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INTERIOR DESIGN



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*8 Wainscoting Ideas
That Are Brimming
With Charm*

*5 Fall Home Trends
We Spotted All Across
Paris*

*These 2024 Kitchen Trends
Are Already Coming in Hot*

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**WHAT'S
INSIDE?**

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8 WAINSCOTING IDEAS THAT ARE BRIMMING WITH CHARM

Something's missing, but you can't put your finger on it. The room is furnished, the curtains are up, the rug is laid out, and you've brought in all your prized decor items for a lived-in look. Why does it still feel like it's lacking in character? You needn't go too far off the wall for the final touch: wainscoting.

Wainscot paneling—a paneled lining of an interior wall—was pioneered by British builders in 18th-century England who began adding Danish wainscot oak wood paneling to the bottom half of a room as a way to protect walls and provide additional insulation. This trend has withstood the test of time, evolving into a range of decorative possibilities that adds architectural charm without initiating a full-on gut renovation.

Wainscoting comes in a variety of options that vary in height and size. It can sit as flat wood panels, creating more squarelike impressions; it can be thin and raised, looking more like classic molding; or it can run vertically across the entire wall in long, continuous grooves. It can also run midway across the wall at the traditional chair-rail height or all the way to the ceiling.

Not sure where to start? Take cues from its original iterations by adding traditional wood panels that can be paired with antiques and rush floor mats like David Netto's reimagining of this country house in New York. Or buck tradition with whimsical wainscoting that sings with contemporary complements, like Ernest de la Torre's vibrant New York home.

Whether you favor a streamlined approach, the royal treatment, or something that calls to mind the storied charm of Colonial buildings—and whatever size, weight, height, and color you go for—wainscoting is sure to anchor a room, provide architectural charm, and create visual interest. Read on for 32 wainscoting ideas that will be the only walls you'll want to put up.



Alison Goozee

1

TRADITIONAL WITH A TWIST

Traditional paneling doesn't overpower this 18th-century triplex on the Left Bank in Paris. Elle Decor A-List studio Retrouvius coated walls above it in a calm gray color, allowing white to highlight the architectural symmetry of the paneling. It's the perfect backdrop for quirky vintage-leaning furniture. The cocktail tables are by Roger Lemaire, the vintage fireplace is Swedish, and the Stilnovo chandeliers are from the 1980s.



2

OLD FAITHFUL PANELING

In the dining area of this summer home on Long Island, designer Melissa Lee opted for soothing, moody tones sure to calm the spirit, which of course is what you want at the beach. The pale green wainscoting recalls sea mist and balances out the darker antique Thonet dining chairs surrounding an extendable No 3 table from Sibast.



3

PRETTY PINK PANELS

Designer Anne McDonald brought some Nordic notes into the primary bedroom of this Minnesota home. In the cold temperatures of the north, wainscoting would be necessary for warmth, but in this stateside home wainscoting serves a more visual purpose. Doused in blush pink, it lightens and extends the space surrounding a busy floral print headboard and mixes easily with natural wood and wicker tones in the bedside lamp and nightstand.

4

CONTRASTING WAINSCOTING

Designer David Netto's dreamy iteration of a country house in Millbrook, New York, leans heavily on the American Colonial vernacular. What makes the home's library feel modern and inviting in equal measure is the unexpected deep plum walls above the white wainscoting. The delectable contrast is set off with a simple white sofa, John Derian ottoman, and a classic jute rug from Stark.



5

GRAND TOUR TUDOR WALLS

Studio Peregalli is known for the drama of its inventions. In a London home steeped in history, the studio cooked up the perfect breakfast room that is equal parts opulent and welcoming. The soft white wainscoting here has almost Tudor proportions and pairs perfectly with the 18th-century painted wallpaper covering the ceiling and walls. Adding to the grand tour vibes is a 19th-century Moroccan lantern, a small table covered with a Persian textile, and 19th-century English chairs.



6

CLASSICALLY INCLINED WAINSCOTING

Young designer Augusta Hoffman is one of the few who can pull off a very balanced version of modern minimalism. In the Manhattan loft she shares with her husband, she used the super low wainscoting as the architectural basis for this quietly grand corner of their living room. The same crisp white covers both the wainscoting and the wall, letting a sleek Steinway & Sons piano shine in the living room. A looming Jacques Adnet floor lamp completes the scene.



