

Rooms of Distinction / 2018





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20TH CENTURY DESIGNERS AND ARTISTS

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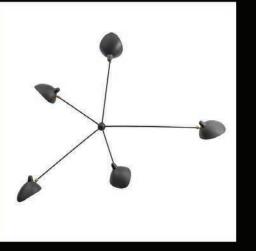


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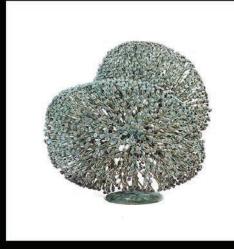
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## 

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Serge Mouille Five-Arm Wall Light | 1950s



Harry Bertoia Bush Form Sculpture | 1960s



George Nakashima Greenrock Ottomans | 1980



Cesare Lacca Green Velvet Settee | 1950s





CHICAGO

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What spurs creativity? In the world of interior design, that question can have two answers. The first might be the opportunity to interpret a client's vision beyond what he or she thought possible. The second, more personal reason is a beautiful object and the sheer joy it provides. At 1stdibs, we take pride in offering designers an inexhaustible source of exquisite items with which to both inspire themselves and delight their clients.

Thanks to our nearly 4,000 member dealers, 1stdibs is the world's preeminent marketplace for vintage, antique and contemporary furniture and art — a creative resource waiting to be explored. And the designers who partner with us deploy the one-of-a-kind objects they find on our site in dazzling and intelligent ways. But curating the contents of a home is a creative act in itself; talent guides the selection process. By making an art out of choice, designers showcase their expertise right from the start.

On the following pages, we celebrate 50 particularly bright lights in the glittering aesthetic firmament featured in the 1stdibs Interiors section, where potential clients can browse more than 10,000 inspirational images by style, room type, location and more to discover ideas — as well as a firm that feels right for them. Although here we can only show one exceptional room from each designer, more can be found by visiting the section's international directory of Distinctive Firms (www.1stdibs.com/design-firms/directory/).

Trends come and go, but the creativity displayed by these 50 designers of distinction - and by the artisans who inspire them - endures. 1stdibs is proud to be a part of this virtuous circle.

Sincerely,

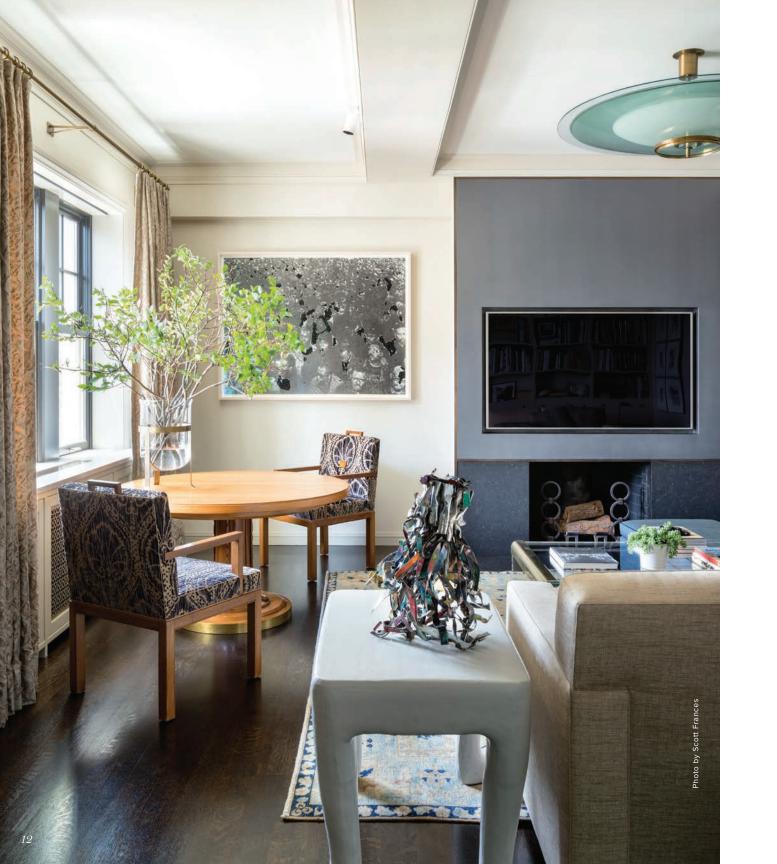
Anthony Barzilay Freund Editorial Director, 1stdibs



"I think of myself as a curator of lifestyles. So much of it is collecting but at the same time editing to make that perfect connection to the way my clients want to live," says designer Victoria Hagan, who considers her clients "like family." For the owners of this Long Island beach house, Hagan chose clean-lined furnishings — such as the René Gabrielle chairs and the Jacques Jarrige stools by the fireplace — that can accommodate casual gatherings without being too precious. A coffee table of reclaimed wood and an abstract painting by Pat Steir complete the subtly sophisticated and very tranquil mix. Not shown: a ravishing view of the ocean, which provides all the color and drama any client could ask for.



Victoria Hagan Interiors New York, NY



Thad Hayes has a soft spot for zoomy mid-century furnishings, like the Pietro Chiesa ceiling light for Fontana Arte and the John Dickinson African Series table in this refined family room. And his sophisticated furnishing choices are highly versatile and functional, as well. The round Robsjohn-Gibbings table and Samuel Marx chairs by the window, for instance, are just right for intimate breakfasts. But with the addition of a few leaves, the table can be expanded to host an impromptu dinner party or a late-night gathering, while the Marx chairs are more than ready to mix. Hayes says he sees a designer's chief role as "predicting the unpredictable," and his rooms are as ready to accommodate as he is.



Thad Hayes New York, NY



In Michael Smith's capable hands, art, antiques and accessories come together with uncommon grace. The influential designer has built a career on finding beautiful objects and orchestrating them into ravishing but, above all, comfortable rooms. This dining area in an East Hampton, New York, saltbox is no exception. Reducing the palette to natural hues that echo the surrounding landscape, Smith dialed up the texture for maximal results. A suite of ladder-back chairs surrounds a trestle table atop a custom tufted-wool carpet whose radiating design plays off the beamed ceiling. Repetition of even the most basic elements — lines straight and curved — builds drama capable of balancing the impact of the client's carvedwood sculpture at the window.



Michael S. Smith Inc. Santa Monica, CA



Jeremiah Brent has a thriving multimedia career, its success derived from his understanding of a bedrock interior design tenet: "Rules can be broken, and spaces can be sexy and vibrant," as his website puts it. The Los Angeles native travels between studios on the East and West coasts with his husband, Nate Berkus, and their two children. Clients in both locales appreciate his cosmopolitan eye. In this small entry space, Brent boldly pairs styles and periods while making reflection the animating force. Night and day, light bounces between a domed brass light fixture, a vintage Hans-Agne Jakobsson table lamp and a highly articulated mirror set off like jewelry against soot-black walls. Yes, very sexy.



