



Cover Up 盡展所「牆」

Bold, brightly patterned wallcoverings are this season's hot home décor feature

妙用牆飾 點亮家裡每個角落 | Text : Rebecca Lo | Photo : Altfield Interiors |

It's a scary prospect for many Hong Kong homeowners. Unlike furniture or drapery, which can easily be changed if weariness sets in, wallcoverings are a little more permanent. Furniture needs to be moved out of the way, existing paper needs to be stripped and the walls need to be primed before the covering can be applied. And then they run the risk of the contractor botching the job, as many smear paint on walls and call it a day. It is usually only considered an option during a major home renovation.

However, Felix Luke is seeing more and more end users make the commitment. "Wallcoverings are not as trendy as upholstery or drapery," the showroom manager at Altfield Interiors acknowledges. "It is considered a longer lasting product. But these past four or five years, more people are interested in the effects they can achieve with them."

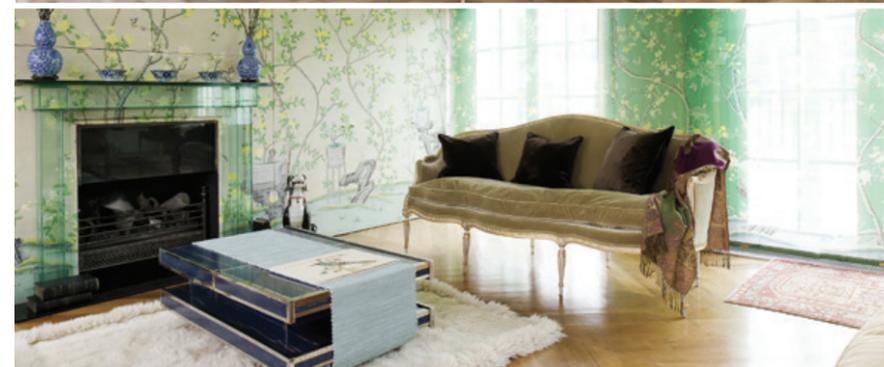
Altfield first opened in 1982, and is one of Hong Kong's most established dealers in home décor products. Along with its retail gallery in Prince's Building, its interiors showroom on Queen's Road Central offers a wide range of textiles for upholstery, drapery and walls. Altfield carries American, UK and European brands, although its Mainland Chinese showrooms also offer local products such as grass cloth wallcovering.

"Hand painted paper is very popular at the moment," says Luke, showing a de Gournay wallcovering sample of whimsical monkeys on a neutral background. "This English company used to offer Oriental patterns, but now we are seeing more abstract motifs. It's a personal and unique type of effect that is visually very interesting."

室內裝修中最令人頭痛的要算是牆壁了。其他傢具飾品都可以因應季節、心情和喜好隨時轉換，但要改動牆飾，例如牆紙款式或是轉換另一款油漆顏色，便要先將舊牆紙或顏料鏟掉，然後再經批蕩、上灰才能貼上新的牆紙或塗漆，工序費時失事，所以一般只會在大裝修時才考慮更換牆飾。

儘管如此，Altfield Interiors陳列室經理Felix Luke表示越來越多人願意為了整體效果而更改牆飾。當然，他們已預算新裝飾可用上四、五年之久。

1982年開業的Altfield(傲斐藝苑)是香港著名的傢具經銷商之一，除了太子大廈的Altfield Gallery古董傢私店外，在中環皇后大道中也另設陳列室，提供一系列用於坐椅套、窗簾及牆飾的織品。Altfield主要經營歐美及英國家居品牌，但其在國內的分店更提供本地產品如草布牆紙。



Another trend is for wallcovering and upholstery manufacturers to offer the same pattern for walls and furniture. The end result is a continuous, seamless look within a room. The UK's Manuel Canovas offers the same patterns in paper and fabric to achieve this goal. "We are also seeing wallcovering being used on cabinet doors, within alcoves and on ceilings," Luke notes. Cole & Son have a border product called Nicchie that produces a frieze around a room, while Chiavi Segrette can make built-in recesses and alcoves look continuous with its surrounding walls. Using two types of patterns for above and below the dado line can create trompe l'oeil effects for striking feature walls. Luke cautions against selecting products that may be too challenging for local contractors to handle. "Weitzner released a neutral series last year as well as patterned tiles that have to be applied to a wall separately after it is primed with adhesive," she says. "Some of our clients ended up being disappointed because the product wasn't applied well enough to achieve the desired effect." Bubbling, less than perfect matching from edge to edge and other mishaps can easily occur with products in less experienced hands. The

simpler and more neutral the pattern, the easier application mistakes can be spotted. "In Hong Kong, humidity and dampness are huge issues," Luke states. "Silk, flocked and textured fabric wallcoverings may not be as durable over time, and are more susceptible to mould. We don't recommend applying wallcovering in bathrooms with showers or bathtubs, but powder rooms where there is less humidity would be fine."

This year, the trends are for bold patterns with large repeats and for mustard yellow to dominate many collections. "We are also getting a lot of enquires for Studioart's leather panels," Luke says. Although there are many requests for green content, it is difficult for a manufacturer to make products with 100 percent sustainable content. "Some of our American manufacturers such as Weitzner and Maya Romanoff offer products that contain a certain amount of recycled content like newsprint," she notes. "We can offer design advice to help clients mix and match, so that their interiors don't feel too boxy. And we can assist with upholstery and drapery to complement their wallcoverings." ◆



Luke表示，今年流行手繪牆紙，譬如De Gournay一款以中性背景和多隻古怪猴子為題的手繪牆紙便是其中一種。這間英國公司向來喜歡採用東方圖案，現在更配上抽象圖案，不僅視覺效果突出，而且能夠突顯出個人和獨特風格。

除了簡單利用牆紙粉飾牆壁外，不少製造商如英國的Manuel Canovas，推出同款圖案的牆紙及傢具，為求令室內空間觀感一致。Luke指出甚至有設計師將牆紙用於廚櫃、壁龕以及天花等地方。Cole & Son一款名為Nicchie的飾帶，可以圍繞四周牆壁張貼；另一款Chiavi Segrette牆紙則可使壁龕與牆壁連成一體。同時採用上述兩款圖案牆飾，再配合地腳線更可營造出一幅令人容易產生錯覺的特色牆。

有些牆紙產品的處理方法較特別，例如Weitzner去年推出一個配上圖案磁磚的中性牆紙系列，在牆壁上塗上黏貼劑後需要逐一貼上，工序較複雜。此外，貼牆紙也要講究經驗，不小心便會有氣泡，又或是邊緣未能完美配接。如果擔心手工問題，不妨考慮簡單、中性的圖案，這類牆紙會較容易處理。Luke又提醒香港天氣較潮濕，不宜採用絲質、植絨及具質感的牆紙。因為這類牆紙較容易發霉。她亦不建議客戶在浴室使用牆紙，但化妝間由於不會太潮濕，故可以考慮。

圖案方面，今年較流行大膽的重複圖案，尺寸要夠大；色系則以芥末黃為主。另外，市場上除了傳統質料的牆紙外，也有皮面牆紙，例如Studioart的牆紙產品，還有配合環保潮流的牆紙，例如美國製造商Weitzner及Maya Romanoff的牆紙產品，部份材料是由報紙循環再造製成的。牆紙款式包羅萬有，如何選擇及搭配有時也很惱人。因此Altfield也會為客戶提供意見，增添家居個性和生氣，甚至可與其他室內飾品及窗簾搭配。◆