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**OUR PANEL** In the garden room of the Frog and the Peach, standing, from left: Beth Insabella Walsh, Anthony Passanante, Diane Durocher, Karla Trincanello, Wendy Cruz-Gonzalez, Sandy Lambert; seated, from left: Diane Boyer, Suzan Santiago, Jana Manning. All are award-winning members of the New Jersey chapter of the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID).

# Bright Ideas

What happens when you ask nine award-winning interior designers to lunch? They bring a few of their favorite things for us to ooh and aah over.

BY LAUREN PAYNE



## EXTRA TEXTURE

# Add a New Dimension

The designers agreed: Texture is in. Unique wall-coverings are adding dimension to walls, floors and ceilings. Check out the flocked wallpaper displayed by designer Diane Durocher. "It's velvety, it's three-dimensional, and it's pretty darn bold," she said. The oversized black-and-charcoal tulip pattern she shared was a hit. (Available to the trade at [zoffany.com](http://zoffany.com).)

Designers Beth Insabella Walsh and Suzan Santiago each brought dimensional surface applications made of metal and resin. Often used in commercial settings, these can also add architectural interest to a residential living room or entryway. One company, Koroseal ([koroseal.com](http://koroseal.com)) manufactures its

undulating product, Gage 78 Earth Metal, mostly from recycled aluminum. It comes in 10 designs and 16 finishes, including antique bronze and rustic copper. "Copper is a big metal color this year," said Insabella Walsh. Picture a seamless, squiggly, 3-D, metal wall sculpture, and you get the idea.

Santiago shared interconnecting decorative wall hangings that add texture and shadows to a wall. Made from resin, a sustainable and durable material, the pieces are from Studio by 3Form, ([3-form.com/studio](http://3-form.com/studio)). "I use this as artwork," she said. "There are different patterns and endless possibilities."

### VELVET TOUCH

Flocked wallpaper from Zoffany (shown by designer Diane Durocher) adds dimension to walls and ceilings.

### THE FINE ART OF SURFACING

Interconnecting resin pieces from Studio by 3Form can be used as decorative wall hangings.

**PUT NINE TOP INTERIOR DESIGNERS** in a room—in this case, the wine room at the Frog and the Peach restaurant in New Brunswick—and ask them to talk about a few of their favorite things. Some 3½ hours later, you'll emerge wanting to redo your home, top to bottom, with the newest, coolest stuff. That's what happened on an icy day in February, when *New Jersey Monthly* hosted its annual roundtable with award-winning members of the New Jersey chapter of the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID). The discussion was lively, the products were cutting edge, and the information shared was priceless. And yes, the food was terrific, too.

On these pages, we share some of their coolest ideas.





## Keen on Retro

**RESURRECTING PAST LOOKS** continues to be a fun trend. (Case in point: that flocked wallpaper.) Beth Insabella Walsh is keen on contact paper—yes, that same stuff we lined our kitchen cabinets with in the 1970s—but that's where the similarity ends. Self-adhesive contact paper has emerged in architectural circles in a wealth of styles and patterns. "When I think of contact paper, I think of that walnut pattern," said Insabella Walsh, but now, "you can go metallic. There are linens and woods." The product she demonstrated, DI-NOC Architectural Finishes, was recently launched by 3M and can be used to re-finish furniture, back a bookcase or add interest to do-it-yourself projects. It's available in 500 natural and synthetic finishes, including stone, marble and granite—and the ultimate throwback, wood grain. "It's very durable," she

said. It bends around corners, and "it's more cost effective than using plastic laminate." (Available only to the trade at solutions.3m.com.)

Another surface application making a comeback is synthetic resin. Think laminate with a major update. "My clients are going nuts for this," said designer Karla Trincanello. The translucent resin panels, manufactured by Lumicor (lumicor.com), have built-in patterns, like linen, or added inserts, like grasses or metallics—or both. Trincanello said the panels can be used to create a backsplash, as inserts in wood doors, or in myriad other ways. "The materials are amazing and can work anywhere glass, wood, stone or tiles can be used," she said.

**LET IT SHINE**  
Translucent resin panels from Lumicor are a hit with designer Karla Trincanello's clients.



### CUSTOM CREATIONS

## Metal Shows Its Mettle

One-of-a-kind designs make a statement. Designer Anthony Passanante works with New Jersey artisans to create unique pieces that add the wow factor. Case in point, a custom exhaust hood he designed for a kitchen. Craftsman Chris Smith (craftfabricators.com) created the hood from hand-rubbed steel. "We design and make unique pieces out of all sorts of metal, including zinc, steel, copper and bronze," Passanante said. "Not just hoods, but table bases and lighting and hardware." Passanante also designs custom cabinets in his own workshop. "My clients are

**THE APPEAL OF STEEL**  
Custom pieces can be created from various metals for an array of applications, explained designer Anthony Passanante.

looking for unique woods and different door styles. Something that nobody else has."