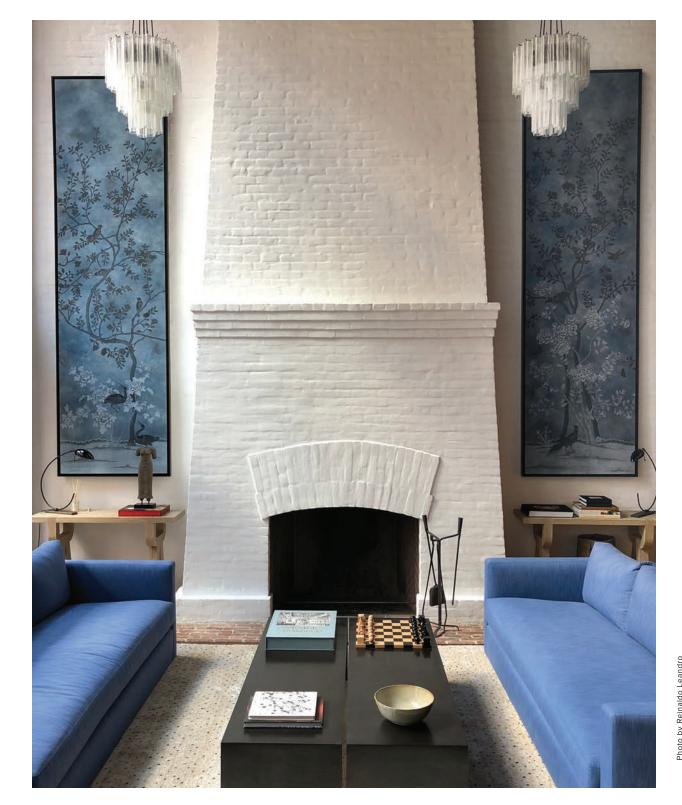
Jeremiah Brent Design Los Angeles, CA A Shaker-like simplicity distinguishes this downtown New York apartment by Studio Shamshiri. Its straightforward style and sense of authenticity are hallmarks of the work of the studio's design principal, Pamela Shamshiri. (Her brother, Ramin, is the firm's managing principal.) The L.A. designer loves the research process, which in this project led her to an unusual beeswax color for the custom kitchen cabinetry, as well as to dining chairs by Dutch designer Piet Hein Eek, a Cloud fixture by Apparatus and a choice pair of Danish sofas by modern master Finn Juhl. Wood accents like end-grain countertops and plank shelving keep things down-to-earth. And setting the tone throughout are wide-plank floors from Danish purveyor Dinesen, a bit of country infiltrating one family's very special city life.



Studio Shamshiri Los Angeles, CA







How a room develops a certain personality can be a bit of a mystery. But not for Ariel Ashe and Reinaldo Leandro, who plot every design move and its emotional payoff with consummate care. The New York design partners respond especially well to challenging architectural conditions, like the high ceiling in this prewar sitting room. "The double-height space could have felt too vast, but we grounded it with long sofas from Dmitiry and a cozy wool rug," says Ashe. Flanking the fireplace are Liaigre consoles topped by lamps from Ochre. The paintings to either side are by de Gournay, and the chandeliers that draw the eye upward are custom. Nothing left to chance, as usual.



Ashe + Leandro New York, NY



Inveterate traveler Tom Stringer loves opposites, and nowhere is this more evident than in the dining room of his own beautifully detailed Chicago apartment. Wood, leather and fabric the color of bittersweet chocolate are foils for silverleafed walls and glass objects set aglow by even the lowest light. Calling it "a place for candlelight and conversation," the designer adds that the room — and his apartment as a whole — are also a repository for the objects he cherishes: 19th-century French dining chairs, a Chinese porcelain bowl for flowers, a gestural contemporary painting. Each has a story to tell, not only about its origin and creation but also about the journey on which it was discovered.

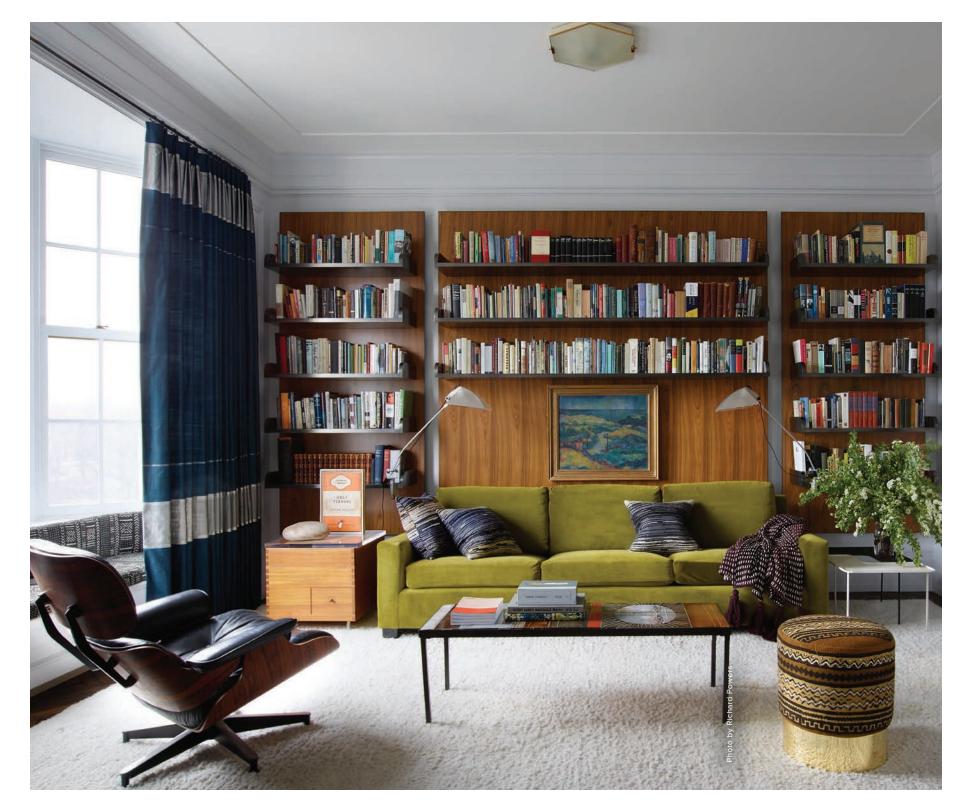


Tom Stringer Design Partners <sup>Chicago, IL</sup> You have to smile at the amount of sheer fantasy designer Tom Scheerer packs into this bedroom under the eaves of a historic saltbox cottage in the Bahamas. The islands have become a second home and major work outlet for the New York-based designer, whose measured, unpretentious aesthetic, suited to city and country alike, recalls to many people that of the American decorator's decorator Billy Baldwin. Here, the strict symmetry of antique bentwood chairs, custom pendant lights and drum-style bedside tables tethers the fanciful bed hangings to reality without depriving them of the quality Scheerer loves most: their "cool and breezy" vibe, "appropriate to the place and to the client."



Tom Scheerer Inc. New York, NY





Conjure a paneled library, add reading lights, a recliner and a gilt-framed landscape painting, and what image do you envision? Probably not what Fawn Galli has dreamed up for this radiant retreat on Central Park West. Her choices may sound humdrum, but seen in context, they read as lively and insightful, thanks to Galli's gift for finding just the right piece for each situation. Take the coffee table, a sturdy vintage piece by Roger Capron with a tile top that welcomes drinks and tired feet while also animating the room, especially when set above a lush ivory bouclé carpet, as it is here. Small patterns with a tribal beat cover a cushioned window seat and an ottoman found at the Apartment, in Denmark, while a classic Eames lounge chair for Herman Miller is an organic sculpture in an otherwise geometric setting.



Fawn Galli Interiors

New York, NY



"I am not into creating a Hugh Leslie look," says Hugh Leslie, the London-based designer of this New York master bath, which would look at home anywhere in the world but is part of a very special art-filled Manhattan townhouse. "I create homes that respond to the needs of my clients." After 25 years in the business, Leslie remains stylistically agnostic, just as skilled at turning out a Regency-style dining room as a tidy country cottage. Here, he evokes the freshness of the tropics with a custom cabinet, a petal-upholstered wicker chair, a china-white tub from the Water Monopoly and botanical prints from London dealer James Graham-Stuart. The heart of this winning look: Arni Fantastico Verde marble from McMarmilloyd.



Hugh Leslie Ltd <sup>London, UK</sup> Design where nothing is off-limits — no color, pattern or surface texture, no period or style — has an appealing audacity, one that awakens in us delight and maybe a little bit of nostalgia for childhood. Childlike joy and fearlessness suffuse much of Summer Thornton's work, including this Lakeshore Drive, Chicago, apartment in a grand 1929 Rosario Candela building. Thornton anchored the home's living room, themed around modern art, with a Venini Barbell chandelier, a Karl Springer coffee table and twin custom sofas in velvet the color of Dorothy's ruby slippers. "I very much see myself as a curator," she says, and her collector clients are spoiled for choice in selecting works to exhibit.



