

Are accent walls out of style? This is how designers are using them in 2022 and beyond



We've seen accent walls so often in the past decade that, ironically, they seem to have blended into the crowd of interior trends. Accent walls made their debut in the early naughties as a low-risk color investment, allowing people to experiment with bright colors and patterns in a failsafe way. At the time, they seemed like a passing fad, but decades on, they're still hanging on; but is it by a thread?

Don't answer that just yet. First, let's hear from interior designers Stephanie Lindsey, principal designer of Etch Design Group, and Fanny Abbes, founder and creative director of The New Design Project, whose enduring faith in accent walls has seen them being used in fresh and innovative ways.

Here, they tell us why they believe this [interior design trend](#) has staying power and how to successfully incorporate the accent walls of today into our interiors.

WHAT DO ACCENT WALLS LOOK LIKE TODAY?

An [accent wall](#) is an interior or exterior wall with a different color or material finish than the rest of the walls in the space. 'Accent walls provide a focal point in a room, and they're also a cost-effective solution to update your space,' says Stephanie - not much has changed there.



(Image credit: Avery Nicole. Design: Etch Design Group)

Versatility is an accent wall's greatest asset and something contemporary designers are exploiting. The only rule for accent walls is that they accent a wall; how is up to you. 'Sometimes, even after furniture and accessories, a room can feel incomplete, so the space may be calling for wallpaper or architectural paneling,' says Stephanie from [Etch Design Group](#). Paneling is an easy way to add texture and depth to a minimal aesthetic, while 'wallpaper can instantly add color and pattern to a cookie-cutter room.'

HOW DO YOU MAKE ACCENT WALLS WORK?

'There are endless ways you can design an accent wall, but there are a few things to consider,' says Stephanie. Firstly, '...it's important to keep in mind whether the wall is a blank canvas or if there are windows or other features you will need to work around.'

Stephanie and her team take a similar approach, 'we like to use timeless patterns and colors that will complement the surrounding furniture and accessories,' she says. Alternatively, she suggests using the accent wall to guide the rest of the scheme.