

While there are always classics in interior design that will forever look chic and work seamlessly in any space – European and Asian antiques, American mid-century furniture, crisp white linen lampshades, Calacutta marble for kitchens and baths, sisal area rugs and a touch of black in every room – there have been a few new additions to the list of “go to” items I’m constantly gleaming inspiration from these days.

Drawing from history and the *au courant*, I keep a few ideas in my back pocket that always look great and work as solid foundations in any room. Here are a few of my favorite things:

Chevron patterns. For rugs, draperies, accent pillows and even wood flooring, chevrons evoke a classic, yet updated motif that works in any style of home. Try a grey and white chevron fabric for dining chairs – a new traditional look that goes with nearly everything you pair it with. Or hang a pair of cream and white chevron drapes to flank windows in a child’s bedroom for a chic jolt to wake up those tired baby blues and pinks.

Animal prints. Once a choice for only the bold hearted – think Tony Duquette and his theatrical interiors – prints in snow leopard, zebra, cheetah and tiger patterns are a new neutral. (I see you shaking your head at me – trust, people, trust.) The popularity of hide rugs layered over wall-to-wall carpeting adds both interest and whimsy to any room. (IKEA sells a fantastic faux hide.) Try a caramel leopard patterned wool runner to soften your stairs or as a hall runner as a way to create something special in a much used “connector” space. Classic black and white zebra linen looks fantastic as a neutral headboard trimmed with chrome nail heads – mix with plaid bed linens or an Ikat print for a totally boho combination. Or go over the top and use a python printed cotton for an eye-catching valance in an all white kitchen. Now, you’re talking crazy, Brandon!

Chinoiserie. The historic design craze during England’s Regency era of the 19th century, and used throughout the courts of Louis XV and Louis XVI of France, oriental motifs are back for good, and looking fresher than ever. As global styles mesh, and cultures are becoming increasingly more blended, the confluence of the Far East and Western interiors are finding a permanent partnership. From pagoda shapes and exotic fretwork on everything from etageres and lighting to lacquered finishes and japanning, Orientalism adds a well traveled and rich texture to your space.

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