Summer Thornton Design <sub>Chicago, IL</sub>





"Impeccable" is an apt description for David Mann, principal of the Manhattan firm MR Architecture + Decor. Routinely dressed head to toe in black, he squires clients through design fairs, showrooms and dusty back rooms, fostering in them a passion for objects and accessories he already knows like family. A serious collector himself, Mann studs every one of his projects with just the right unique finds or custom commissions. Enhancing this bedroom on Park Avenue are a shell-like vintage chandelier, a custom bench with cast-bronze legs by Marc Bankowsky and a Soraya Osorio bedside table with custom ceramic fronts by potter Peter Lane. Despite these pieces' hard edges, this is a very seductive bedroom. As Mann puts it, "We chose materials that are sensuous and soft and a little film noir."



MR Architecture + Decor New York, NY





Celebrated as much for its deep-dive posts on Instagram as for its historically assured residential work, the SoCal design studio known as the Archers — founded by Richard Petit and Stephen Hunt in 2002 — spins striking locations and objects into culturally relevant works of design. Authenticity matters to the Archers, as evidenced by the wellcomposed contents of a mid-century house in the Los Angeles hills (also seen on our cover), where 20th-century classics meet a vintage Swedish carpet from Doris Leslie Blau. "We think the placement of the ladylike T.H. Robsjohn-Gibbings sofa with the masculine, kinetic Rio table by Charlotte Perriand is an interesting juxtaposition," Petit says. "The table was designed only seven years after the sofa, but it feels radically new by comparison."



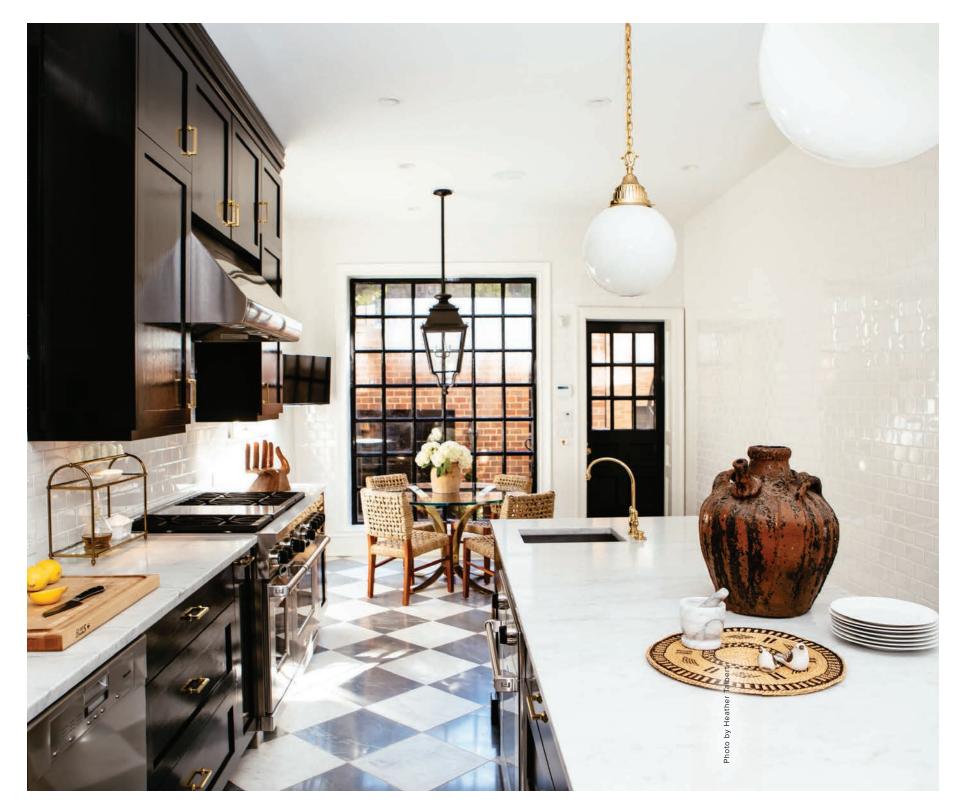
The Archers Los Angeles, CA

Before she begins to map out the decoration of a space, Julie Charbonneau — who heads up an eponymous Toronto-based firm with partner Janinna Cavelly — studies its interior architecture to make sure the elements are of the quality they should be. "I don't believe in faux finishes," says the designer, who favors fumed-oak floors and solid rosewood doors. "Things should feel alive." And the envelope must be up to the level of the furnishings, which often encompass serious art and antiques. In this breakfast room of a Canadian estate, a Chuck Close self-portrait overlooks a custom table and chairs that sit beneath a Lindsey Adelman pendant light. The paneled hallway beyond displays a Robert Longo work against dark walls — another Charbonneau signature. "There should be one focus," she says. "I don't do well with stuffy."



Julie Charbonneau Design Toronto, Ontario





Just a few things, but the right things that phrase might describe the kitchen of the 19th-century Chicago home belonging to Lauren Buxbaum Gordon, design director at Nate Berkus Associates. The architectural shell is thoughtfully detailed, from its marble floors and tiled walls to the oversize window facing an outdoor kitchen. "The bones were so pretty that all I had to do was not mess it up," Gordon says cheekily. But what she added speaks volumes about the timeless and architecturally appropriate tack the firm takes in all its projects: An antique French zinc lantern from Antiques on Old Plank Road lights a vintage brass-and-glass table from the same source and rope chairs from John Himmel; high-gloss black cabinets and appliances complete the old-world look without veering into preciousness.



Nate Berkus Associates <sup>Chicago, IL</sup> Known as much for its restoration of iconic mid-century houses as for its own architecture and design work, the multitalented Los Angeles firm Marmol Radziner creates soulful updates of California modernism. For his own house, in a wooded canyon, cofounder Ron Radziner (his other half is Leo Marmol) employed a dusky palette of materials to give the surrounding garden a starring role. Dark-stained floors, custom furniture in fumed oak and other native hardwoods, plus a beefy, cozy Living Divani sectional sofa from Graye allow nature to appear just an arm's length away. "The interiors are designed for both relaxing and regaling," Radziner says.



Marmol Radziner Los Angeles, CA





High drama and high comfort rarely go hand in hand as gracefully as they do in the work of Brad Ford. Layering luxurious, often overscale seating and sculptural tables atop plush carpets or clean wide-plank floors, the Arkansasborn designer shapes interiors people want to curl up in — maybe after a fancy cocktail or a four-star meal. This reception room of a penthouse in Tribeca is a case in point: A conversation-starting De Sede sofa faces a Jean Royère Polar Bear chair, a jacaranda-wood coffee table from R and Company, lighting and accessories from Maison Gerard and a 60-light XL Cloud chandelier from Apparatus. They all look very much at ease together.



