



When I was a kid and most of my friends were saving up for new clothes or music, I spent the earnings from my summer jobs on new bedspreads. I was, and admittedly still am, obsessed with everything patterned, from textiles to wallpaper. In college I studied textile design, spending countless hours making various colorways and testing different ways to repeat motifs. Now I realize that designing fabric is not much different than designing in seed beads

using peyote and other stitches. If you love pattern, too—surely all beaders are touched on some level by the soothing meditation that comes with repetition—I invite you to explore the collection of pattern-inspired projects that we've gathered for this issue.

Patterns can be subtle. Notice how a sweet floral motif repeated throughout Kelly Wiese's Garden Lace cuff becomes a delicate, lacy accessory or how Scarlett Lanson uses an inventive, nontraditional technique to add specks of repeated embellishments inside of a spiral herringbone rope. Patterns can also be very literal, such as the bold zebra- and leopard-print beaded beads in Lynn Davy's whimsical necklace, Patterns of the Serengeti, or in MaryLou Holvenstot's animal-print cuff, where a simple change of color surprisingly transforms a leopard pattern into something that resembles a flower bed.

One of the best things about fusing pattern and jewelry is that pattern is such an easy-to-find, immediate source of inspiration. I've recently discovered that if I'm in a design rut, I can just pull out my box of scrapbooking papers and an idea springs to mind. Wondering if this approach to design would work for others, I challenged four designers, and myself, to choose a piece of patterned paper and make a project inspired by it. And I must admit the results (page 56) are quite amazing. Plus it was a fun exercise for the designers. Want to play along? Share your own creations inspired by pattern for a chance to be published on beadingdaily.com and in an upcoming issue of *Beadwork*. For more details, see page 96.

Have fun!

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Beads, Beads, Beads. Take a class, make new friends, shop 'til you drop, and more—enrollment is now open for classes at Bead Fest Philadelphia, August 20–23, and Bead Fest Portland, September 24–27. Sign up at beadfest.com—many classes sell out quickly, so don't miss out!

POWER OF TEAMWORK

Beadwork's Melinda Barta and *Stringing's* Danielle Fox have teamed up to bring you a new cache of stylish necklace, bracelet, and earring designs made with today's hottest metal beads and findings, using stringing and wire-working techniques. Check out *Mixed Metals: Creating Contemporary Jewelry with Silver, Gold, Copper, Brass, and More* (Interweave, 2009) at your local bead shop or order at interweavestore.com.