

# Mansion Global (Online)

## Wood Paneling Goes Luxe

Forget those 1970s images, wood can create an accent or even liven up a room



While your visions of wood paneling may conjure images of 1970s living rooms or retro country cabins, today's iterations are decidedly chicer and more creative. Whether used as an accent wall, painted a shabby shade or fashioned in a bespoke pattern, wood paneling can add interest to your walls—and even ceilings.

For ideas on different looks and effects, follow these tips from the design pros.

### Be Creative

"Wood paneling is usually added to a room as a way of making an aesthetic statement with designs ranging from ultra-contemporary polished polyester resin to period-inspired Louis XV with carved classical decoration. We are also seeing wood panels used for acoustical absorption.

"In most traditional homes, the library is fully paneled, and some array of built-in cabinetry and bookshelves are integrated. However, in contemporary interiors, history and period accuracy do not drive these decisions. The wood paneling can be a bespoke look or feature for an area, like a piece of art. This can be extensive or minimal with clean detailing and flat, square edges. Finishes can be glossy and highly polished or an abraded, blasted or brushed surface that has little to no sheen, just letting wood be wood, which feels raw and real.

"For a modern look, you could use very clean details or loud, strong colors and abrupt textures. Color is in the eye of the designer for a contemporary space. If traditional, the color palette often follows suit, but it has become common to see a bit of a whimsical twist applied. Use it as an accent or focal point to drive the eye to an area, an art piece or a view."

— G. Michael Merritt, CEO of Ohio-based Merritt interiors

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