

Home front

WHAT'S HAPPENING FOR HOMES

Embracing life—and pattern



"My work is all about inspiring freedom."

ANGELA ADAMS

Angela Adams is grateful that she wasn't chastised for her constant doodling as a child. Those scribbles have evolved into a business in home and fashion design. Adams' large-scale organic patterns and textures reflect her Maine childhood and playful spirit. (Her "Scoot" tile for Ann Sacks, left, is named for her "sporty little cat.") Her suggestions for decorating with big pattern:

- **START SMALL WITH RUGS AND TILES AS ACCENTS.** "Tiles are great for defining a fireplace area, kitchen backsplash, or the shower," Adams says.
- **GIVE SPACES THE RIGHT CHARACTER.** Use vibrant designs (such as on wool rugs "Raindrop," below left, and "Tegan," below right) in rooms where you want to feel energized.
- **GET COMFORTABLE.** Go with colors and patterns that put you at ease.

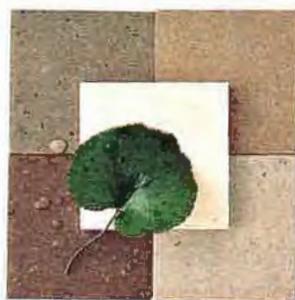
HOW TO GET IT: Angela Adams; 800/255-9454; angelaadams.com.

PHOTOGRAPHS: (TILE AND RUGS) KING AU; (ANGELA ADAMS); JOCELYN LEE

Innovations

Clever design is the star of our Better Home Better Living™ house, and we're keeping our eyes peeled for products that fit the bill. The finds shown here rate high on affordability and good looks.

Room on a Pole The pogoLibrary functions on two levels: It's a room divider as well as a handy set of bookshelves. Rubber tips on each end keep the unit securely in place against the floor and ceiling. It's easy to put together and comes with two hex keys, the only required tools for assembly. \$449; Urban Workshop; 314/776-6291; www.urbanworkshop.us.



Concrete Offer Want the look of concrete countertops without the maintenance concerns? Dupont Corian offers concrete-inspired countertops made from durable, easy-to-clean solid surfacing. Available colors include Fawn, Whisper, Serene Sage, Concrete, Tranquil, and Suede. \$45-\$75 per square foot installed; Corian; 800/426-7426; www.corian.com.

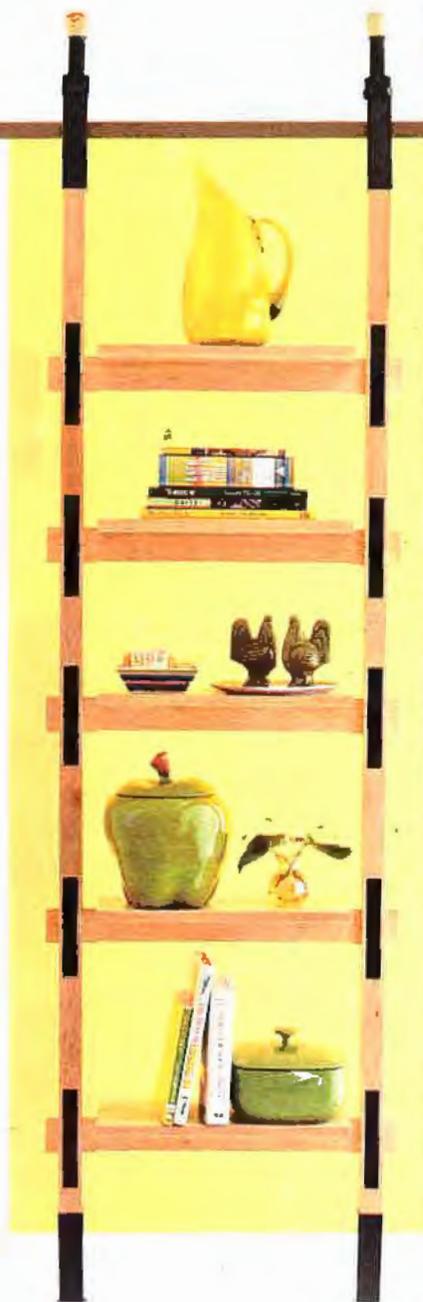
Don't Tempt Mold DensArmor Plus Interior Wallboard, a paperless gypsum panel, is ideal for moisture-prone interior walls, such as those in basements, kitchens, and bathrooms. It finishes like traditional wallboard with the same fire resistance and strength. \$10 per sheet; Georgia Pacific; 800/284-5347; www.gp.com/build.



Resin's New Look

Add interest throughout your home with translucent, frosted, or opaque Varia resin panels. The panels are of many sophisticated colors, organic textures, and modern patterns for a variety of applications, from kitchen counters or backsplashes to room dividers. \$10-\$40 per square foot installed; 3-form; 800/726-0126; www.3-form.com.

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Can you picture yourself living the good life in our Better Home Better Living™ house? Then enter to win at www.bhg.com/win Good luck!



PHOTOGRAPHS: KIM CORNELISON

The Up Side

New York interior designer Eric Cohler has paid attention to ceilings ever since he was a child, when he realized something was amiss with his bedroom's bottom bunk ceiling. "I painted it black," he says. The trick raised the roof by adding depth.

