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The 'Aha' factor

"Bringing in any natural element and using the benefit of its inherent texture adds immensely to the overall space," says Kistinn

"I've applied crushed colored metallic overlay and crushed stone to a heavy gauge wallpaper, and the effect takes people off guard."

Balsamo, principal of Design Perspectives Interior Design in Grand Junction. She likes to incorporate metals where one wouldn't necessarily expect to see them. "Inset it into interior doors and posts, as a fireplace surround, ceiling beams, use metallic wall coverings or fabrics, and light fixtures and furniture."

Anne Grice, owner of Anne Grice Interiors in Basalt, has used metallic tiles around a bathroom mirror with great success. "They add a warm, contemporary look without being too flashy," she says. She wouldn't recommend using them in the shower though, due to the possibility of them bleeding into the other finishes. She also pointed out that, though not as popular, gold has its place. "Many museums showcase their art in gold frames because it brings the color out in paintings," Grice says.

A chameleon of sorts

"By applying certain chemicals to copper countertops, you can change the color to green or blue, which can really jazz up a bar area," Miller says. Other looks she likes are vent hoods with a mix of metals, such as copper with an overlay pattern of brass, or cabinet doors with aged metal nail heads in dark bronze or pewter.

"Take copper panels and put them over the fireplace in conjunction with stone for a mountain contemporary look, or insert copper panels in garage doors, or in paneled cabinetry doors, to create a different texture," Voss says. "The patina can pick up any color scheme you want."

Tap into your imagination (and perhaps an interior decorator's) and mine a little of nature's subterranean "bling" to add that needed "zing" to your home's decor.



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