrant, updated colors — with clean-lined, contemporary or rustic-modern furnishings. Miller says the growing popularity of graphically bold black-and-white prints, vibrant colors and large-scale patterns reflects modern aesthetics.

Wallpaper also utilizes the latest “green” materials for the environmentally conscious homeowner. These include sustainable grasses, bamboo and cork; recycled materials; and low-VOC inks.

MYTH 4—Wallpaper is time-consuming, labor-intensive and expensive to hang or remove.
The real deal: New technologies continue to advance wallpaper installation and removal. Easy-hang wallpapers are known as “nonwoven” or “high-performance” papers. Installing this type of tear-resistant wallpaper can be faster even than painting, once homeowners take into account prepping walls for paint, applying multiple coats and drying time in between.

Easy-hang wallpapers can be repositioned without damage to paper or walls. This also makes them reusable. Nonwoven wallpapers do not expand or contract, so there isn’t a need for “booking,” or folding, wallpaper for a few minutes to allow for such expansion. Once this type of paper is up in its final position, its seams should not separate.

Wallpaper removal also has come a long way in the last few decades. Steamers, strippers and chemical solvents are not necessary with nonwoven or high-performance papers. These papers can be removed in minutes with a firm tug at a corner.

MYTH 5—There’s no art to wallpapered walls.
The real deal: With its repeating pattern, wallpaper is designed to shine behind the scenes. As a background element, it is intended to be a unifying detail that complements art, furniture and other decor within a room. Even if a wallpaper design is bold or colorful, it should complement, rather than compete with, the right art.

“I think that opposites attract,” says Miller, who prefers to keep wallpaper muted or tone-on-tone to create an understated backdrop to art, architecture and furnishings. But he recommends staying away from matchy-matchy looks when pairing art and paper in regards to color, style or tone.

“(Homeowners) want art to still stand out and have a presence, not blend in.”

ARA Content contributed to this article.
Turquoise is Top Décor Shade for 2010

The article *Turquoise is Top Décor Shade for 2010* from the Orlando Sentinel (December 19, 2009) was distributed by the McClatchy-Tribune News Service. To date, the article has appeared in more than 25 newspapers and blogs with a total circulation/readership exceeding 2,594,000.

**Table of Distribution**

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**Color of the Year**

Turquoise For 2010: Serene And Invigorating

**Wallpaper**

Wallpaper: Marietta VL9017 and Bamboo Leaf Toss WE9075.
THE COLOR TURQUOISE

In and out of fashion over the years, the hue is back and expected to be big in 2010

Turquoise can be seen in all types of home furnishings, from apt. 9 bedding available at Kohl's to Stacy Garcia Parisian Poppy wallpaper from York Wallcoverings to a mirror designed by Amy Liu.

By ANDREA BOYARSKY / STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

It's the color of the tropical ocean you escape to in daydreams. It has the power both to lift your spirits when you're down and calm you after a rough day. And, it's said to be a hue that keeps harm away.

It's the color turquoise, and it has been ordained the color to watch for in 2010 by Pantone, a global authority on color and provider of professional color standards for the design industries.

During a time of recession, when people are losing their jobs and tightening their budgets, they're looking for inspiring home decor and fashions, say the professionals at Pantone.

"We look at the social and economic ramifications," said Leatrice Eiseman, executive director of the Pantone Color Institute. "What are people thinking about, talking about? What are their concerns? What colors can be helpful and uplifting in difficult times?"

Some cultures, including Native American and Middle Eastern, view turquoise as a protective color, Ms. Eiseman said. In color-word association studies conducted by Pantone, numerous responders noted that the color made them think of an escape to a warm and wonderful place.

"Turquoise connects to warm, tropical oceans and someplace that represents where they can go and get away from everything," she observed.

Continued on next page
Turquoise is the color for 2010

The hue has gone in and out of fashion through the years, Ms. Eiseman said. Lately, it's been spilling into the world of home decor with numerous items available in the shade ranging from vases and cookware to paint and wallpaper.