"Ceilings are really the fifth wall," Cohler explains. "More of us need to appreciate how they really can lift a room, and our spirits." To dress up your own ceiling, Cohler suggests the following:

- Add ceiling tiles (*above*) or panels for geometric texture and historic flair.

"They add beautiful dimension, especially to rooms with low ceilings, like basements," Cohler says. "They're also a good alternative to smoothing out 'popcorn' ceilings, since you can simply layer them on top."

- Paint with something other than white, and have fun with faux finishes. "Softer hues work best in lighter rooms," Cohler says. "For added personality, stencil a pattern around the ceiling borders. In a library, a Greek key design can be nice, and in a child's room, the ABCs are fun."

- Wallpaper the ceiling. "This gives your room another element of art," he says, "and covering only a ceiling doesn't have to cost a lot." Avoid wallpaper in rooms with high moisture levels, such as baths or kitchens.

HOW TO GET IT: Paintable traditional and tin-look tiles from Armstrong; for retailers, call 800/233-3823 or visit armstrong.com.



TRY THIS

In a room that doesn't get a lot of natural light, paint the ceiling a lighter hue. "Dark colors drain all the light, making it not only distracting but also bleached out and unattractive in a hurry," Eric Cohler says.

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THE WRIGHT LOOK FOR THE TIMES

What we saw: Copper pendant lights, towel bars, and vanity accents created with plumbing pipe.

Where we saw it: The Inn at Price Tower, a 21-room retreat at the top of architect

Frank Lloyd Wright's only skyscraper. The 16-story Price Tower was built in 1956 in Bartlesville, Oklahoma (45 miles south of Tulsa); the inn was completed two years ago.

Why we love it: Similar 1950s designs are typically seen in chrome; streamlined copper is a fun take on the hammered copper that Wright often used.



Street Smarts

Whether you know it or not, you've likely seen the distinctive hand of Knoll Inc., an innovator in contemporary workplace and residential furnishings (more than 40 pieces are in the permanent Design Collection of The Museum of Modern Art). Until recently, these iconic furnishings were only available through designers and dealers. Now, Knoll sells its most popular residential products, and some home office products, through Knoll Space, a network of independently owned shops—such as Redlured in Minneapolis (above), 612/824-7602. For additional locations, call 877/615-6655 or visit knoll.com.

Why you should see it: The Inn's rooms and its Copper Restaurant and Bar were designed by architect Wendy Evans Joseph (known for her work on the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.). From October 2005 through January 15, 2006, the Price Tower Arts Center presents *Prairie Skyscraper: Frank Lloyd Wright's Price Tower*, an exhibit of models, drawings, building components, and furnishings related to the Tower creation. Rooms and suites start at \$125; 877/424-2424; innatpricetower.com.



PHOTOGRAPHS: (PRICE TOWER) CHRISTIAN M. KORAB, DON WHEELER; (REDLURED), ROBERT M. PEACOCK

ASK THE EXPERT

SMALL WONDERS

Don't have the funds or bump-out space to expand your cramped kitchen? Designer Chip Vogel of Interior Spaces in Tampa says look inward: "All of us have some extra room to grow—we just don't see it at first." Here's how to find that space and use it.

▪ **Insert cabinets between wall studs.** "This gives you about four more inches of depth," Chip says. "That doesn't sound like much, but when you think of it as a 7-foot-tall cabinet lined with shelves, you really can hold a lot." ▪ **Have a place to work and dine.**

"Rather than have the traditional two-level island—where you can store a lot underneath it but can only

sit around it sideways—incorporate a flat-top island or counter peninsula into the room." Because islands are often 36" high, "consider making yours 37.5" high, since most barstools are 36" tall; you'll have more leg room under it." ▪ **Be forward-thinking.** "Make that cabinet above the refrigerator come all the way forward. It becomes an excellent place to store large pots or have a TV on a pullout shelf. Otherwise, avoid storing things directly on top of the refrigerator; that can make the room look cluttered." ▪ **Take cabinets to the next level.** "Go as high as you can with them. You not only get more storage space but also can make the room seem more spacious, especially if the cabinets are monochromatic." ▪ **Consider the European plan:** "Our appliances just keep getting bigger, but European designers often have small, high-quality appliances that can be worked into tiny spaces." ▪ **Bump-out windows.** "Replacing windows with bump-out, bay, or greenhouse windows tends to pull more daylight into the room and makes the wall seem farther out than it is. You also can use the windows for herb containers year-round."

PHOTOGRAPH (PORTRAIT): ROBERT ADAMO



SMART WAYS TO CONQUER SPACE-CHALLENGED KITCHENS:

The Diamond Logix Base Pots & Pans Pullout (*far left*) organizes cookware; about \$180; 800/342-5590; www.diamondcabinets.com.



The new Sharp Insight Range with Microwave Drawer (*left*), a 30-inch conventional or convection unit with glass ceramic cooktop. You can roast a turkey while preparing a casserole (at 1,000 watts) in one sleek spot; units start at \$1,299; 800/237-4277; www.sharppusa.com. 