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IN. More than 566 homes have been
built from the company's designs.

Heavy Metal

Nine steps to perfecting ceilings with a repeating pattern.

Plastered ceilings often cracked and looked bad. One solution was to cover them with metal or use metal in place of plaster. Metal is still available today but new materials, like plastic and paper, offer a similar look. Regardless of material, a ceiling with a repeating pattern requires some planning.

1 Do not interrupt the "pattern."

This is the most important detail. These ceiling types have a repeating pattern for a reason - beauty. If the pattern is cut, then it wasn't planned correctly.

2 Expect the layout NOT to fit.

Whether using a 3-inch, 6-inch, or 12-inch design, expect the room to be out of square or the wrong dimension. If tempted to cut the pattern, don't.

3 Layout panels from the center.

Don't start from a wall. The ceiling needs to be centered within the room.

4 Stop panels short of the wall.

Fill the remaining gap with trim or a metal filler panel.

5 Center the main light.

The ceiling pattern governs all light locations. If multiple lights are used position each light completely within the pattern without splitting any panels.

6 Size the pattern to the height.

A 3-inch design is good for 8-foot high ceilings, but too small for higher ceilings. For 10-foot and 12-foot ceilings, use a 12" design.

7 Adjust the "walls."

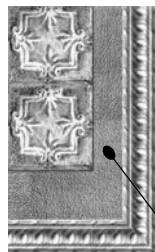
To make it appear that the pattern extends to the wall, build a ledge around the upper perimeter of the room. Next, frame a new wall above the ledge and place the new wall against the metal. The ledge creates the illusion that the pattern runs to the wall by tricking the eye into thinking the original wall is unchanged.

8 Create a light show.

The ultimate way to show off your work is to install accent lighting above the ledge. Keep accent lights an equal distance from each "wall" for even illumination.

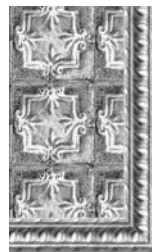
9 Add color.

This is not common drywall. Be bold. Show it off. Use rich color, possibly multiple colors! Sponge painting or rag rolling a second color will accent the ceiling textures.



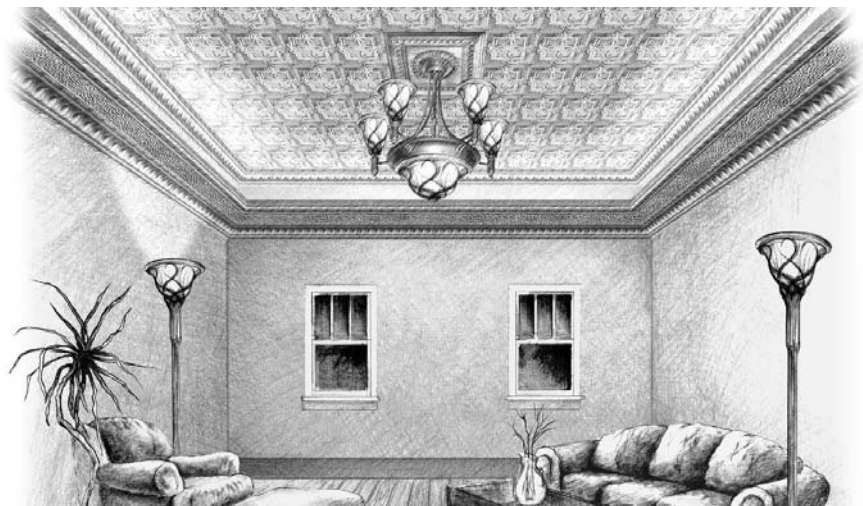
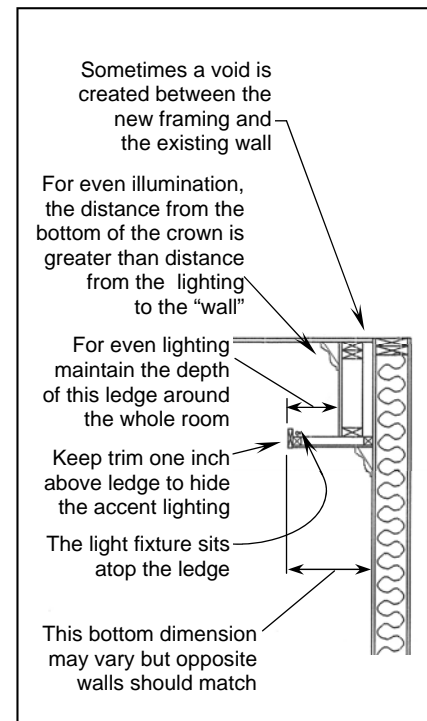
GOOD PLAN.

A metal filler panel, or trim, fills the area between the pattern and walls.



BAD PLAN.

When the pattern is interrupted or cut, the layout was not planned correctly.



WOW FACTOR. Accent the ceiling with lights. Task Lighting Corp., 800-445-6404, offers a low-voltage, "Luche TS" system with evenly-spaced, individual bulbs. It lays flat, and unlike rope lighting, TS bulbs can be replaced at anytime to avoid dark spots.



This article, and magazine cover, is from the Oct. 2011 issue of Remodeling Magazine, a Hanley Wood publication, One Thomas Circle, N.W., Suite 600, Washington, D.C. 20005-5811, 202-452-0800, subscriptions 888-269-8410. Cover photo Ty Milford.