

Home & Garden

STEAL THIS LOOK



THE MIX MASTER

Banish a bland interior with bold combinations of color and pattern. By Chantal Lamers



Get the blues

THE BEST HUE FOR A COZY DEN

p. 30

Of all the design trends to take over Pinterest, white subway tiles may baffle Mary Randolph most. “I know they’re a budget solution,” she says, “but there are so many better choices out there.”

In fact, Randolph—a stay-at-home parent who dabbles in interior design (blumespaces.com)—has never been one to go with the safe option. “My style is a culmination of my life’s visual experiences,” she says. Ask her about her stylistic influences, for example, and she’ll cite the Hispanic markets and folk shops she visited as a child growing up in Los Angeles, with their bright candies and hand-painted ceramics. “I love colors and patterns, and believe all the possibilities are worth exploring,” she says.

So when she and her family moved into a 1926 Spanish bungalow in Piedmont, California, the home’s bland ‘90s interior didn’t stand a chance. First, Randolph oversaw a down-to-the-studs remodel of the roughly 2,000-square-foot home, removing walls that divided the shared living areas and more than doubling the window space. Then, within that lighter, more open floor plan, she brought in an array of eclectic, well-crafted pieces. Some of her design choices speak to the history of the home, while others tap into German, Native American, and African American heritage. What ties it all together? A daring approach to color and pattern, which Randolph layers on walls, floors, and furniture throughout the home. “It’s a risky move,” she admits. “But sometimes you have to just go for it.”



MOODY HUES

Randolph chose a bluish-black hue for the walls of the small living room (*previous page*). The color creates a snug vibe for the space, where she and her husband often watch TV at night, and dramatically contrasts with the lightness of the adjoining master bedroom. *Paint in Railings No. 31, from \$99/gallon; us.farrow-ball.com. Alpaca shag pillow (similar); erica tanov.com.*

EARTHY GREEN

“I love an English kitchen,” says Randolph, talking about the rustic, colorful spaces popular in the U.K. In her own kitchen (*above*), she first planned to paint the Shaker-style cabinets blue to tie into the tile, but instead went with a custom shade of deep green. The subtle green veining in the island’s marble top pulls the look together. *Asal tile, from \$18/piece; flmceramics.com.*

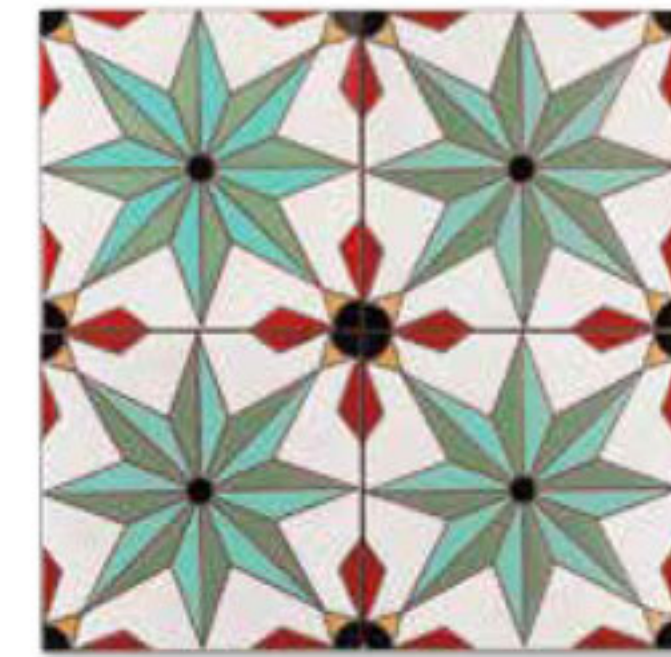


DESIGNER’S PICKS

Floor-to-ceiling tile

Combining multiple patterns in a room works best when you stick to a tight color palette. Here’s a warm, artful trio Randolph recommends.

- ▶ Vitoria tile in Warm Motif; \$24 per piece; fireclaytile.com.
- ▶ Offset tile in Rust; from \$18/sq. ft.; fireclaytile.com.
- ▶ Marrakech Lace tile in custom black and white; from \$38; fireclaytile.com.



Throw down some drama on the bathroom floor with a geometric motif.



Layering on a pattern with minimal color is surprisingly harmonious.



schoolhouseelectric.com. Vintage French ticking pillow fabric (similar to shown); etsy.com/shop/wondersofthePast.

WELCOME HOME

An overgrown bougainvillea creates an appropriately exuberant entrance (*left*) to the home Randolph shares with husband Robert Hundt and children Thalia, 15, and Johannes, 13.

TAKE A CHANCE

In her children’s shared bathroom (*far left*), Randolph started with graphic tiles inspired by Navajo patterns on the floor. But when she came across brown penny and matching hive tiles, she took it one step further, tiling the walls too. *Native floor tiles by Commune Design, \$28/sq. ft.; xsurfaces.com. Savoy Mosaics in Penny and Hive, from \$16/sq. ft.; annsacks.com. Michele Keeler Zigzag towels, from \$19; erica tanov.com.*

BEST SEAT IN THE HOUSE

While Randolph opened up the living spaces by eliminating walls and doorways, she also wanted each area to retain a sense of intimacy. To that end, she had her contractor add

a built-in banquette to the dining room (*top*); the seating area doubles as storage and a lookout perch for their Portuguese water dog, Charlie. *Brandywine dining table in whitewash, \$1,875; lostine.com. Emerson sconce, \$149;*



Start with one strong pattern, then layer in a simpler one.



Choose a paint that bridges your prints.



DESIGNER'S PICKS

Sleeping beauty

Yes, you can combine multiple patterns in a bedroom without disrupting the space's tranquility. This mix works thanks to the soothing blue and green tones.

➤ Tulu fabric in Earth Lavender, \$150/yard; nickyrising.com.

➤ Bastideaux Bogo fabric in Pale Sea, \$126/yard; nickyrising.com.

➤ Paint in Oval Room Blue No. 85, from \$99/gallon; us.farrow-ball.com.

S DIGITAL BONUS
Inventive ways to decorate with color and pattern: sunset.com/color.



NEW BOHEMIAN

Thalia's room (left) swaps typical teenage frills for gold-hued floral wallpaper and velvet teal window treatments. While most people would shy away from more pattern, Randolph doubled down, adding pink-and-green chinoiserie bedding. "I wanted it to feel a bit like an old European hotel room," she says. Lovebird quilt, from \$386; ericatanov.com. Wallpaper, similar, in Damask (Gold) by Laundry Studio, \$140/roll; hyggeandwest.com.

SCENE-STEALER

After working with an upholsterer to create cushions for the banquette, Randolph caught the upholstery bug and had a custom floral headboard made for the master bedroom (above). She kept the walls white to give the small space breathing room and to allow the pattern to command attention. Stella textile, \$105/yard; nickyrising.com. Juno nightstand, similar, \$444; sobusobu.com. Copper Shade Pendant by Tom Dixon, from \$460; dwr.com.