Manhattan-based interior designer Amy Lau enjoys using turquoise in her designs and recently created a home furnishings fabric line with S. Harris that features the hue.

"The inspiration for me was basically the Mediterranean. When you think of the turquoise blue waters, there's nothing more beautiful than that," the designer said. "Turquoise is definitely the color of choice for me right now."

Turquoise as a main color in a room can be "too heavy," Ms. Lau continued. She prefers to use it as an accent color on a wall or piece of upholstered furniture and tends to pair it with whites, yellows and chartreuse, as she did in the retro lounge she designed for the 2007 Kips Bay Decorator Show House. The light-filled penthouse space featured shades of turquoise on the walls and on accents throughout the room, from throw pillows to a decorative mirror, chandelier and accent tables designed by Ms. Lau as part of her Four Seasons Summer Collection.

The designer said she recently designed a bedroom in which she used turquoise to upholster a lounge chair, and as an accent color in a rug, on a custom quilt and as trim on window treatments. In another room, she upholstered a sofa in the hue, playing it against a subtle, off-white tone in the rest of the room.

"It can be a very overpowering color," she cautioned. "You have to be careful what you mix it with."

**POPULAR COMBINATION**

Turquoise and brown is a popular color combination in home decor said Vanessa De Vargas, an interior designer whose Los Angeles, Calif., firm is aptly named Turquoise (it's her favorite color and related to her Albuquerque, N.M. roots). When using brown and beige tones, adding turquoise can give a "pop" to what could otherwise be a boring room, she said, adding that it also works well with shades of gray.

Use the color as trim on lampshades and curtains, Ms. De Vargas said, as well as on accessories like vases and throw pillows. She pointed out that the color can successfully be used in bathroom accessories and to brighten up kids' and teens' rooms.

"That little punch really defines the room," she said.

Ms. De Vargas said she's seen turquoise utilized on a larger scale to create a vintage or "cool, modern" look. Tall china cabinets can be painted in the hue, she suggested, as can four poster beds to create a focal point in a room. And turquoise furniture can add a fun look to a backyard setting during the warmer months, she said.

"It's bright yet calming at the same time," Ms. De Vargas noted. "It's a very familiar, calming color."

Andrea Boyarsky is a features reporter for the Advance. She may be reached at boyarskygsadvance.com.
For 2010, Pantone picks turquoise as its primary color

Pantone LLC, an X-Rite company and provider of professional color standards for the design industries, has declared Pantone 15-5519 Turquoise as the Color of the Year for 2010. Combining the serene qualities of blue and the invigorating aspects of green, Turquoise evokes tropical water and a sense of well-being.

“In many cultures, turquoise occupies a very special position in the world of color,” explains Leatrice Eiseman, executive director of the Pantone Color Institute, based in Carlstadt. “It is believed to be a protective talisman, a color of deep compassion and healing, and a color of faith and truth, inspired by water and sky. Through years of color trend-studying, we also have found that turquoise represents an escape to many — taking them to a tropical paradise...even if only in a fantasy...Turquoise is universally flattering, appeals to both men and women and translates easily to fashion and interiors. With both warm and cool undertones, it combines nicely with any other color. Turquoise adds excitement to neutrals, complements reds and pinks and creates a classic maritime look with deep blues. It livens up all other greens and is especially trend-setting with yellow greens.

In a powder room or bedroom, turquoise evokes a spa atmosphere; in the kitchen, it adds flair to countertops and appliances. Turquoise is one of 3,000 colors available in Pantone’s line of eco-friendly paint. More information is available at www.pantone.com.

“Turquoise is sensational paired with black & whites, chocolate browns or other tropical brights,” says Ronald Redding, vice president of design at York Wallcoverings. “Turquoise accent easily update both retro and modern rooms.” York now offers three wallcoverings that emphasize turquoise: Marietta (pattern VL9017, $10.00 per single roll); Kylie (pattern SX7775, $14.95 per single roll); and Bamboo Leaf Toss (pattern WE9075, $9.90 per single roll).

York Wallcoverings are carried by many North Jersey retailers. To find one near you, call 800-373-9575 or visit www.yorkwall.com.

