

Laundry rooms that clean up well



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DESIGN RULES

It's the weekly chore we all love to hate — the necessary evil that is laundry day.

Some of us with larger families find ourselves doing this blessed chore multiple times a week and even then, when we're about to start over, the clean clothes are still sitting to be put away right next to a new pile of dirty laundry ready to go.

It can be a daunting and never-ending task so why shouldn't the space be as functional and stylish as possible?

Perhaps second only to the kitchen, this room acts as the hardest working space in our homes, it's necessary most of all for this room to have

both form and function in the design.

First things first, take inventory of everything that you may need for basic laundry activities (detergent, softener, baskets etc.), and we can ensure there's a place for everything and everything in its place.

Secondary functions like hanging, folding, ironing, and even feeding and washing the dogs, can be added to list for some households.

In our bright blue laundry space, our furry friends required a place to sleep so our millwork was custom designed to allow this as well as storage for a full size ironing board, iron, dog food, shampoos, brushes and extra cleaning supplies.

We made sure to install hanging rods mounted high enough for long dress shirts and even some mid-length dresses yet still easily accessi-

ble for our clients.

It's important to take stock of what it is you are trying to achieve in these spaces and ensure that you've thought up a solution for each of these activities.

That's what working with a designer will do — create a space that truly works for your life and how you wish to live in it.

Once you've nailed down the functions and created a layout and design that works, we focus on the personality. If you're afraid to try out the latest trend or colour of the year that you find yourself drawn to, the laundry space is a perfect place to dabble and express yourself.

Go a little wild with tile or try a bold colour. Our client's request for an "eclectic, retro, vintage, modern laundry room" enabled us to go big with black and white patterned hexagon floor tiles and

gold faucet and hardware for that modern edge, while gossamer blue pillow-style cabinets gave us a little retro-vintage vibe. One of the final, but possibly most important features of our laundry space is the abundance of light.

It's no fun doing chores in a dungeon, so if you do not have the luxury of windows in your space, ensuring you have the right level and quality of light is key.

Perhaps I have inspired you to take another look at your laundry area after all, until our appliances can start to sort and fold on their own, we may as well love the space where it all happens.

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Laundry can be a daunting and never-ending task so it makes sense to make this space as functional and stylish as possible.

Use your walls to make a statement



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Wallpaper today is both exciting and inspirational. From bold geometrics to vintage floral, opulent metallic finishes or the natural uncomplicated look of grass cloth to the rustic vibe of faux wood or reclaimed brick, we just can't get enough of the design power of wallpaper that is breathing new life in to our homes.

The impact of wallpaper in a space goes beyond simply that of just paint. A few rolls can transform and define a space in dramatic and luxurious ways.

Whether your room is large or small, wallpaper can instantly highlight a style, make a bold statement or add character and personality to an otherwise basic design.

It can change a vastly spacious room by making it feel more intimate and cozy, just

the same way a bold and busy pattern can transform a small room in your home to a charming and dynamic space.

Wallpaper is often the perfect answer to camouflaging irregularities in your wall as well.

As I designer, I really enjoy working with wall coverings, but what really excites me is the prospect of working outside of the traditional scope of wallpaper books we are all used to seeing.

I love fabric — beautiful, colourful textured fabric complemented by great patterns is enough to excite and inspire anyone; having the option of using some of these fabrics on walls is even better.

Paper-backed fabric, once a high-end design possibility for your wall coverings has become more mainstream with companies like Alendel Fabrics that now offer this option as an "in-house" service, along with their new wallpaper collections they offer.

If you're having trouble finding the right wallpaper

pattern, perhaps you should consider turning to fabric books instead. With this season's release of coarsely woven linen textures, bold florals and geometrics, and organic free-flowing blends of colour there's much to choose from; not to mention this year's "blast from the past" return of Navajo and Aztec inspired prints.

However, there are still more options to consider when looking to paper your walls. Murals have also found a new life and "peel and stick" papers are also a great option to the traditional wallpaper for those of us that are looking for easy installations or are a bit "commitment phobic".

Companies such as Ruth Baker Design can custom print almost any desired image to create large-scaled murals and wallpapers, that are simple to install, and not only can peel off your walls with relative ease, but are also reusable.

Become inspired with your walls and give them some personality and character.

Remember, today's wallpaper trends are about adding a "wow" factor to your space which means you should be selective about the walls or rooms you wish to draw attention to.

Here are a few tips to get you started on your wallpaper journey:

- Look to create a stylish focal point in your room by wallpapering a single wall.
- Don't be afraid of using large-scaled patterns in smaller spaces
- Powder rooms are a great for a more dominant bold pattern as it's not continuously visible
- If colour and pattern is a bit much for you, consider using a faux reclaimed wood or brick patterned paper to add interest and texture to your space.

— Linda Mazur is principal of the Linda Mazur Design Group and is known for designs that reflect a rich elegance, timeless style and optimal functionality. Visit www.lindamazurdesign.com.



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