How Should You Apply Graphics To Your Space?

When it comes to wall graphics, a little planning goes a long way! Follow these pointers to make your space look incredible and bold.

1. Measure Twice, Print Once.
   Measuring your wall space is crucial when deciding where to put graphics. Figure out the size of what you want to reproduce (Is it floor to ceiling? Is it the side of a column?) and measure the surface to make sure things fit. Many of the images can be scaled up or down to work in a variety of locations, so if you increase the height of a graphic, make sure the width is increased by the same factor and double check everything fits!

2. Don’t go it alone!
   It’s best to involve an experienced installer and a local print shop when printing and hanging graphics. If one isn’t available, ask a friend with steady hands and a keen eye to help make sure the graphics look their best.

3. Smooth Surfaces are Superior.
   Be careful of light switches and outlets when figuring out where to place your graphics. Nothing ruins an image like an air conditioner through the center.

   Long wall surfaces can become bold murals that can help define a room.

5. Windows: A Clear Solution
   Graphics can be printed on translucent window clings for a fun light effect or in place of heavy window coverings.
6 Look to the architecture
Sometimes the building’s features can provide the perfect spaces for graphics. Look for opportunities like large columns or alcoves to bring in some color!

7 Big, Bold, and Beautiful!
Size matters, and these graphics are intended to be big and bold! Filling the wall with large-scale images can have a huge impact and transform the space.

8 Plays well with others
The graphics were designed as a group to work together in your space. Mix and match images to create a graphic gallery wall!

9 Extra space? One word: Color.
When applying your graphics, you might have some extra space left over between the images in your layout. Use paint stripes in a compatible color to finish up the wall and make it look great.

10 Don’t stretch it.
When printing your images, the graphic width will be determined by how tall you want the image to be on the wall or vice versa. If you scale the images to fit a wall, maintain the proportions by using a common factor: if you double the width, double the height so the image doesn’t appear warped when printed.

11 Where to go
Download the High and Medium-Resolution graphics via the Smithsonian page of the American Spaces Dashboard:
https://americanspaces.state.gov/home/content/smithsonian-institute
All of these graphics are free to use and free of restrictions, so browse through eShop to find the perfect graphics to bring color and excitement to your space!

12 Leave it to the professionals
It’s always best to work with a local printer to produce the graphics you’ve chosen for your space. A professional printer will be able to advise you which materials and adhesives will work best in your space.