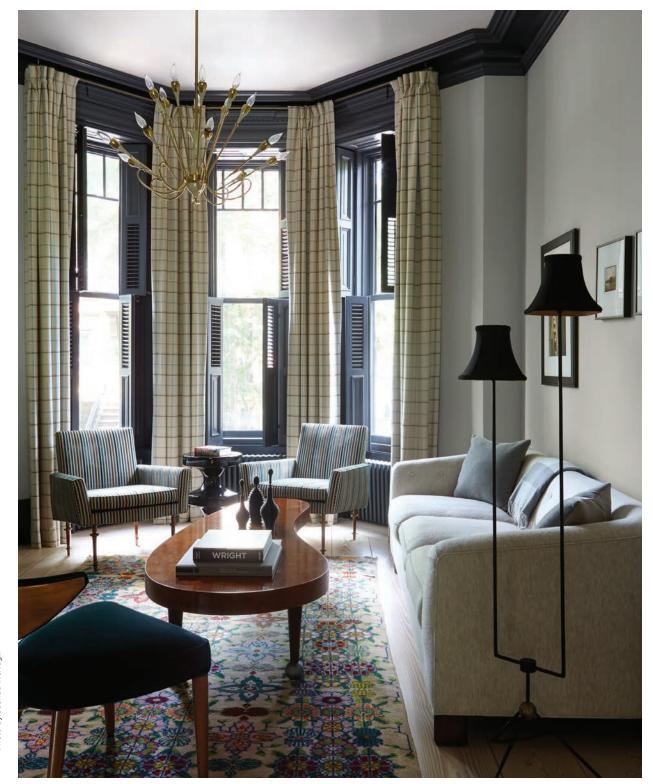
Brad Ford ID New York, NY



There's something slightly subversive about the way Damon Liss sneaks excitement into an otherwise placid setting — in this case, the elegant parlor-floor living room of a New York City brownstone. Oyster-colored walls and upholstery set the tone, but stripes, checks and even an explosive floral pattern steal in to brighten a '50s-inspired composition. An Arturo Pani floor lamp and unsigned Italian chandelier, both from the middle of the last century, frame a Schmieg & Kotzian coffee table and Dinucci chairs at the window; the carpet is mid-century Turkish. "We needed to blend rich tones with the existing bleached Douglas fir floors to keep the light energy while warming up the space," says Liss. Mission accomplished.



Damon Liss Design New York, NY Photo by Joshua McHugh



The 200-year-old barn wood used to build this airy modern farmhouse on Long Island's East End is by far the oldest element in the structure, which has a minimalist edge similar to that of the lofts, galleries and homes Francis D'Haene, its architect, whips up regularly in New York City and L.A., where he has a second office. The Belgianborn D'Haene approaches every project with clarity, material ingenuity and a keen eye for juxtapositions. In the open living area, a group of abstract paintings by Italian artist Alberto Di Fabio joins vintage rope-andmetal chairs and tables by Allan Gould and a pristine sectional sofa by Living Divani. Vintage Moroccan carpets are crimson islands on wide-plank Douglas fir floors with a white-soap finish.



D'Apostrophe Design New York, NY

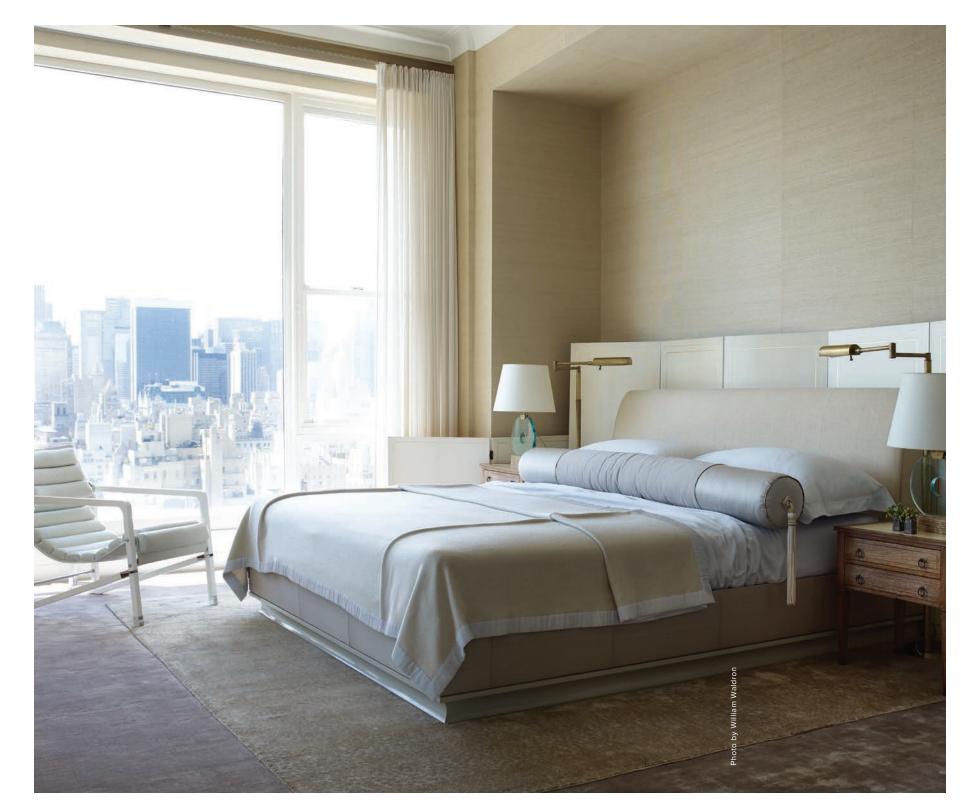


"There is nothing more important than making a client happy," says Wesley Moon, echoing the sentiments of interior designers around the world. "That is my main role: to challenge and delight!" When Moon encounters existing antiques, artwork or accessories that need to be incorporated in a scheme, he sees it as both an opportunity for careful curation and a chance to accommodate the client's sensibilities. This dining area in a fairly bland postwar New York City apartment has taken on an upbeat and highly personal flavor, thanks to Moon's clever layering of the owners' 1940s Venini table lamp and Vladimir Tretchikoff portraits with newly bought items like a dining table from Klassik, chairs from DWR and antique Venetian column end tables. No more "plain white box," he says proudly.



Wesley Moon Inc. New York, NY Photo by Annie Shak / Josh Sanseri





William Sofield is an eminence grise of the design world, possessing a rich portfolio of published projects for high-flying clients. When he comments on his work, it tends to be in lofty terms. Lofty, but also spot-on. About this bedroom overlooking much of Manhattan he says, "When designing with a very few objects, each one must be perfect. I am an animist at heart: Objects have voices. It is my obligation to keep those voices alive." The designer evokes 1930s glamour with his choice of lamps and bedside tables by Jean-Michel Frank; the bed and goldtooled parchment screens are his custom designs. Just visible at left is Eileen Gray's Transat chair. Sofield should have the last word on the sum of these parts: "I created this quiet, ethereal pied-à-terre as a proscenium for a star: the city itself."



Studio Sofield New York, NY Many architects approach interior design in a systematic, even bloodless way. Not Giancarlo Valle. The young New York City talent jumped into the deep end of the aesthetic pool right from the start with envelope-pushing retail and furniture projects. Now that residential interiors have entered the mix, he's no less fearless. "We are curious about certain things, perhaps because we know what they are or perhaps because we don't know," he says. That youthful sense of wonder animates this Rhode Island beach house, which is furnished with vintage classics, such as a Jean Royère armchair, a Willy Guhl stone low chair and a Jorge Zalszupin sofa; new pieces, like the Apparatus sconces; and a few one-offs, including neoclassical sculptures and modern and contemporary paintings. Tying it all together: a limited palette and some masterful millwork — Valle's an architect, after all.



Giancarlo Valle New York, NY





Celebrated for his work for hospitality-industry clients ranging from Soho House and the Ivy to the storied Mayfair supper club Annabel's, London-based Martin Brudnizki knows his way around such things as spread sheets, back-of-house prep rooms and lighting that flatters from morning to night. But he also understands that public spaces often need private character to succeed. This dining room at Annabel's is a case in point. The space has the fantasy and singular personality of a luxurious home: Thousands of handmade ceramic flowers with diamante detailing by Maison Lucien Gau are mounted on wall panels framed by embroidered silk wallcovering by Pierre Frey; the Venetian glass chandelier echoes the whimsy of the custom mirror over the mantel. In all, it's a tour de force.



