

# What's new in Accent Walls

The makeup to an interior

Interview with  
**Komal Sheth**  
Spaces Designed



A few years ago, you may have walked into a room and been struck odd by the fact all the walls were white except for one, which popped with color. This décor trend, often referred to as an “accent wall,” quickly caught on, and is popular among homeowners and interior designers.

#### What accent walls do for a space

“It helps to anchor and define a separate space within a larger space,” says Komal Sheth, owner of Spaces Designed, Interior Design Studio. “With a large, open plan layout in a home, an accent wall can help define a smaller area, be it a reading area or a dining space.”

An accent wall can also help to highlight a certain piece of furniture that is against a wall versus displayed on it, such as a bed, entertainment center or a fireplace.

Even stand-alone divider walls can be used as an accent wall that helps your eyes transition through a space.

“It’s how we, sometimes unknowingly, as people and deliberately as designers, look at a space when we enter a room; we are looking at a space and seeing where you should anchor your eyes, and where your eyes should go,” she says.

But, much like a pattern that goes from pleasant to busy, accent walls are in danger of becoming more of an eyesore. According to Sheth, avoid that décor nightmare by balancing various finishes (i.e. paint, wall



Photos by Vishal Sheth

covering, tile or a faux finish) that complement each other and the space.

“Change it up by using different techniques throughout your home,” she says. “When accent walls are overused their power is lost in too much movement, texture and color, which result in them competing for the eye’s attention.”

#### Evolution of accent walls

Accent walls are no longer thought of merely as a colorfully painted wall.

“With the influx of new materials and finishes to the market, designers are constantly thinking of how they can utilize and incorporate these textures,” she says.

Much like the right amount of rouge, lipstick and eye shadow accentuate the contours of a woman’s face, so too do accent walls in a space. While Sheth and her team encourage homeowners and design professionals to think outside the box when it comes to accent walls, she also emphasizes that “outside the box” still has certain confines, such as the right balance and amounts when it comes to colors and textures.

*Interviewed by Rachel B. Duke, Copywriter*

