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HOME

DESIGN & DECOR

PLUS:
SHELL
SHOCKED

EVOLUTION
THEORY

DESIGNERS
at HOME



SHELL SHOCKED

CLASSIC AND STYLISH, TEXTURAL AND INTERESTING, TORTOISESHELL CAN BRING AN UNASSUMING DEPTH TO DESIGN.

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This home office designed by Zandy Gammons of Miretta Interiors showcases a tortoiseshell-finish desk as the showstopping piece.

Rich in history as purveyors of protection, good fortune, and happiness, tortoises are hallowed creatures. Their organic shell patterns found their way into interior design as early as the 1600s. In fact, André-Charles Boulle, cabinetmaker to Louis XIV, introduced and perfected marquetry, a technique in which thin inlays of tortoiseshell backed with metal are combined with wood and metal materials to create a one-of-a-kind finish.

True tortoiseshell traditionally comes from hawksbill turtles, though, thankfully, harvesting has been banned to protect those creatures. Fortunately, the faux tortoiseshell technique has been perfected by artisans and boasts endless applications, from accessories to textiles to walls and ceilings. Versatile, profound, intricate, and organic, tortoiseshell embraces all and expresses all.

1. Melody Mirror / \$2,650 / scullyandscully.com
2. Connect the Dots Tortoise Fabric / to the trade / bassettmcnab.com
3. Handle-less Ice Bucket / \$115 / halfpastsevenhome.com
4. Blonde Tortoiseshell Stud Earrings / \$60 / shopmachete.com
5. Nyala Table in Thanda Tortoise Fabric / \$3,550 / ngalatrading.com
6. Tortoise Shell Wall Hanging / \$187 / reginaandrew.com
7. Tic Tac Toe Cubes / \$187 ea. / reginaandrew.com
8. Picture Frame / \$100 / addisonrossusa.com
9. Rocks Glass Set / \$128 for a set of four / halfpastsevenhome.com

