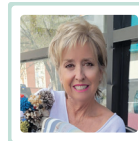




SPACES

Mirror, mirror on the wall

WRITTEN BY TANOAN RESIDENT
PATTI HARRELL HOECH
LICENSED INTERIOR DESIGNER



Mirrors are magical. They provide reflection, light, and dimension, but imagine that they can create the illusion of a whole new space? Yes, a new room! Mirrors can be decorative in nature or invisible - trompe l'oeil – trick of the eye.

Invisible mirrors, as the art of illusion, reflect the adjacent space. Without visible means of support, they “go away.” The result is the reflection – wall to wall, floor to ceiling, or wainscot to ceiling - that makes the space expand and appear as though it’s actually there – not a mere mirror!!!

As a backsplash – pass-through - a mirror can give the illusion that you are looking into a space beyond - into another room. We often use mirror in small bar areas where their addition to the backsplash surface reads as though there is a room on the other side –right through into the next space – which doesn’t exist!

Alice experienced this illusion by climbing through a “looking glass” to discover and participate in a “mirror image” land of opposites in Wonderland’s fantasies. “Looking glasses” began approximately 6000 BCE with the evolution from Neolithic

polished obsidian to the refinement of silvered glass we know today. Polished metals were used, in ancient civilizations, for mirrors. The mirrors we now enjoy are a result of refinement in Renaissance Venice, and by a pioneering German chemist

German chemist in 1835, Baron Justus von Liebig, noted as the founder of organic and agricultural chemistry. His silvering process finally made high-quality mirrors cost-effective and safe. Yes, mirrors are wonderful for their myriad applications!

How do you enjoy mirrors in your home? They are customarily in restrooms and over dressers, above dining buffets and often in entries. Do you have a favorite in your spaces either for the decorative nature of the frame itself or the illusion you



A wall-to-wall mirror adds light and space.



Between cabinets, the backsplash appears like a passthrough.



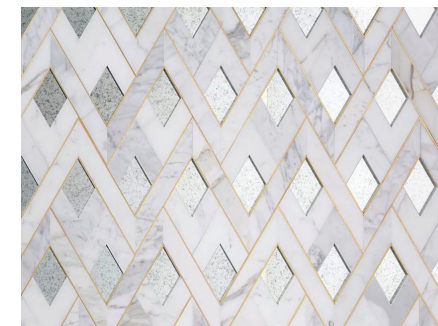
Even freestanding furniture, like this dry bar, gives the illusion of a passthrough.

date – but the context in which they are used may.

I find it interesting, if not amusing, that mirrored walls are one of the decor trends so talked about in 2026. I do not consider them a trend; I consider them as I would consider light levels or a means by which to elevate or expand a space. In fact, natural light can be enhanced by the proper placement of mirrors.

As a trend, yes, clusters of framed mirrors as a wall grouping would be considered a trend, whether a collection of vintage frames, or like kind such as all-black frames, etc... It is the context and manner of design application that see things come and go as trends rise and fall.

Mid-century modern mirrored tile walls and gold veined decorative embellishment make retro statements that might clearly identify a time of design. Retro décor has also revisited the seemingly distressed effect of the original mercury glass of the past. Historically it was used to replicate sterling silver in less expensive decorative accessories. It is a clever treatment and effective finish now achieved with simple spray-painting techniques.



Artful combinations of mirror set into tile patterns create multi-dimensional lattice-like features and interesting open-work illusions.

derive from its clever placement?

I had someone ask me the other day if mirrored walls weren’t dated. As with so many things, most decorative elements do not have an expiration

as framed focal points in entryways, ends of hallways, bathrooms or dining rooms...

Mirrors, whether full-wall installations or punctuations on a wall, present an unexpected effect. They can startle or entice, invite or allude. They are often an elevated design choice to dress or dramatize a space.

Do you see opportunities for the effective addition of mirrors in your home?



Handcrafted carved wood with beveled mirror.



Your Neighbor,
Patti Harrell Hoech
Licensed Interior Designer
To ask Patti a question please scan the QR code!

BUILT FOR
Living
Handmade heirloom furniture.
Tell a story in your home.

MUSTANG HOME GOODS
limited co.

Disabled Veteran Owned and Operated
505.418.8070
mustanghomegoods.com