



Texture, Fabrics & Patterns

By Natalia Miyar

Architect, Interior Designer and Founder, Natalia Miyar

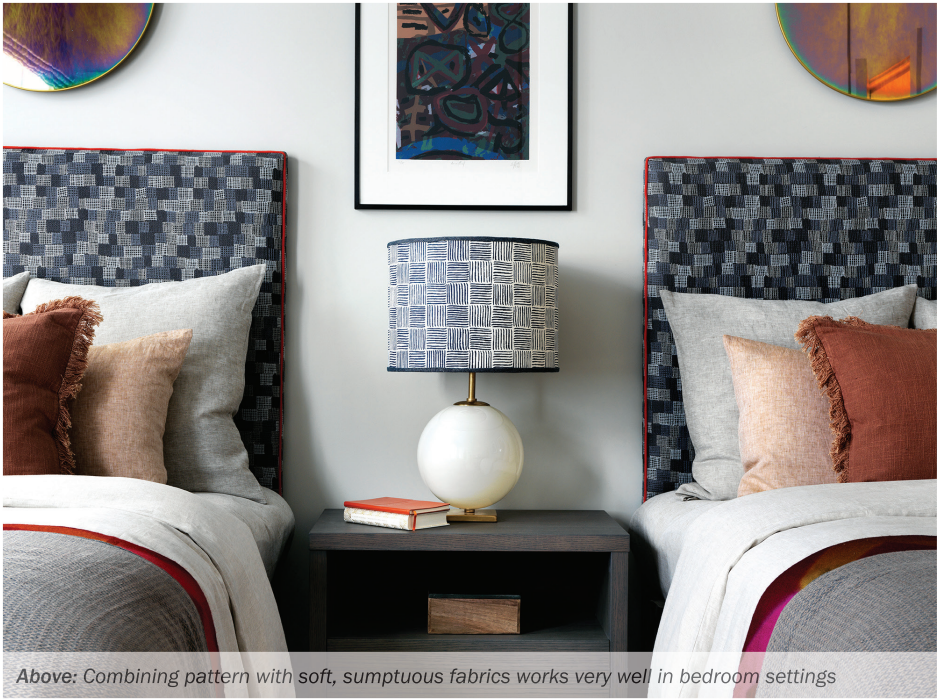
Natalia Miyar began her professional career as an architect working with notable firms in Miami. During eight years of study and six years in practice she developed a true love of materiality, space and proportion, which led naturally into design of the interiors. Several years on, her eponymous interior atelier, launched in the Spring 2016, showing a capacity for original, exciting design with the professional skill of a leading practice. There are several factors at play within Natalia's designs. Born in Mexico to Cuban American parents then relocating to Miami at the age of seven, travel and culture have always been central to her life. Her cultural identity is laden with inspirations that fuel a love of texture, colour and the contrasts of the visual world. Here she uses those influences to take us through inspirations in texture, fabric and pattern in the home.

The first thing I will ask my clients is if they like pattern and texture; some clients want very plain fabrics and furniture... or think they do! I love using lots of interesting patterns and textures; I think they add so many interesting layers to a design scheme. I like to discuss your preferences and listen to your ideas and how you imagine the rooms being decorated and also try to encourage bringing pattern, colour and texture into the rooms through the fabrics we chose or the finishes on the furniture, flooring and accessories. It's a journey of discovery.

Recently I've noticed that most of my clients absolutely love velvet and are always keen for it to be used in the design scheme in



Above: Classic Blue is Pantone's Colour of the year for 2020



Above: Combining pattern with soft, sumptuous fabrics works very well in bedroom settings

some form of another. Velvet is really beautiful and has a wonderful tactile quality, which adds warmth; it also looks fantastic and can be used in very grand or more pared back settings, it works so well on furniture and cushions. With regards to colours, I always ask about a client's preferences but I find very often they are open to my suggestions and are willing to be open-minded with what my team and I create for them, which is great. I will guide you however much you need me to. Something I would advise is for you to share information about yourself, your lifestyle and the way you use your home. I find it really useful to hear about how you live and in particular which rooms you will use most. I want to know where you entertain, where you like to eat, where you will spend the most time and

generally how you live day-to-day. I think it is always important to know which rooms will be more for utilitarian use and which might be more 'on show'. For example, some clients may never want to host a dinner in their kitchen and would only like the kitchen to be for small family meals, cooking and washing up, whilst the dining room may need to feel more grown-up and sophisticated. I also like to know if you like spending time all together as a family or if you might prefer to have separate 'living' spaces for parents and kids; every client is different and it's your personal choice. I also like to find out from my clients which hotels they like and which public spaces inspire them so I can use these places and landmarks as a reference for the design details. Every project is bespoke to the client and whilst I

love to make sure that it is the highest and most beautiful standard I can make it, it must reflect your interests, values and choices.

“I think layers of interesting textures are so key to creating beautiful interiors.”

I have really noticed at the moment that people are being cautious about what they are spending due to the current climate and uncertainty. I think that even those with substantial means are really considering what they spend their money on, being sure to make purchases, which will have longevity and are

NATALIA MIYAR

of a very high quality. I continue to advise my clients as to what I feel will work in their homes but of course I can make alternative suggestions if they decide to amend their budget for certain aspects of the project. Always talk to your designer and be open about what you hope to achieve and with what budget.

When thinking about inspirations, I take inspiration from everywhere I go and everything I do. I am inspired by travel, nature, art and vintage books especially. I was born in Mexico to Cuban parents and my family then relocated to Miami when I was young, so travel and culture play a pivotal role within my life and work. I love using lots of beautiful contrasting colours and textures and this has really come from the

places I grew up, I couldn't have a design concept without lots of colour and I think layers of interesting textures are so key to creating beautiful interiors. I would always recommend that homeowners have fun with their designs and pick fabrics, textures, colours that they wouldn't normally choose. I would say always be more adventurous and work with a designer who has great ideas and whose designs inspire and excite you.

For 2020/21 I think retro and abstract patterns are going to be big in fabrics; I think the 70s style is going to make a comeback with big, bold and fun prints being seen on furniture, wall coverings and window treatments.

www.nataliamiyar.com

IG: @nataliamiyar



Above: Faux furs and fabrics create depth, warmth and add a sense of fun to interior schemes