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Would you like to make your bathroom bigger, but don't want to remodel right now? You don't need to call a contractor. Using wallpaper can fool the eye into seeing more space than actually exists. Professional decorators who stretched these small baths share their innovative ideas.

Optical illusions



Decorating magic you can buy by the roll—that's how decorators from Decorating Den Interiors, a design firm with decorators located throughout North America, look at today's improved wallpapers. Thanks to modern technology, new wallpapers are moisture-resistant and scrubbable, easier to install and much more willing to peel off neatly when the time comes to change your decor.

Such virtues naturally endear today's wallpaper to home decorators for use all through the house, but nowhere is its warmth and color more welcome than in a little bath.

Sometimes beauty really is only surface-deep, believe Florida decorators Carol Stearns and Lorraine
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ABOVE LEFT: Ontario decorator Anita Wiklem ran bold patterned amber wallpaper onto the ceiling of this bath to hide flaws, such as eyesore ductwork.

LEFT: Turning striped wallpaper sidewise, decorator Linda Alberts from Saskatchewan, Canada, makes this narrow bath look wider.

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MacCarrall, that is, if you can resurface your walls in the right pattern and color. Their design problem: a newly built bath that was small, but tall. Their solution: tone-on-tone beige-and-white wallpaper featuring tropical birds and large leaves. The allover wallpaper pattern tamed the ceiling height and made the room feel friendlier, Stearns explains. "A lot of people are afraid of so much pattern," she says, "but the tone-on-tone coloring and scale of the allover pattern made it work."

Ontario decorator Anita Wiklem faced other problems: a small bath with a ceiling marred by awkward ductwork. Her solution: a brilliant stroke of dramatic amber patterned wallpaper. The ceiling smoothed out and the room warmed up, she reports. "You really get your money's worth by wallpapering a bath. It makes such a dramatic difference."

Agrees Linda Alberts, a decorator in Saskatchewan, Canada: "Wallpaper proves how little it takes to make a dramatic change in a room." With a weekend's work and a scant \$350 worth of wallpaper, she turned a tiny bath into a great bathing beauty, warmed by golden yellow patterned wallpaper and fabrics to match. "Nothing else," she says, "makes such a dramatic difference so easily and inexpensively." —Rose B. Gilbert



ABOVE LEFT: The Ontario Region Group of Decorating Den Interiors installed striped paper horizontally and painted the ceiling blue to stretch space.

LEFT: Florida decorators Carol Stearns and Lorraine MacCarrall brought a bath with a high ceiling down to human scale with tone-on-tone wallpaper.

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