



Above: A calmer atmosphere is created in the bedroom with warm tones.
Right: Plenty of colors and patterns have been injected into the living room.
— Courtesy of Chris Snook

From a white box to wow thanks to lived-in project



A custom sofa in mustard fabric was added to give a bold splash of color to the living room.



Patsy Yang

Edward Parker's London apartment makes an impact with its skillful mix of warm colors and fun patterns. The rather low-key 46-year-old homeowner gives all the credit to his interior designer Bhavin Taylor. "I loved the style of his work and how each project had a unique and lived-in feel," Parker said. "The spaces felt personal and comfortable so he was the first person that came to mind when I decided to take the plunge and redecorate." His design brief was clear — a lived-in, warm feel that was evident in all his other projects. And the homeowner also wanted to see what the designer could bring to the table. "I wanted a decor that reflected my personality and taste but was also functional," he said. When Taylor saw the two-bedroom flat in Wandsworth, South London, it was a new built white box that hadn't been touched since the property was built. "I loved that it was a blank canvas and that it was really bright because of the large windows, which meant that I would be able to inject some personality into the space," Taylor said. In terms of changes, this project was all about turning a bland white box into one that was bursting with personality, so injecting color and pattern was key. It took six months to complete the renovation work. "The way I approach this, and all of my projects is to bear in mind my business motto of 'love color, embrace pattern' and how I can apply this to suit each client," he said. "In this case the client had asked for a 'lived-in feel.' I instantly knew that to elevate this plain white box, I would have to inject bold patterns using Cole & Son wallpapers as well as rich colors." For the living room design, the client

already owned a rug and had asked Taylor to incorporate this, so naturally this was the base for the scheme. "I knew that I wanted to add wallpaper to the room and sourced Cole & Son's Delano wallpaper, that came in a color way that matched perfectly with the tones of the rug," he said. "The strong geometric pattern of this wallpaper was definitely going to inject some bold character to the room, so I decided to have it hung on the two opposite walls." Taylor wanted to achieve another layer of impact to the space, so selected a custom sofa in mustard fabric adding a bold splash of color. "So far there were already two elements of pattern from the rug and wallpaper, but I didn't want to stop there," Taylor said. "I continued to inject pattern in the cushions, throw and armchair, but this time picked up the charcoal tones from the wallpaper and rug. "When doing a bold scheme like this, sticking to a limited color palate helps to create an element of calm and harmony to the space." To give a warm feeling, warm wood tones were introduced that help to ground the room. The walnut dining table has been teamed up with light grey dining chairs to reflect the light grey kitchen cabinets and softer tones of the rug. To complete the room the wave sheer curtain was added as a modern way to create privacy but still allow all that natural light to flood in. In the bedroom the designer wanted to create a calmer atmosphere, but still inject some bold personality. Taking inspiration from the warm wood tones of the living room, he chose Cole & Son's Puzzle wallpaper that had a strong geometric pattern but with an element of calm that would be the perfect backdrop for the room. The warm tones of

the wallpaper are picked up in the furniture and window treatments which help to create a relaxing vibe. The addition of the navy blue carpet and accessories help to lift the room, but still maintain a calm and restful environment to sleep in. Taylor loved the fact the client's style allowed him to do what he does best and inject plenty of color, pattern and personality turning a characterless space into a home that feels warm, inviting and relaxing. "The living room really sums up my style," he said. Homeowner Parker said what Taylor achieved was exactly what he was after — a

complete, considered space that feels like home. "He introduced color and pattern in a way I wouldn't be able to do on my own," Parker said. "He really encouraged me to take a step with bolder design decisions that have maximum impact yet are still in keeping with my own personal style and taste. It's a space that I'm now proud to show off. "Ultimately you want a space that when you open the front door you feel a sense of 'I'm home.' It should be a place where you can relax after a busy day, somewhere you can entertain and invite people over, and a place that gives a sense of the 'wow' factor every time you sit down. "My home now does just that."