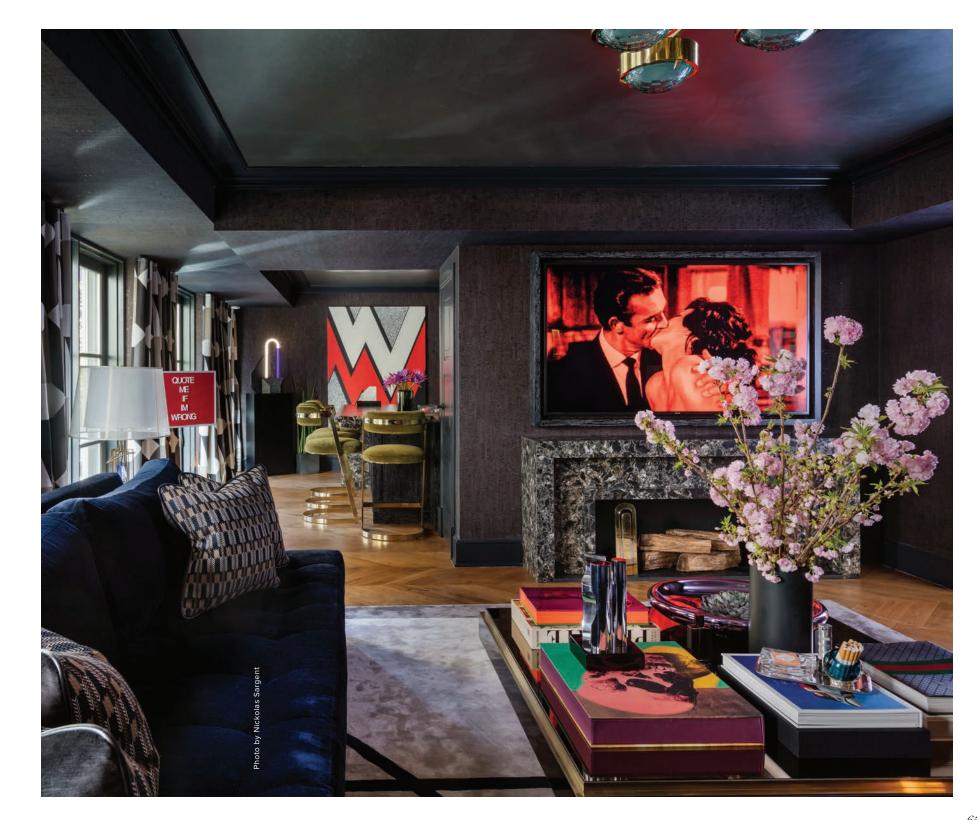
Martin Brudnizki Design Studio London, UK



Storytelling comes naturally to B. Andrew Torrey, whose design career - his eponymous firm has made its mark on the New York scene in just over five years - grew out of a successful turn selling luxury residential real estate. If every home has a narrative, then Torrey is poised to find it and populate it with characters from design's rich storybook, such as the vintage lighting by Fontana Arte, sourced from Bernd Goeckler; the contemporary ceiling fixture by Gaspare Asaro; and the big-attitude custom mantel and sofa in this 2018 Kips Bay Show House room. "It's my job to pull together pieces the clients absolutely love to create a home they feel fully engaged in and, more importantly, inspired by on a daily basis," he says.



B.A. Torrey Interiors New York, NY



Hard and soft, warm and cool, vintage and new — the rooms of David Scott are studies in contrasts that unfold at just the right pace. For a Manhattan art collector's apartment in a storied Art Deco building, Scott chose a quiet assemblage of furnishings that entertain the eye and mind, once works by Cindy Sherman (at left), Vik Muniz, Ed Ruscha and other art stars have been enjoyed. A sculptural chandelier by contemporary designer David Weeks presides over important Ico Parisi armchairs from Gary Rubinstein Antiques; a Paul Evans coffee table with a delicate scallopedbrass base, found at Bernd Goeckler; and a Montgomery Sofa from Holly Hunt. Textiles offer similar diversity, with sheer wool, plush velvet and various other fabrics complementing the jewel-like accessories.



David Scott Interiors New York, NY



Boston-based Frank Roop is no stranger to traditional architecture: His local clients bring him all manner of house styles for reinvention. But the designer is also fond of a slicker, more outspoken approach that would seem very much at home in Miami, where he has done a fair bit of work as well. The Berkshires vacation home, dating to the 1790s, whose dining room is shown here possesses a bit of both vibes, and the result is very special indeed. To give the space what he calls "a more modern, casual feel," Roop introduced an octagonal table by T.H. Robsjohn-Gibbings, French 1930s constructivist chairs and two matching Crystal Art chandeliers. Arranged at the room's center, as a traditional table and chairs might be, they start up a fresh dialogue with architectural details characteristic of the New England setting.



Frank Roop Design Interiors Boston, MA





When life gives you lemons, make lemonade. But what about when life gives you Frida Kahlo, Matisse, Picasso and Botero, all in one room? Mary McDonald's strategy in this Bel Air estate was to craft a serene backdrop against which her clients could appreciate the richness on view. A plain-vanilla room wouldn't do the trick, however — she needed to create an equally sophisticated setting to deliver balance and texture without distraction. The assignment played to her strengths. "The success of the room lies in the marriage of symphonic tonal hues and clean lines," says McDonald, referring to the neutral André Arbus armchair, pair of vintage neoclassical chairs and Diego Giacometti cocktail table. This combination, she adds, "allows the art and the furniture silhouettes to hum in quiet dialogue."



Mary McDonald West Hollywood, CA Steven Gambrel might be termed a supreme FOF — Friend of Furniture. To a degree unusual, if not downright unheard of, in American decorating, he unearths and champions evocative items, from low tables to highboys, mongrels to masterpieces. His lively environments are eclectic but never undisciplined, punctuated by glorious, often high-gloss color. In this serene Park Avenue living room, Gambrel mixes workhorse tables, ottomans and upholstered pieces with quirkier 20th-century finds, like a stone-topped cocktail table by Serge Roche and Gilbert Poillerat. As he puts it, "The juxtaposition creates tension but also adds to the warmth and 'collected' nature of the room."



S.R. Gambrel New York, NY





"Simplicity, elegance and acute attention to detail are the guiding values," say Christine and John Gachot, describing their approach to design, which has earned their firm fans in residential, retail and hospitality since its start. Their soigné Evening Bar in Brooklyn's Smyth Hotel features a colorful mural by Matthew Benedict in the tradition of Maxfield Parish's wall painting for the St. Regis's King Cole Room. But the Gachots have streamlined and dramatized the bar itself, a double-sided creation with brass accents highlighted by intimate table lamps from Allied Maker tucked inside. Stools by Thomas Hayes pick up the loose curves in the mural — witty and selfassured, not unlike Gachot Studios.



Gachot Studios New York, NY

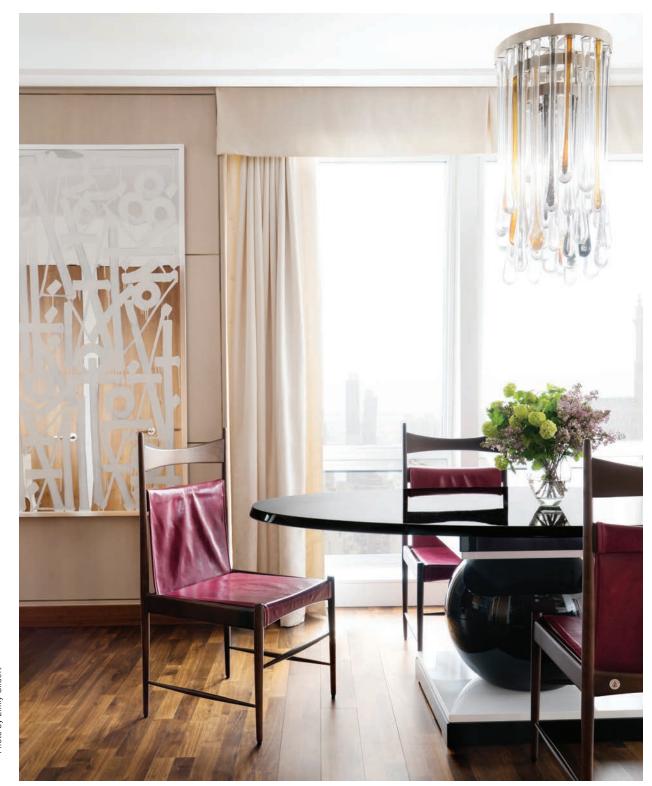


Eclecticism is the coin of the realm in 21st-century decorating, and Nicole Fuller has an idea about why that is: Historically unified rooms can feel precious. What she strives for is something more "layered and chic," she says, the result, perhaps, of inspired, even slightly improbable, furnishing combinations. Take this Fifth Avenue dining room, where Fuller encircled a majestic contemporary dining table by French designer Eric Schmitt with a quartet of 1960s chairs by Brazilian Sérgio Rodrigues. The drip-like Venetian-style chandelier overhead, by Lianne Gold for Ralph Pucci, builds on the organic lines of the chairs while echoing the table's glossy surface — the perfect imperfect partner. "I love the juxtaposition of these worlds colliding," Fuller says. "It evokes an emotional connection."