Wallpaper: Marietta VL9017; Kylie SX7775; Bamboo Leaf Toss WE9075
Walls are often the first thing people notice about an interior design scheme. And with today’s designs dictating a preference for bold statements in terms of coverings and artwork, it’s no time to be a wallflower.

While the credit crunch may have led to a certain amount of belt tightening and less exuberance in some areas of life, this trend certainly does not appear to have infiltrated the world of walls.

In fact, when it comes to wallcoverings, the general rule seems to be that simplicity and restraint are out, while head-turning designs involving dramatic statement prints, textured finishes, dazzling embellishments and crazy trompe-l’oeil designs are the name of the game.

Today’s wallpaper designs are allowing interior designers to really push the envelope out in commercial spaces, explained Poppy Davison from the design team at British wallpaper manufacturer, Cole & Son.

“There are no rules or limitations; people are embracing the qualities of wallpaper and are using it creatively, even covering ceilings.

“Wallpaper is used to revitalise and shake up the dynamics of a space with minimal expense. Beautiful neutrals, with splashes of rich and exotic colour, are in demand; evocative imagery and trompe-l’oeil are all popular.”

Go for glitter

Adding another dimension to traditional wallcoverings is the trend towards embellishment.

Modern wallcoverings have been given a new lease of life with the addition of everything from sequins, buttons, feathers and a host of other glittery paraphernalia.

For example, York Contract Wallcoverings has introduced a range of wallcoverings featuring glass beading and sand.

“We have introduced sand, glass beads and flocking onto Type II vinyl to add a textural dimension to commercial wallcoverings, as well as to demonstrate value, which is essential in this economy,” said LeRue Brown, director of marketing, York Contract Wallcoverings.

The glass beads and sand patterns are printed onto commercial vinyl substrates, which make an excellent choice of material for use in high-traffic commercial interiors.

“Commercial vinyl is the most durable
Construction Week, continued

Wallcovering for public spaces. It hides dirt, resists staining, and provides additional protection from excessive wear and abuse,” is Brown’s professional assessment.

For additional wallcovering protection, York Contract has developed YorkGuard AM, an anti-microbial coating that protects against mould, mildew, bacteria and odour-causing germs, making it ideal for public spaces.

“Our coverings combine the elegant beauty of high-end designs with durability,” said Brown, who highlighted this season’s biggest trends as “metallic finishes that give wallcoverings an ethereal glow; orange, blue and green colourways, woven fabrics and textural details.”

Touchy-feely
Highly tactile, textured coverings are also making an impact on the market. Many cutting-edge designs are being created with a three-dimensional look.

BSH Walls & Floors recently introduced its new brand, Prime Walls, which features an irresitibly textured range of designs available in a variety of rich, distinctive colours and metallics.

“At BSH Walls & Floors we have created the most ‘touchy-feely’ walls in the world,” declared Sandy Gruguric, marketing manager, BSH Walls & Floors.

Textures create sensuality, warmth, and an organic dimension: it is a feeling of pure, primal pleasure. With Prime Walls, we boldly approach interior design with the understanding that touching and feeling are just as essential as seeing.”

According to Gruguric, these kinds of styles are going down a treat in the hospitality sector.

“For the corporate world the trend is still more mainstream; it goes for traditional looks with light, plain colours. But the hotel and hospitality segments tend to select colours and patterns that are textured, with metallics and bold, dramatic patterns proving very popular.”

Mark Verrall, managing director at Rubelli Sahco Studio Dubai, which represents brands such as Elitis wallpapers and Lori Weitzner, agreed that textured and 3D effects are very much the trend right now. “Wallpaper is so in,” he said.

“People are saying goodbye to paint, especially in commercial projects, and creativity is thriving. Earthy tones are always safe to use, but people are trying to be more daring now. The latest trends at the moment are hints of art-deco, with inspiration coming from all over the world, including Asia and Africa. It is not just about covering your wall; it is about dressing it as well.”