7

UPDATED COUNTRY PANELS

Elsewhere in Augusta Hoffman's apartment, wainscoting serves as something of a frame for a more involved wallcovering. In the dining room, deep forest-green wainscoting balances the romantic hand-painted mural above by James Mobley. Bringing the room into the modern age is the custom travertine table. The chic vintage chairs are by Afra and Tobia Scarpa, and the sculptural sconces are from Pinch.

8

SIMPLICITY IS KEY

When it comes to wainscoting, simplicity doesn't have to be boring. In this Northern California home, the subtle shiplap paneling pairs nicely with the whimsical Pierre Frey wallpaper.





5 FALL HOME TRENDS WE SPOTTED ALL ACROSS PARIS

This month's Paris Design Week, which includes the Maison & Objet fair and a series of satellite events and exhibitions across the city, proved to be more locally minded than global, with a real focus on homegrown talent—and nary an English-speaking press attaché in sight, much to this writer's chagrin. But that doesn't mean the week was lacking in international scope or import; Paris saw its fair share of trending materials, mash-ups, and burgeoning movements. Here are a few of our favorites, from sandblasted aluminum to cast glass; rarefied embroidery to even-more-rarefied millwork; and classic forms to ubiquitous blobs.

William Abranowicz



Valerio Geraci



La Lune

1

BUBBLY SILHOUETTES

At Expressive Itinerance Design, a satellite show mounted by Jean-François Declercq, Marie Godfrain, and David Herman, the gallery La Lune showcased undulating woodwork produced in collaboration with Heju Studio, one highlight of which was the Intervalles floor lamp. The same curves could be found in the legs of Batiik Studio's lava stone-topped table, part of its exhibition "Dans le Sillage de Nérée," which was installed at the Élitis showroom.

2

ALUMINUM EVERYTHING

Heavy metal was everywhere across the City of Light, even expressed in metallic Magniberg bedding as the centerpiece of "Les Décadents Festifs" section at Inspire Me!, a curated Maison & Objet booth from trend-forecasting agency Peclers Paris that unpacked the more scintillating side of design. Elsewhere, the young collective Meet Met Met curated the group show Feu!, featuring a range of ashtrays that included an aluminum option from the design duo Heim + Viladrich.

At an installation at Féau Boiseries, the Invisible Collection showcased makers from the Chanel Maisons D'art, including Studio MTX, Goossens, and Lesage Intérieurs, the studio of the Chennai, India-based embroiderer Jean-François Lesage. The artisan collaborated with Mumbai-based gallery Aequo on an aluminum-framed folding screen that showcases embroidery based on a commissioned drawing from the French illustrator Boris Bucher.



Magniberg



Meet Met Met



Aequos

3

NEW TAKES ON CLASSIC SEATING

Simple geometric shapes evolved into an expressive chair from the studio of former set designer Mariette Sans-Rival, who designed a version of the piece for the recently opened Apollo Palm Hotel. Maison & Objet Rising Talent Awards recipient Timothée Leclabart riffed on similarly classic proportions with his walnut and rattan armchair, Canné, a piece that was recently recognized for its excellence and was acquired by France's Mobilier National collections.



Mariette Sans Rival



Studio Heraut



Maestria

4

EXPRESSIVE GLASS

The designer Léa Zeroil collaborated with glassblower Tom Chevry on a set of undulating glass candlesticks shown alongside glass tabletops and a room divider at her installation, Lune Rousse, at Maestria gallery. Down the street, artist and designer Sophia Taillet's Curve cocktail table was exhibited as part of Amelie Maison D'Art's tribute to and re-creation of the David Hockney painting Interior with Lamp.



