

MYSTYLE



What attracted you to your home?

The feel of it, and the road is very quiet – we've just got a church across from us. And outside, on the street, we've got a magnolia tree that has a leafy feel to it.

Who is your favourite furniture designer? I suppose Jasper Morrison is my favourite of today's designers. And I really like the old Le Corbusier stuff.

What has been the response to your wallpapers? Most people say that it's nice to see patterns that are new and that they can't link anything to – it doesn't look traditional to them at all. Maybe that's what people are craving.

What's your design philosophy? I don't tend to have a design philosophy of saying that the work has to be along certain lines. But I do have a process in the way I work.

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MAKING A SPLASH

Jocelyn turned the traditional concept of wallpaper design on its head when she burst onto the scene in 1999 at the British 100% Design exhibition with her first collection Larger Than Life, which included Lily (see opposite), Leaf (pictured right) and Scribbles. One of three wallpaper companies at the design fair, she caught the eye of industry watchers with these mix 'n' match designs that can be used either together or individually as art installations, panels or for alcoves. Jocelyn has used Leaf in Blue/Lilac in the bathroom, covering it in a sealant to protect it from moisture. It is coupled with a Happy D bathtub, available in Australia from Meco (02) 9618 6999, and custom-made frosted glass shutters that allow in plenty of light.



Jocelyn is excited about her wallpapers moving into Australia. "It's the right time," she says. Taylor & Taylor Design distributes Jocelyn Warner designs in Australia. "We've gone heavily into wallpapers this season and she's been the icing on the cake. Before, there weren't many options. Her collections add a new twist," says Sarah Taylor of Taylor & Taylor Design (03) 9415 6586



A BEAUTIFUL DROP

Jocelyn Warner's wallpapers are inspired by nature and finessed by her printing process. Welcome inside her London home

Balance. In a world where lives are getting busier, this word has taken on major significance. Forget 'get back to nature' as the call to action for a better way of life – 'balance' acknowledges the world has changed but aims to make it be a more harmonious place. And that's where Jocelyn Warner fits in. This revolutionary of the British wallpaper scene takes well-formed items from nature to create contemporary designs. But this desire to use forms from the outdoors doesn't come from a need to bring nature indoors, it's more about process, pattern and colour perfection.

"There's that whole thing of going back to nature because we've been devoid of it, but I don't know if it is that for me," says Jocelyn. "I'm into looking at nature and trying to find ways to put it into patterns but, for me, it's also about screen-printing – I look at the process of how something is going to be manufactured and how that affects how it's going to be designed."



jungle fever

Jocelyn's third wallpaper collection Kew features prominently on the ground level of her home in Simon's study and the living room. "I put the Brown/Blue design in that front room because in summer, when the magnolia is out in leaf, it is quite a leafy room. And the brown and the blue went quite well with the dark-wood fireplace. It had that library sort of feel to it," Jocelyn says. This was the only considered room in the house, the others "just happened". Kew was inspired by photographs Jocelyn had taken at the Kew Gardens, a botanical hothouse near London. "I wanted to get that hand painterly feel to it that looked like you'd had a paintbrush and just drawn it. And for it to be big," she says. "It was a matter of getting the repeat right – I wanted it to look like it didn't have an obvious repeat." Jocelyn chose a gloss ink for this design, an ink that is used more in magazine production, not interior products. Taking pride of place in the Kew Grey/Gloss room is a Mushroom chair by Pierre Paulin for Artifort, available here from Ke-Zu. Behind it is an Espiral 7 Drawer from London's The Conran Shop. Other pieces are from generous parents, London store Habitat, second-hand shops and travels. The flooring has been sanded back and given a clear matt varnish, giving a light modern feel to the space.



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Words Anna Flanders Produced by Toni Briggs Photography Justin Bernhaut

I love pattern – I think bits and pieces of print are lovely. To mix and match a lot of different things – like stripes as well as patterns – looks wonderful

MAKE THE LOOK YOUR OWN

Ways to live with patterns

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"People are turning away from a white minimalist look and pattern is being used, though in smaller amounts than in the 60s and 70s. It's very exciting"