Designer Bhavin Taylor sourced Cole & Son's Delano wallpaper to give a bold character to the living area.

DESIGNER
Bradford McNamee



Embracing clients' passion to develop 21st century China

Who is he?

Bradford McNamee is a California-based international architect who has created designs for many large and small scale buildings worldwide for more than 30 years. Ever since childhood he's had passion to build structures and always dreamed of being an architect. Today, he has had numerous opportunities to design more complex projects of the mixed use type that include five-star hotels, luxury residential blocks, retail shopping centers and commercial offices in China's mainland and throughout Asia. For the last 20 years, he's embraced the fast-paced energy and deep passion of his clients to develop a modern China for the 21st century. It has been an exciting period of time that comes with many challenges and rewards.

Please share with us some of your works, and name the one you are most proud of.

A few notable projects include the Four Seasons Anguilla Resort in the British West Indies and the Lowe's Hollywood Hotel, a major portion of a larger development, including a retail/entertainment center and the Dolby Theater in the heart of Hollywood, California. In Singapore, I designed the luxurious St. Regis Hotel and Residences and nearby, the W Sentosa Hotel, Residences and Waterfront Retail/Entertainment Center, named Quayside Isle. In China's mainland, I've designed the very successful Ritz Carlton Guangzhou and Ritz Carlton Sanya hotels. Now, and slated to complete construction is a magnificent mixed use project comprised of two separate retail shopping centers and a high-rise tower that combines commercial offices and a five-star Grand Bay Hotel in Chengdu. I am most proud of my design leadership for the recently completed Xi'an project, consisting of The landmark Ritz Carlton Xi'an, an elegant Retail Shopping Center and 5 exquisite Residential Towers.

Are you currently involved with any project?

Currently, I am involved with my talented studio design team in the creation of a number of architectural mixed-use projects in the cities of Guiyang, Xi'an, Taiyuan and Jinan. It is and continues to be a very exciting time in China's history.

What's your design style?

My design approach is to understand and embrace all aspects and influences that may affect the design of the project. From a myriad of influences, my design team and I conceptualize through various methods the ideas that direct our decisions on the exterior appearance, the internal

layout of functions and the overall experience we are trying to convey with the architectural design. Our architectural design for each individual project is always unique and different. The design may range from a progressive modern landmark to an old historical style that carefully blends into a sensitive context. And, for some projects, the architecture could be conceived to harmonize the old with the new, or the ancient with the futuristic!

Where are you most creative?

I experience creativity at both unexpected individualistic moments as well as prearranged collaborative events. I believe creativity is not something you can easily turn on or off. For a design architect, mental visualization is essential and the beginning of the journey of thinking, sketching, experimenting and discussing the creative ideas and concepts that lead us to the appropriate architectural solution. Like art, architecture is not always universally agreed to be good or not good. Success and disappointment are very much a part of an artist or architect's creative life.

What does your home mean to you?

Home means family to me. It is where I share in the delight of living and being with the people I love most dearly in my life. It is also a place I designed and built for my family to enjoy and experience our lives together. Traveling has been a major part of my life. When I return home from a long trip it is where I find peace and my loving family.

Where would you like to go the most in Shanghai?

I am always intrigued with new high-rise buildings. Eighteen years ago on my first visit to Shanghai, I stayed at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in the Jin Mao Tower. Someday in the near future, I would love to visit the Shanghai Tower. Possibly, stay in the tower's J hotel!

What will be the next design trend?

Just as is evident today, environmental forces and advancements in new building technologies will have major impacts on architectural trends and the design and construction of future structures. These powerful and on-going influences will affect the future design concepts that owners, architects, engineers and ultimately the inhabitants may desire and expect. Architectural stylistic trends will continue to evolve, disappear, reappear, transform and forever reflect the ever-changing visual tastes people have with their habitats and the built environment.