Uchronia

5

OMBRE GLASS

The young firm Uchronia took over the orangery of the Hôtel de Sully to celebrate its collaborations with such storied companies as Prella and Passementerie Verrier. The resulting installation, called Think Pink!, was a room chockablock with color, pattern, and sparkle. Just beyond lay its new collection of outdoor furniture, featuring the firm's signature ombré on a suite of more hard-wearing tables and seating. Back at the Expressive Itinerance Design show, designer Céline Salomon showed the charming ceramic-legged Templus shelf and single-handedly made the case for two-toned glazing—and curves and aluminum, of course.



The Templus shelf by Celine Salomon.

THESE 2024 KITCHEN TRENDS ARE ALREADY COMING IN HOT

While opulent Art Deco, over-the-top maximalism, and even Barbiecore have all had their moments in the sun this last year, a more serene and calming approach to kitchen design is on the horizon for 2024. Besides a space to expand our culinary creativity, our kitchens have become increasingly important as a place to nurture connections with family and friends.

In short, homeowners want a space that feels like a safe haven. “In 2024, the ‘joy of living’ is high on the priority list for design,” says Kerrie Kelly, CEO and creative director of Kerrie Kelly Studio. “People are increasingly opting for versatile spaces that can adapt to various functions, such as kitchen islands with integrated seating and storage to create a multifunctional hub for cooking, dining, and socializing.”

Whether you’re planning a new build or simply sprucing up your cooking space with a new cabinet paint job, many of these trends can be incorporated into your design plans. Most of the top kitchen trends of 2024 make life in the kitchen easier, more streamlined, and less chaotic. After the uncertainty of the past few years, we all deserve a space that’s a soothing retreat from reality, while still reflecting a stylish palette of beautiful design elements. Here’s what the experts say will be hot in the year ahead.



Stephan Julliard

1

LAYERED, UNDERSTATED LIGHTING

“The hottest trend in kitchen lighting is about layering and creating a versatile ambience,” says Kelly. “We’re seeing a shift moving away from bold statement pendant lights over kitchen islands and dining areas, while celebrating integrated under-cabinet and toe-kick lighting to add functionality and a touch of glow.”

Sconces, which combine style and usefulness, are another lighting trend. “Bright, overhead recessed lights may cause a glare on kitchen work surfaces,” says Ashley Macuga, principal designer of Collected Interiors. “We love installing sconces in kitchens because they add a layer of lower light and look so pretty when dimmed once the kitchen is finally closed for the evening.”



Roger Davies



Joshua McHugh

2

WARM, RICH COLORS

Monochromatic, all-white kitchens are not as popular as they once were. “We’re witnessing a resurgence of dramatic color tones that introduce powerful contrast, such as warm, saturated hues paired with understated neutrals,” says Kelly. Along with blues and greens, rich browns, smoky blues, and reds and purples are taking center stage to infuse kitchens with a cozy, inviting atmosphere.

Mixing light or dark-stained woods in with saturated colors also is big. “I think a balance of painted and wood cabinetry is really important,” says Macuga. “Color can provide a space with personality and charm, and stained woods give a space a feeling of warmth and depth.”



Stephan Julliard

3

HIGH DRAMA MARBLE AND STONES

Natural materials, such as marble, are a given for counters and flooring. “White marble has been deemed a risky material choice for countertops in recent years due to its susceptibility to stains and chips,” says Williams. “But homeowners are taking the risk for the sake of its natural stunning veining and movement. They’re more accepting of ‘imperfections’ that arise over day-to-day use, allowing the surface to show its ‘life stories.’”

Many homeowners are prioritizing sustainability and low-maintenance materials. “Clients are embracing natural stone look-alike varieties with products such as Silestone Le Chic collection and Dekton Pietra Kode collection,” says Kelly.

4

COMMUNAL EAT-IN KITCHEN

Whoever thought the humble kitchen table would be considered a design trend? But the rumors are true, says Macuga: “Families are increasingly centering activities in the kitchen, lounging as much as they are cooking.” Clients want kitchen layouts that invite their children and guests to come sit and stay awhile. For example, islands must accommodate the whole family, and counter stools must be comfortable.

Even better is the integration of a kitchen table within the space, where community is made by sitting across the table, not just next to someone. Says Macuga, “In a world full of computer screens, it’s the direct eye contact that perhaps we’re all yearning for”—a need that’s trend-proof.



Nick Johnson

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