Elitis wallpapers are famous for bold, 3D effects, while New-York based designer Lori Weitzner has used a marble dust on her latest collection to create a striking textured effect. “Her latest collection is a plastered wallcovering made from marble dust, which allows flexibility if it is to be wrapped around columns, for example,” explained Verrall.

“The good thing about this collection is that it is presented in a plain, neutral colour, and is paintable. So you can obtain the colour you want using a normal paint. Due to the nice 3D texture, you will get a ‘ton sur ton’ effect after painting the wallcovering.”

Fashion-forward walls
Wallpaper designs are becoming ever more daring and flamboyant. In fact, the world of wallpaper is now taking its inspiration from the world of fashion.

The latest collection to be launched by British wallpaper manufacturer Cole & Son is a collaboration with a true icon of British style, Vivienne Westwood.

The eccentric British fashion designer, who was largely responsible for the new wave and modern punk fashion movements of the 1970s, has created the wallpaper prints based on signature designs from her fashion collections.

Designs include the iconic ‘Squiggle’ print from the Autumn-Winter 81/82 Pirate collection and the more recent ‘Cut-Out Lace’ from the Spring-Summer 07 ‘I am Expensiv’ collection.

Westwood said of the wallcoverings: “It is good when my ideas get carried over into other artistic media. This collection is a perfect opportunity to be able to work with a heritage company like Cole & Son, and to see my ideas from fashion translated into the world of interiors and wallpaper.”

Shine on
Metals are another major trend in wallpaper design this season, according to Muraspec.

“The latest trends are very evident in our Summer 2009 collection. In terms of these latest trends, there are lots of earthy tones combined with metallic and pearlescent highlights,” commented...
Construction Week, continued

Jonathan Kidd, sales manager, UAE, Muraspec.

“The designers took inspiration for this collection from ancient ethnic styles. Sri Lanka and Tattoo are designs from this new collection. As well as launching the new Sri Lanka and Tattoo designs in our Summer 2009 collection, we introduced some great new colours to one of our best designs, called Solaris Flare. The new colours include browns, beiges and pearlescent whites and silvers,” he continued.

Muraspec is also gearing up to launch a totally brand-new wall product, called Ideapaint, for the first time in the Middle East, at this year’s Index 2009 show.

“Ideapaint is an exciting new product that can be painted on to many surfaces, creating a hard-wearing, high-performance wipeable writing surface,” is Kidd’s enthusiastic explanation.

Getting arty

Another way to make a bold statement on walls is with a carefully-chosen piece of artwork.

British photo-artist Michael Banks, who specialises in providing artwork for hotels, office and restaurant interiors, says selecting the right artwork in a commercial space is crucial.

“An interior environment is the sum of many parts – style, lighting, furniture, fabrics, window treatments, accessories – but often the most readily understandable and most visible part of this whole, to the viewing public, is the artwork. So this has to be absolutely right in terms of its colour, size and physical format.”

Banks is famous for his highly abstract photo-art. “The art I create is very different and unique, very 21st century, and not what you expect from photography,” Banks explained. “I am trying to push the envelope continually, in the same way as interior designers and architects are advancing.”

As interiors get more cutting-edge, Banks’s latest project is the much-anticipated, funkily-designed Aloft Hotel in Abu Dhabi, for which he supplied over 750 original photo-art works for the guestrooms, suites and corridors.

“Contemporary architecture and interior design is itself becoming more abstract and avant-garde, and artwork that is more abstract and forward-looking, as mine is, fits well with this. I am seeing a big trend in the use of more abstract imagery that can have a more universal appeal, and cross cultural and geographical borders.”
Wallcoverings

The CLD Pure Collection by York Wallcoverings offers a green alternative to vinyl wallcoverings for commercial use. The breathable, mold-resistant, non-woven wallcoverings are made from natural fibers harvested from managed forests, and synthetic fibers used for tea bags and coffee filters. They’re printed with low-VOC, water-based inks without lead or cadmium, and meet York’s standards for sustainability. CLD Pure Collection by York Wallcoverings; www.yorkwall.com; (717) 846-4456.