Nicole Fuller Interiors New York, NY

Photo by Emily Gilbert





"My job is to add and edit," says Austin-based interior designer Fern Santini. From her description of this project in rural Colorado, it's clear that her clients have trusted her with those tasks and a whole lot more — their collection of precious antique Oushak rugs, for instance. One soulful example graces this living area, becoming the stylistic reference point for the entire room. But Santini knew her clients had a modern side, too, so she commissioned the spectacular Lindsey Adelman chandelier that hangs from the beamed ceiling. This, she says, gives a "twist," to the primarily traditional room, as does the caramel resin coffee table by Martha Sturdy, its crisp corners echoing the gridded David Sutherland armchairs and cross-patterned upholstery on the clients' own Art Deco seating by the fireplace.



Abode | Fern Santini Design <sub>Austin, TX</sub> "I often refer to my aesthetic as 'traditional but not,' " says designer Charlotte Barnes. In this airy dining room, that tidy epithet translates into the wedding of a fine mahogany pedestal table, of great emotional value to her clients, with kicky Plexi-Craft Noir Z chairs and a hand-blown glass chandelier — each piece sparkling and refined in its own way, and each now spotlighted through clever juxtaposition. Barnes also understands when to stop: Her rooms are well edited, and this one is no exception. "To interpret the needs of our clients and elevate each idea to exceed their expectations" is how she conceives her role in the design process.



## Charlotte Barnes Interior Design Greenwich, CT



David Kleinberg breathes new life into traditional interiors, a skill he's perfected over a multidecade career. None of the nuances of classic decoration escape him, nor do the references that bring such details to his attention — this project, he says, reimagines classic country houses along Philadelphia's Main Line like the one immortalized in the film *The Philadelphia* Story. Armchairs by Jules Leleu flank a glass coffee table, and a pair of Samuel Marx sconces bracket the fireplace, while Sienna marble urns stand by the mirrored doors. It's European-American relations taken to the highest level. "The designer's chief role is to interpret the clients' wishes in a coherent and stylish manner, giving them more than they imagined," says Kleinberg. Lucky clients.



David Kleinberg Design Associates New York, NY



"Neutral" may describe the color palette that predominates in Russell Groves's interiors, but it does not express the strength of his convictions about design and architecture. He is never wishy-washy in his tastes: Classic mid-century modernism is noble; serenity is a virtue; touch is a highly underrated design tool. His clients eagerly embrace these beliefs. And they are embodied in his own East Hampton, New York, living room, where they dovetail to create a perfect reflection of his style. Objects like the Berndt Friberg ceramics and a rare Nordic modern glass vase congregate on sensuous tables by Hans Wegner and George Nakashima. Carl Hansen stools, Marcel Breuer for Thonet lounge chairs and a vintage daybed — the latter topped with a suede cushion the color of a macchiato surround the fireplace. Everything is of a piece, and decidedly not neutral.



Groves & Co. New York, NY







With studios in the Bahamas and South Florida, decorator Amanda Lindroth captures the breezy, tropical vibe of island life wherever she goes. Her wicker and rattan accessories are tabletop musts in Lyford Cay and Palm Beach, and a broader home collection is no doubt in the works. But Lindroth is also an inspired shopper and editor for her interiors projects, as this brighthued bedroom in a Lyford house makes clear. A vintage settee with a casual stance joins smart rattan bedside tables and bookshelves beneath a tray ceiling, while a lime green carpet and textiles pull the look together.



Lindroth Design Co. <sub>Nassau, BS</sub> "Simplicity was the key," Amelia Handegan says of the reception room she created for clients in a diminutive 18th-century house in downtown Charleston. That description could apply to Handegan's work in general, which, although often richly layered, is never chaotic. Deploying choice European and American antiques, Handegan foregrounds what she calls "synchronicities" between furniture, architecture and a room's natural light, with all its magical properties. Here, a humble 18thcentury portrait of a husband and wife mixes with paired gilded English mirrors from the same period and neoclassical 19th-century lamps made from bronze vases, the pleated shades echoing the wife's dress. "I like color balance that comes from objects and paintings," Handegan says. Couldn't be simpler.



Amelia T. Handegan, Inc. <sup>Charleston, SC</sup>



If there were any doubt that Courtney Coleman and Bill Brockschmidt live and breathe traditional decorating, this room in a Savannah, Georgia, showhouse would dispel it. The duo, in business together for 17 years, bring passion and a contemporary attitude to historical settings, and their delight in the craftsmanship of the past shines through in a space scripted around a fine Regency-period dining table and Queen Anne chairs floating against custom-colored wallpaper in a 19th-century pattern. "We had it printed in new, unexpected colors that we think give it both a historic and a contemporary look," Coleman says of the pea-soup-green paper. "While the room is formal, it is also welcoming and not intimidating. It looks like an interesting person lives there."



Brockschmidt & Coleman LLC New York, NY

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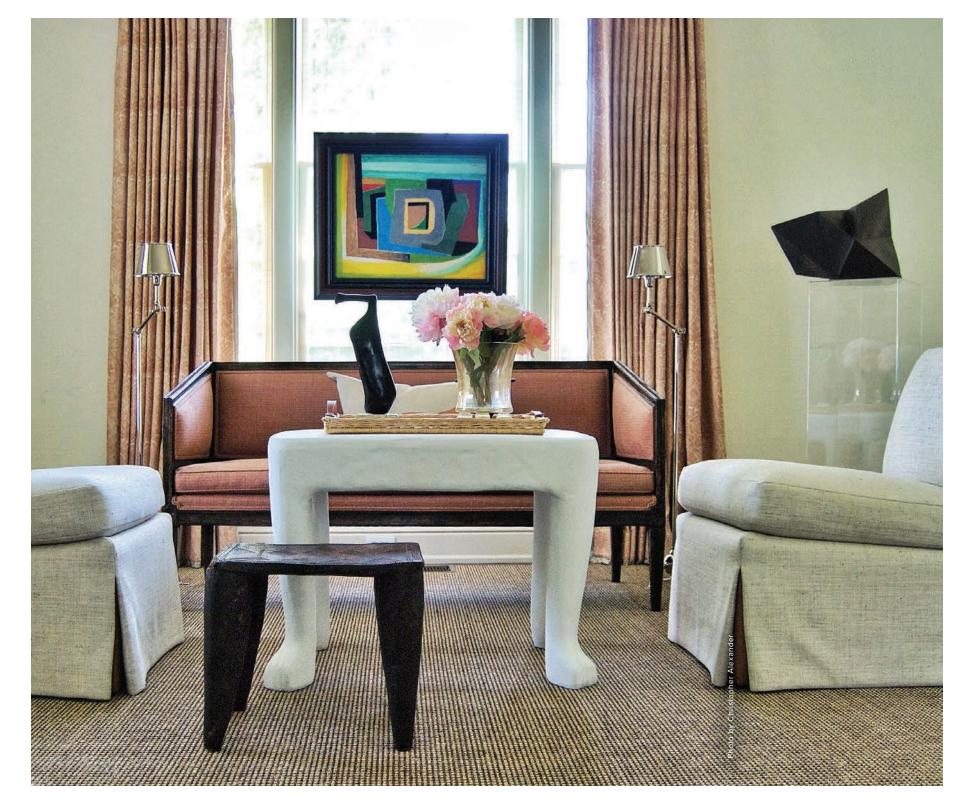


A certain decorum distinguishes the work of Michelle Smith, the Louisiana-born, Brooklyn-based designer behind the quietly disruptive Studio MRS. Working with the lightest of touches, Smith is making us look again at so-called brown furniture and other bits of Americana. In her own Brooklyn bedroom, she has arranged "a roomful of discards," in her words, into an ethereal, altogether romantic composition: A vintage brass bed from Charles P. Rogers and a tasseled silk bedspread reflect light onto a Chinese steel-framed lantern. A shaded lamp stands like a figure at the window, matching nothing but working with everything. "It may sound a bit trite," says Smith, "but I really believe if you love every piece individually, it will find a place in your home." She makes a convincing case.



