



Color, pattern and texture are the fundamentals of any room – placing dissimilar elements side by side creates interest – a design that you will not tire of quickly.

1. **Color** – don't be afraid to incorporate color into your home. Nothing affects one's mood, expresses personality and changes a room as easily as color. Color forecasters for 2006-2007 say that nature or earth tones are back – a warmer, clearer version of them than in years past. Although trends keep things interesting, you are the one living with the design and it's important for you to love the colors, so pick those you are most comfortable with regardless of what's 'in'.

A color wheel (available at your local art supply or paint store) is a great tool to help mix colors and understand how they relate to one another. Colors opposite one another on the color wheel are known as complimentary colors. These opposing colors create maximum contrast and maximum stability. A balance between warm and cool colors creates the most satisfying scheme.

Start by picking three or four colors to make things less overwhelming. Dark colors are more dramatic, warmer and cozier. Light colors are brighter and airier.

2. **Pattern** – pattern in your fabric and wall covering mix can create rhythm, movement and depth. A single pattern used repeatedly produces strength and drama. Patterns that are mixed and matched create depth and visual interest. Patterns draw people in and provide a window into your personality and style. Balance is the key. Choose one bold or large scale print to begin and then add several coordinating small scale prints or solids, keeping your color scheme in mind as you make your selections.
3. **Texture** – adding texture in the design mix provides the vibrancy, adding dimension, subtlety and depth. Although it is thought to be the most subtle of the three design elements, it can be powerful. Texture adds touch and feel, complexity and interest.

Rough textures absorb color and are viewed as more casual, while smooth, understated and shiny textures are considered more formal. Use of texture is a particularly good way to add spice to a tone-on-tone color scheme and can be mixed in individual elements such as fabrics and carpet as well as window coverings or even hand-painted wall stenciling.