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“If you go cool and bold with wallpaper, you really can get away with just needing a mirror.”

but the DIY approach works well for small jobs. Try it on the backs of bookcases or the back of a desk that floats in the middle of a room, suggests designer Pamela Harlow. Frame it as art or use it as a backsplash. If you buy paper on your own, make sure to coordinate that all the rolls come from the same dye lot, says Elliott. If they don't, the colors may vary from one strip to the next.

How do I find a contractor?

Local paint and hardware stores that carry wallpaper sample books can offer referrals. (See below.) Neighborhood listservs such as NextDoor are also a good place to look for referrals.

Where can I shop locally and get more advice?

Casart Coverings, by appointment only (Alexandria), 888-960-5554; casartcoverings.com.

Color Wheel, 1374 Chain Bridge Road, McLean; 703-356-8477.

Farrow & Ball, 5221 Wisconsin Ave., 202-479-6780.

Monarch Paint & Design Centers (multiple locations): downtown DC, 202-289-1601; Georgetown, 202-625-2600; Chevy Chase DC, 202-686-5550; Alexandria, 703-768-4444.

Potomac Paint & Design Centers, 5701 Lee Hwy, Arlington; 703-534-4444.

Sherwin-Williams. Multiple area locations; sherwin-williams.com.