Studio MRS Interiors Brooklyn, NY





Tradition takes a holiday in the work of designer J. Randall Powers, a cheerleader for festive color — and for such 20thcentury greats as Billy Baldwin, Angelo Donghia and Albert Hadley. In this subtle Houston room, Powers teams a plaster occasional table by John Dickinson with a pair of slipper chairs (a Baldwin favorite), an intimate settee, a tribal stool and modern art. Combining elements in this way is a timehonored practice, but Powers makes it seem fresh, spotlighting fine antiques arranged symmetrically but without the stuffiness.



J. Randall Powers Interior Decoration Houston, TX When a client moves cross-country, a designer might come along - not for the ride but to help ease the transition into a new home. Deploying old things in new settings is only part of the professional's job. Another part is introducing complementary objects that bring out fresh qualities in the original, beloved items. New York designer Drew McGukin followed this script when a Manhattan client married and moved into her first house, in San Francisco. In addition to rethinking, recovering and repurposing many of the objects he'd previously bought for her, McGukin made some fresh purchases: drip-painted side tables by Martha Sturdy, a stone table by Apparatus, wandering geometric wallcovering by Kelly Wearstler for Lee Jofa. "I was the eyes, ears, hands and heart of this project," he says totally worth the trip, in other words.



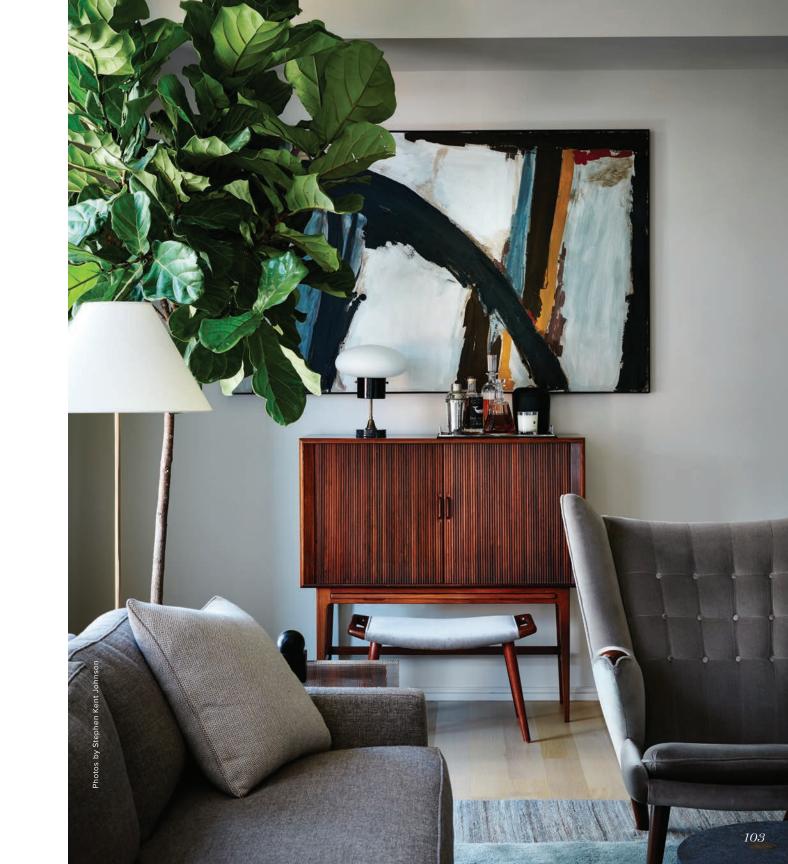
Drew McGukin Interiors New York, NY



Space may be the final frontier, but it can also be the first thing that needs dealing with in loft-style apartment buildings that are long on square footage and short on character. Even before he started to curate the contents of this condo overlooking New York's Highline, Shawn Henderson knew he wanted to warm up — and fill up — the rambling living room, cultivating intimacy while paying homage to the Scandinavian modern designers both he and his clients revere. Among the treasures in the mix: Hans Wegner Papa Bear chairs and stools, mid-century Italian leather ottomans, a circa 1960 Danish liquor cabinet by Kurt Østervig and a custom chaise longue. "I think the overall palette feels very unified," Henderson says of the moody grays, metallic blues and blacks that punctuate the space. "There's a very calm feeling."



Shawn Henderson Interior Design New York, NY





"I think of my job as a curator of experiences," Ken Fulk says. "By setting a stage that inspires and delights, we elevate the everyday lives of our clients." Traveling between offices in San Francisco and New York, the designer creates layered, just-short-of-theatrical rooms, spicing up historic properties with lavish color and touches of modern whimsy. In this Silicon Valley house, dating to 1918, a pair of vintage Venetian chandeliers and a shaggily current version of an Oriental carpet undercut the formal symmetry of paired Edward Wormley for Dunbar sofas, circa 1900 French mahogany tub chairs and mid-century Italian brass tables. "If everything feels like it goes together, I'm compelled to screw it up somehow," Fulk says with a smile.



Ken Fulk Inc. San Francisco, CA



Balance is essential in the design of Paris Forino, who often finds herself drawn to strong compositions in black and white. To leaven this neutral schema, she'll introduce jewel-toned accents, like the sapphire-hued sofa from B&B Italia in this apartment in New York's Flatiron District. A custom marble coffee table and circular glass Lens table by McCollin Bryan keep the focus on geometry, while warm brass elements — sconces by Atelier de Troupe and an Apparatus incense burner — unify the composition. At the end of the day, however, it all comes down to balance. "The overscale black-and-white graphic on the rug talks to the smaller-scale black-and-white graphics on the club chair," Forino points out. "It's a smashing juxtaposition!"



Paris Forino Interior Design <sub>New York, NY</sub>





It's fitting that Chango & Co., Susana Simonpietri's young, high-spirited Brooklynbased design firm, should be represented by a children's playroom. This one is in New Jersey, but it might as well be in Milan, so punchy and assured are its furnishings. "We brought elements from all over the world to create a space that was invigorating and provoked wonder in the young children who are to interact with it on a daily basis," Simonpietri says. "Our goal was to create a room that challenged them to let their imagination go wild and free." Modular carpets by New York's Kinder Modern jibe with wallpaper from Sydney Harbour Paint Company, paired swings from Googa Wood and a playful neon sign from Urban Outfitters. Another imaginative touch: custom cushions crafted by Chango & Co. that stack into a chic, Italian-style sectional sofa.



