

With Animal Prints Less is More

BY **SYDNEY SCHWARTZ HARDIMAN**

THERE'S NOTHING QUITE AS SCARY as a woman dressed head-to-toe in fake leopard print. So it's not surprising that a room decorated floor-to-ceiling in leopard is just as bad. On the other hand, a fabulous pair of snakeskin shoes or a tiger-print skirt in a funky shade of green is exciting, unexpected and oh, so sexy. And if it looks this good on the body, why not transfer it to the room. After all, designers have been stealing from the fashion world for years.

Animal prints are no longer relegated to bearskin rugs and bean bag chairs. They come in thousands of colors, patterns, and fabrics for any application—from a pink cotton giraffe bed skirt for a little girl's room, to a silk leopard-print cushion for a window seat, or even a zebra-print chaise lounge.

The key to good design with animal prints is to keep it simple and use it sparingly. Consider grouping just two or three small animal-print pillows together. Add an eye-catching band or a fabric insert to a window treatment. And if you choose a print for a large piece of furniture, don't use the fabric elsewhere. Keep in mind —with animal prints, less is definitely more. **HD**

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