Using Timber Wall Panels with Restraint

Timber wall panels can give a room warmth and a stronger sense of structure. Their impact depends less on covering a large area than on choosing the right position and rhythm. Start by deciding what the panels should frame, emphasise or bring together in the room.

Choose one clear focal area

A wall behind a console, a section beside a doorway or the background to a seating area may be enough. Look at the wall from the main entrance and consider the furniture in front of it. Avoid designing the panel pattern as an isolated graphic that ignores the room's proportions.

Control pattern and contrast

Compare the timber tone with the surrounding paint and floor. A strong grain or carved detail may need a quieter background. Review panel widths, gaps and edges at a useful scale. Repetition can create order, but too many competing lines may make a small room feel busy.

Use lighting to reveal the surface

Consider how daylight and the proposed artificial lighting will fall across the panels. Side lighting can emphasise relief and shadows, so assess a sample where possible. Coordinate any integrated lights and wiring before installation. Do not assume decorative panelling will provide verified acoustic performance without an appropriate tested system.

Resolve the practical junctions

Show sockets, switches, skirting and door frames in the design. Ask how removable access will be maintained where needed and how the selected finish should be cleaned. Well-considered edges help the wall feel complete. The most convincing feature wall looks as though it belongs to the architecture, rather than having been added as an afterthought.

Discuss your feature wall photographs and preferred timber tones with Fabbro.