

# THE LOOK:

# PICKING THE PERFECT patterns

with claudia leah



**"A room should start a conversation before an actual word is spoken. The quickest way to start that conversation is in the color and pattern of fabrics in a space. They're the words and sentences that become the story of a home."** – Barry Darr Dixon.

From curtains to couches, wall coverings to benches, what story is your home telling? While most people want a home that is filled with fabrics that create great visual interest, many people aren't sure where or how to start. Here are some tips to use as you mix fabrics in your home.

Choose three patterns. In art and design, odd numbers tend to feel more balanced and the number three seems to be the magic number. Pick your main pattern first since this will make the strongest statement. This should also be the pattern with the largest print and scale. The second pattern should be half the scale of the first, and the third should have the smallest print and use colors found in the first two fabrics.

Choose fabrics that have the same intensity. Mixing earth tones with vibrant jewel tones just doesn't work in a room.

Consider the "feel" of the fabrics as you choose them. Formality and the weight of a fabric are important when mixing patterns. For example, damask is considered a formal fabric while a gingham plaid is an informal fabric. Also remember that quality is important when picking fabrics with bold patterns.

Finally, talk to a professional. If the fear of mixing patterns and colors in your home is holding you back from making it into the space you truly want to live in, get some guidance.





The art of mixing and matching patterns shines through in this padded ottoman. The rule of three can be seen here with the boldest pattern used as the main fabric.



Throw pillows are the easiest way to mix patterns in your home. They allow you to distribute color through a room, and are the perfect starting when adding patterns into a room.



Need a little animal in your life? Faux fur has come a long way! Fun rugs like this one are a great way to add texture through fabrics.



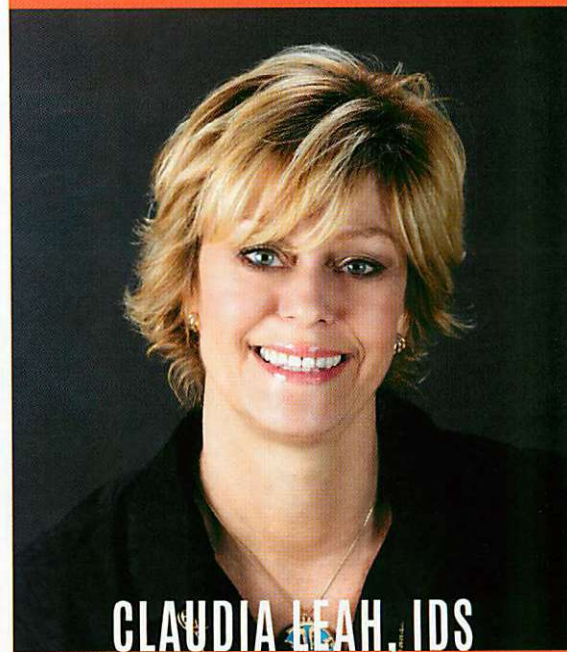
Monogrammed pillows add a deeper level of personalization to a space and also make great gifts.



The pattern matching on this chair is perfectly executed. A designer can help you choose a furniture manufacturer who can be trusted with bold patterns.



There are so many fun details you can add to your fabric selections. Passementerie is completely customizable and an interior designer can work with you to create your own unique and delicate additions to pillows, bedspreads, and upholstered furniture.



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Eagle Award Winner 2013 & 2014

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Interior Design Society Board Member 2010-2012

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