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—Bonnie Lancaster



### Striped Solution

Stripes are an ideal decorating solution for rooms with low ceilings or spaces short on architecture. Visually lifting the ceiling and injecting interest, stripes serve this showhouse dining room well, Florida designer Bonnie Lancaster says.

Because the house was historic, Lancaster was unable to change the original ceiling and floor constructed of pecky cypress (a dense wood used frequently before the advent of air-conditioning). “It was a dark room, and I wanted to make it appear lighter,” she says. “I decided to use vertical lines because that tends to pull the ceiling and floor away from each other.”

She chose green for its freshness and because it evokes the lushness of Florida. “I used the whole palette of

tropical leaves,” Lancaster says. And she planned wide, fat stripes because she knew the spacious 15x29-foot room could handle them.

Rather than tape off the stripes, which graduate in color from deep to pale foliage in five hues, decorative painter Erica Moore rolled each stripe freehand for an uneven transition from one to another.

Lancaster wanted to echo the walls on a silk curtain panel that drapes a windowlike nook. She had horizontal green stripes painted on a band of fabric, then had it stitched to the edge of the drapery. A botanical rug on the floor rich in shades of green completes the mood.

For more information, see Resources on page 98.

PHOTOGRAPHER: GORDON BEALL. LOCATION: ASID SHOWHOUSE, SARASOTA, FLORIDA. FIELD EDITORS: SALLY MAUER AND HILARY ROSE.

**Opposite:** A formal dining room gets a friendly nod from the tropical influence of botanicals and greens. **Above left:** Fresh shades of green graduate from dark to light in the freely painted, uneven edges of the stripes flowing around the room. For instructions, see “Here’s How” on page 31. **Above right:** To avoid damaging the original pecky cypress wood ceiling with curtain hardware, the drapery’s knotted tabs hang on petite cup hooks screwed into the ceiling.