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BUILDING CHARACTER



FROM DRESSING UP WALLS TO ADDING ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST, 10 CREATIVE WAYS TO BRING ORIGINAL FLAIR TO YOUR SPACE.

By ANDREA MILLS

1.



WALL TREATMENTS



1. CENTRE STAGE
Built-in bookshelves flank a faux-fireplace that the condo's owner, a designer, installed to give the room a focal point. High ceilings create an edge in the character department, which is elevated by the detailed millwork.
Room design, Philip Mitchell

2. OFF THE WALL
If it's not in the budget to cover an entire wall in a favourite wallpaper, wrap a large piece of plywood to create a freestanding art panel instead. Here, a retro-style floral brightens up an otherwise featureless eating area in a small apartment.
Room design, Michael Penney

3. OPTICAL ILLUSION
Make a small room feel larger by filling a section of panel moulding with mirror tiles. The effect creates an extra "window" that helps to bounce natural light around the room. Use the same treatment to build a dramatic headboard in a bedroom.
Room design, Scott Yetman

4. TEXTURAL FEATURE
Recreate the look of an industrial loft by installing faux-brick wall panels on one feature wall. Painting the panels white keeps the look light and clean, gives them authenticity and helps integrate them with the room's non-textured walls.

5. DRAMATIC STATEMENT
A small powder room is the ideal place to experiment with bold pattern and texture, like this faux-cowhide wallpaper. Instead of making a tight space seem smaller, it adds rich detail and dimension, warmth and instant character.