"We haven't really got that much furniture. Bits and pieces that we have got, we've bought gradually over 10 to 15 years"

think pink

This kitchen is located in the basement of the home. Two rooms were made into one to create the large space and open it to the garden. An extension allows more light into this formerly dull space. The design Steps from Jocelyn's second wallpaper collection Totem features here. "I was quite into Brancusi [a Romanian sculptor] when I was designing this. He did tall angular totem pole-like pieces and I was very interested in the folded paper idea [for Steps] and the egg [Oval] having that effect," Jocelyn explains. "Steps is scanned folded paper and Oval is taken from scanning in pebbles and eggs. I wanted it to have a 3D effect." Here, the traditional fireplace is discarded for a sleek hole-in-the-wall with stainless-steel hearth. White accents, such as the sand cast above the fireplace by architect friend Jonathon Adams, cabinetry, shutters and the 1950s ceramics (a gift from Simon's sister), further modernise the look. The rocking chair was a present. "It was given to us by Simon's parents when I was pregnant," says Jocelyn. The kitchen table, from The Conran Shop, is one of her favourite pieces.



"They are quite subtle," says Jocelyn. "Pattern can be overpowering if you get your colour balance wrong"

Her approach is a balance of the natural and manmade, plus a tightrope walk between the creative and mechanical sides of Jocelyn's mind.

It's an obvious progression that her home is a picture of harmony. Large-scale patterns are throughout her four-storey London home but they are far from overpowering for Jocelyn, husband Simon, four-year-old son Gilbert, Alice and Sybil the two moggies and Koko the dog.

"They are quite subtle," says Jocelyn. "It is strange because the patterns are big but they are calming when up. It takes a bit to get the colours right – I work with my printers and we do a lot of sampling. Pattern can be overpowering if you get your colour balance wrong."

Her wallpapers line every room of the home she and Simon purchased five years ago. Even the bathroom hasn't missed out on her designer touch. But it took more than a little preparation to make this heritage-listed late-Regency home wallpaper-ready.

"We basically had to take everything apart – all the walls had to be replastered and all the wiring redone, and everything had to be structurally improved," Jocelyn laughs.

Once sound, it was out with a wall in the basement to create a big kitchen opening to the garden; away with the dated fixtures and flooring on all levels to make way for clean lines and a modern look underfoot; and in with wallpapers Steps, Kew, Lily, Leaf and Oval Shimmer.

Jocelyn admits her application of big patterns is a dramatic approach. But again balance plays a part. An eclectic collection of furniture in unfussy lines and solid colours – with only a little pattern featured in ceramics – provide visual breaks from the designs.

"I like a modern look and it would probably be in a plain fabric – I wouldn't have a sofa with a pattern on it," says Jocelyn on how she chooses furniture to accent her designs.



do the shimmy

Featuring Oval Shimmer, the main bedroom is Jocelyn's favourite room. "I love Oval Shimmer - it's got lots of different colours at different times of the day," she says. "It is printed on a ribbed embossed paper and it uses an ink that makes the wallpaper change colour wherever the light is on it." LEFT: a Matthew Hilton bed made the transition from Jocelyn and Simon's previous flat and they've teamed it with a Peep bedside table from The Conran Shop. Off-white woollen carpet covers "a bit of a mess" her builders made when attempting to paint her floorboards and a charcoal-coloured carpet features in the hall. BELOW: this jug was a gift, find similar at Igloo. OPPOSITE: artwork *Angel in the Wind of Heaven* (by Sir Charles Wheeler) sits above the fireplace, looking over a Marcel Breuer chaise, Poul Christiansen Le Klint lampshade and one of Jocelyn's own lampshades on a tripod base. See Stockists.

"Pattern, in general, is actually very fashionable now"

While she surrounds herself in the prints she loves, Jocelyn says wallpaper doesn't have to be used so dramatically. "Most people are quite scared of using big patterns. But maybe they can do a floating structure - use it as a painting. Or do one wall, an alcove, or a panel. You don't have to do your entire walls," she explains.

On her own method in decorating, Jocelyn says "it just happened". And with new wallpaper range Peony launched, the look is about to change. But, Jocelyn doesn't consider her home finished anyway. "Everything is semi-finished," says Jocelyn. "The wallpaper makes it seem finished." And it's the wallpaper that has defined all the rooms. Jocelyn and her family refer to the various spaces according to the wallpaper names. "We're a bit mad, really," she confesses. Although, inviting people to 'pop in to Kew' does sound more enticing than 'let's go into the study'. Madness? Perhaps just tottering on that thin line of creative genius. See over to make the look your own.



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