

SUMMER BREEZE: Florals are second nature with Pier 1's Breezeport Collection (Settee, \$225; Verano Black Floral Cushions, \$65; Blue Floral Stripe Pillow, \$18; Dream Blue Velvet Stripe Pillow, \$25; Dream Blue Legato Pillow, \$10; East End Window Panels, \$45 each at Pier1.com).



FLOWER POWER

You don't need a green thumb to make your space bloom.

BY S.A. FULLER

Because flowers represent life, growth and renewal, floral furnishings can instantly animate and give a lift to any space. There's nothing better than a happy home, but you should make a few ground rules before trading in your solid sofa for a blooming chintz. When designing with florals, everything is important; which flower you used, the size of the pattern, and whether it is

dominant or surrounded by a large field of color, explains Lorra Rivers of Lorra Rivers Designs in Washington, D.C. The beauty of florals is indeed in the details.

Floral furniture and accessories should look as boundless and spontaneous in your interior space as flowers do in their natural environment. "When choosing floral fabrics, pay attention to the flower's design



COMPLETELY FITTING
You'll be sitting pretty with Sure Fit's Nantucket Reversible Chair Slipcover (\$99.99 at surefit.com).

organic. It's also important that the shape of the furniture doesn't get lost in the pattern. Straight pieces can hold their own with big patterns, while curvier pieces are better off with very little embellishment. Florals combine well with solids, as well as with other florals. Use small patterns to complement bold ones, and remember that the larger the pattern, the larger the piece will appear. So if your space is small, work within a pattern range that will keep it looking balanced, not ambushed. "Large scale florals tend to work well on window treatments and large scale sofas and chairs," says Rivers.

and scale," advises Rivers. If these crucial elements aren't seamlessly working together, the piece will make your space look static and contrived rather than fresh and

treatments and large scale sofas and chairs," says Rivers.

These modern designs flip the idea that these patterns belong only in your grandma's house. They've made their mark on everything from vanities to lamps and tableware. They trump solids for visual interest, and although they require a keen eye to keep balanced and lively, the extra effort is well worth it.

ARTFUL EATING

Even if your cooking doesn't wow them, your Williams-Sonoma Roza Toile Salad Plates will (\$50 for a set of two at williams-sonoma.com).



HOOLED ON FLOWERS
Bath time blooms with Target's Floral Jazz Shower Curtain Hooks (\$11.99 at target.com).

DIRECTIONAL PULL

Let your flowers hang where they may with Home Depot's fluted Red Pendant Light (\$39.96 at homedepot.com).

SLEEPING BEAUTY

Dream in color with Isaac Mizrahi Pop Flower Duvet Set (\$69.99 to \$89.99 at target.com).




TEA TIME

Yankee Candle's Decal Mum Tea Light Holder has a distinctive flair (\$3.99 at yankeecandle.com).





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LET'S VASE IT Fun flowers are front and center on Pier 1's Mint and Aqua Floral Ceramic Vase (\$18 at pier1.com).



SPOT LIGHT Light-switch covers get an artsy accent with Home Decorators Blue Floral Hand-Painted Wood Switchplate (\$10 at homedecorators.com).

STEP TO IT Roll in the leaves with the La-z-Boy Treetop Rug (\$749 at la-z-boy.com).



FRESH DISTRESS Uncommon Goods' Recycled Tin Flower Art makes everything old new again (\$40 at uncommongoods.com).



PETAL PUSHER Add votives into Stacks and Stacks etched glass Floral Triple Candleholder and let the fireworks begin (\$49.99 at stacksandstacks.com).

