

Interior Design Risks Worth Taking

It's tempting to play it safe when it comes to decorating. That butterfly-print wallpaper is appealing, but it isn't cheap, and you may hate it once it's up on the wall. Whereas, beige paint — who could object to that?

But playing with color, pattern and styles is the easiest way to inject some personality into your home. If you're nervous about it, designers say, start small: Focus on a contained space like a powder room, a stairwell, a single wall in a bedroom or a kitchen backsplash, or use bold accessories like pillows that can be changed later.



Lindsay Chambers, an interior designer in West Hollywood, Calif., used four rolls of Hygge & West's Daydream wallpaper, which features orange birds and gray clouds on an off-white background, to reinvent her home office. Lu Tapp

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“Bold wallpaper is such an easy way to completely transform a space quickly,” said Lindsay Chambers, an interior designer in West Hollywood, Calif., who used graphic paper in her home office. “It was a tight space to begin with, and it was dull and uninviting,” she said. “When I worked from home, I ended up working at the dining room table rather than in the office.” She added, “I had to do something bold to wake up the small space.”

Four rolls of [Hygge & West's Daydream wallpaper](#) with its striking orange birds did the trick. A painting by Kelly Reemtsen of a woman in high heels standing on an office chair (which she already owned) and an \$89 lumbar pillow from Room & Board pulled everything together.

Because Ms. Chambers used

art and furnishings she had on hand (including her desk and office chair), she was able to keep the total cost of labor and materials low: just \$1,149 (including the wallpaper, at \$165 a roll). It's an investment, she said, that has paid off: “I now spend all my time in the space when I work from home.”

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