Chango & Co. Brooklyn, NY



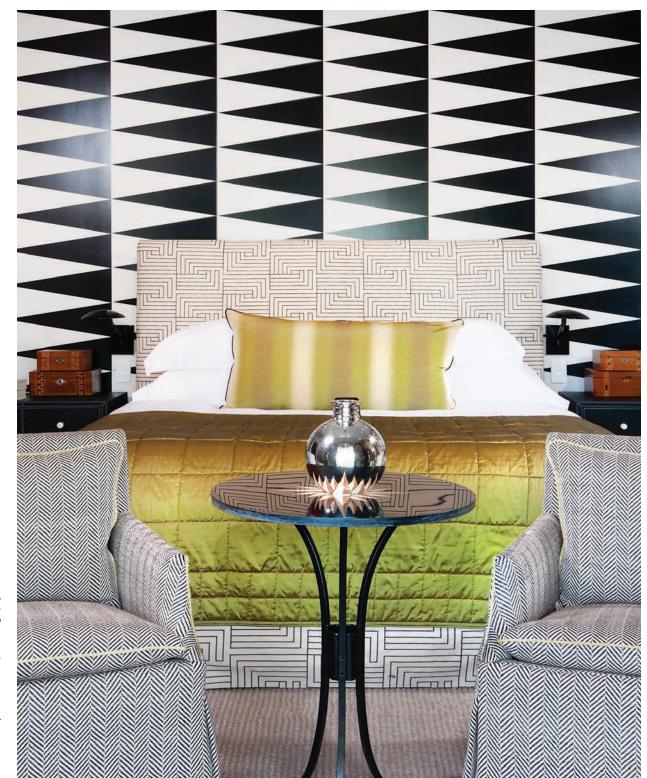
With the eye of a sleuth and the heart of a matchmaker, designer Windsor Smith says she takes pleasure in "finding extraordinary furnishings and marrying them to their perfect home" — and given her client base in entertainment and finance, she has plenty of opportunities to rub shoulders with masterworks. In this L.A. family room, the Sol Lewitt drawing over the mantel is the serene center of an eclectic composition comprising a Windsor Smith for Century coffee table with Corinthian column legs, a pair of Dunbar midcentury chairs (at left) and custom seating (at right), the whole grounded in neutrals and the geometric purity of the square. The decor embodies a "restrained connection from past to present," says Smith, describing her signature style, rooted in her love of the hunt.



Windsor Smith Home Santa Monica, CA Matthew Boland, of MMB Studio, sees his role as a designer as multifaceted. He describes his day-to-day practice this way: "Educate, activate, collaborate, cultivate and curate; dreams are always realized collectively." This fanciful guest bedroom in a house in northern Arizona provides a lively geometric backdrop for some of his client's favorite objects, including stacked wooden boxes and a Mexican silver vase by Tane, which tops a marble-inlaid table by the Lockhart Collection. After pairing round with round, Boland went with grid patterns elsewhere, the whole adding up to a sensory explosion. "Tension is captivating," the designer says. "Although sometimes unfamiliar or uncomfortable, it is always memorable."



MMB Studio Scottsdale, AZ Photo by Joe Cotitta | Epic Photograph



Mexico City designer Sofía Aspe says the perfect setting consists of "a mélange of periods and styles — not a forced mixture, but a complementary one, in which every object and artwork adds individual value to the whole." Aspe buys not only furniture but also fine art for her clients, often commissioning pieces like the wall hanging, woven in Oaxaca, in this high-style beach house living room. Such control allows her to script "a harmonic, interesting dialogue," she says. Here, vintage rattan chairs, stone tables, a jute carpet and playfully overscale ceramics compose an easygoing organic palette, at once practical and appropriate to the home's waterfront location — nothing forced about it.



Sofía Aspe Interiorismo <sup>Mexico City, MX</sup>



Light can be a subtle and ethereal ingredient in Bay Area design — and one the firm ODADA deploys perfectly. A shifting palette of grays, for instance, can encourage natural light to create complexity in an otherwise simple arrangement of furnishings. In an art-filled living room created by principal David Todd Oldroyd, pearl-hued walls and a carpet slightly warmer in tone provide a welcoming envelope for a few well-chosen pieces. A barrel chair from A. Rudin covered in amethyst velvet sits between tables of wood and brass, one topped by a classic Vico Magistretti for Oluce Italian modernist Atollo lamp. The brushed-stainless-steel occasional tables are from Propeller Modern, in ODADA's home city of San Francisco.



ODADA San Francisco, CA





Brent Leonard and Sean Webb, the two halves of Formarch, offer full-service interior design that begins with thoughtful architecture and ends with what's pictured here: natural light cascading into a space where furnishings and art reside in perfect harmony. Leonard and Webb are eagle-eyed buyers of pieces that are strong on form (as the firm's name suggests) and character. "With all our projects, we respect the architecture and layer in a distilled collection of pieces that speak to the feeling we want to evoke," they explain. In this Sag Harbor, New York, living area, a custom powder-coated-steel coffee table meets seating both traditional and 1950s-inspired for a mood the pair calls "calm, gentle and loose" just right for the country.



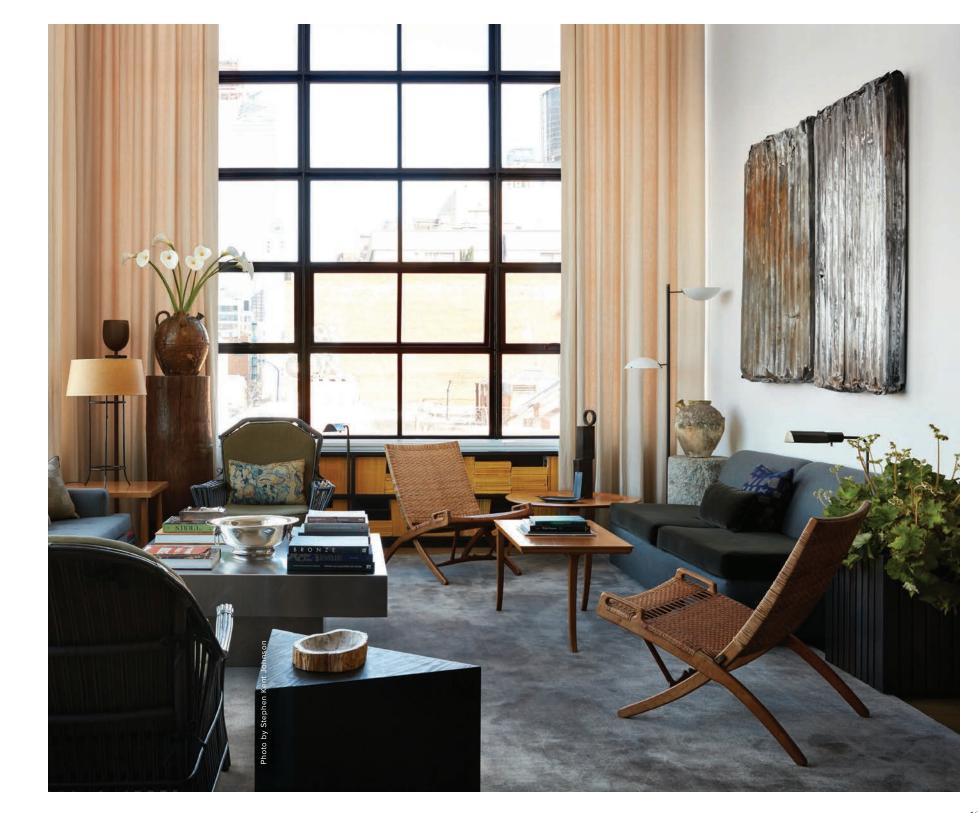
Formarch New York, NY



A decidedly classical ambiance pervades this modern loft in Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood, a paradox that's nothing new for its owner, André Mellone. The Brazilian-born designer has an eye for history and refined detail that can't be satisfied by the modernist canon alone. That is why one of his favorite furniture designers is the genre-bending T.H. Robsjohn-Gibbings, whose stamp is evident in several occasional tables and lamps here. But Mellone is a fluent mixer: He also incorporates French vases, a vintage Italian torchère and pieces by Hans Wegner and Charles and Ray Eames. Oh, and stacks of *National Geographic* magazines. Something about that yellow - classical and modern all at once.



Studio Mellone New York, NY



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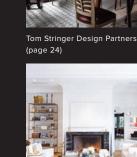




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