

BEYOND THE PALE

Graphic stripes needn't overwhelm; Frédéric Méchiche chose soft pink and cream to create an airy bedroom that feels anything but brash for a chateau near Chantilly. A pink-bordered duvet brings it all into harmony.



ALL *LINED* UP

INSTANTLY ELONGATING AND EFFORTLESSLY ELEGANT, STRIPES HAVE BEEN A WARDROBE STAPLE SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL. PAINTING THEM ON WALLS (OR CEILINGS OR MILLWORK OR EVEN FLOORS) CAN CREATE A SIMILAR EFFECT, DRAWING EYES TO ALL THE RIGHT PLACES—AND HIDING A FEW FLAWS ALONG THE WAY. THINK MINIMUM FUSS, MAXIMUM IMPACT.

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The Power of Paint



MAKE A STATEMENT
At the J.Crew Collection store on Madison Avenue, the brand's former creative director Jenna Lyons took a no-holds-barred approach, painting powder room walls from top to bottom in black and white—and camouflaging fussy millwork in the process.



COLOR THEORY
Look closely at the sorbet-hued stripes surrounding the arched doorway of this Manhattan brownstone: They're playfully asymmetric, bringing levity to the Jeffrey Bilhuber-designed space.



GOING MONOCHROME
We're more than a little envious of this gorgeously green space by Nicholas Obeid. Stripes on the walls and ceiling could make for a dizzying effect, but the tightly controlled palette keeps everything neatly in line.



NEUTRAL STATE
With stripes veering off in all directions (and further refracted by the mirrored vanity), the op-art effect of this Jean-Louis Deniot-designed bath is tempered by the muted gray and cream shades that make up the motif.



OPPOSITES ATTRACT
Need proof that even the most unexpected color combinations can look right when in the form of classic stripes? Sheila Bridges used white space to make spicy red and brilliant turquoise feel like the most natural pairing.



MAJOR THEATRE
Elsie de Wolfe meets *My Fair Lady* in this dramatic powder room by Suzanne Tucker, where black-and-white stripes highlight the graceful curves of the vanity niche and antique French sconces add a twinkling glamour.



LOOKING UP
Stephen Sills used a striped ceiling in earthy tones to warm up a white-walled room and emphasize the rustic woodwork within. A brass lantern and eclectic art lend a dash of global flavor.

GETTING IT STRAIGHT

WHILE STRIPES MIGHT *SEEM* SIMPLE—PAINT YOUR WALL IN THE LIGHTER COLOR, MEASURE, MARK, TAPE, APPLY THE DARKER HUE—THE STRAIGHTFORWARD PATTERN CAN BE TRICKY TO MASTER. WE ASKED DECORATIVE ARTIST AGUSTIN HURTADO OF CHANGO BROOKLYN (A.K.A. THE PAINTER THAT MILES REDD AND NICK OLSEN KEEP ON SPEED DIAL) TO SHARE HIS TIPS.

1. Prepare Your Canvas

The smoother the wall, the better the outcome. “If there’s any texture, it’s going to be hard to make the stripes look straight,” says Hurtado. He prefers a Level 5 drywall finish, which involves a skim coat for extra leveling.

2. Start From the Center

Despite appearances, most walls aren’t completely straight, says Hurtado. To account for any variance, he begins marking stripes from the center of a wall and works outward, fudging the distances as needed to make the final result look consistent.

3. Keep Edges Crisp

“There’s nothing worse than realizing that your paint has leaked under the tape,” cautions Hurtado. To avoid this, he recommends burnishing and then lightly sanding down the edges of the tape; the small amount of dust that gets trapped underneath will create a barrier, preventing any new paint from seeping in.

4. Don’t Spray It

A spray application might be ideal for certain jobs, but when it comes to stripes, stick to brushes. “Paint doesn’t absorb into the wall as well when it’s sprayed, so when you remove the tape, the paint can peel right off,” Hurtado explains.

5. Mix Up the Finishes

To create extra depth, especially when working with hues that are more similar in tone, consider alternating two different paint sheens. “We’ve also done stripes on Venetian plaster and then polished only one color,” Hurtado says. “It looks incredibly elegant.”

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