

EXPERT VIEW USING FLORALS IN INTERIORS



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■ I use a wide range of floral fabrics and wallpapers in interiors, from traditional chintz to large-scale designs in fresh colours for a more contemporary look. Some of the best classic floral fabrics have clever colours hidden in the designs – this could be a plain brown or a perfect mustard yellow, for example – and these are ideal for a loose cover on a side chair or a lampshade. In fact, the older florals often reveal the most original colour combinations.

■ **Layering two or three different florals can create a surprisingly calm look, particularly in a bedroom scheme. This is because the patterns tend to recede visually, giving a more relaxed ambience.**

■ Although there are no hard rules for combining florals, it's important to establish a relevant contrast of scale. When floral curtains are the dominant element of a scheme, choose a one-colour floral for the sofa and possibly a more geometric interpretation for a wallpaper. Used on their own, floral wallpapers work well along upstairs hallways and in cloakrooms.

■ **If a floral wallpaper is bold, team it with plain curtains in a colour picked from the design, then underline the link by bordering the curtains with a second colour from the design. This is detailing that will register in the scheme. Matching floral wallpaper and curtains can look chic and, when the design is formal, very French.**

■ Adventurous floral-based schemes emerge from playing with lots of sample pieces. This means collecting enough fabric and wallpaper swatches to give a range of possibilities so that optimum pairings will reveal themselves.

■ **Add interest to a restrained scheme or contrast to a bold one with non-matching floral cushions on a plain sofa. Gathered floral print lampshades are another great way to do this.**



△ **INSIDE STORY** Tall cupboard doors open to reveal a desk that has been exquisitely painted with a trailing flower design. This brings an element of surprise to the block-coloured scheme and is a good way of using florals without having them on permanent display.

◁ **ALL SQUARE** A neat set of themed botanical artwork brings a vibrant touch to this room. Opt for large-scale prints hung closely together to make an impact and use simple but striking frames to keep the look modern and unfussy.