

**Mix  
or Match?  
How  
to Get It  
Right**

**Secrets  
from  
America's  
Top 100  
Designers**

**Clever Decorating**

*A to Z*



# Designer Directory

# A to Z



CONSTRUCTING A LIST OF 100 TOP AMERICAN INTERIOR designers is eye-opening, maddening, and fun. It's a three-month-long process that we take very seriously. Coming up with a select group of talents entails heavy research, patience, and perseverance. We choose our winners from a pool of almost 1,000 decorators currently at work on residential projects from Lincolnville, Maine, to Las Vegas, Nevada. Some send in perfectly orchestrated résumés, portraits, and press kits. Others send in stacks of color photos of every project they've completed since 1956. And some simply ask friends to call us on their behalf. Unfortunately, not all are chosen.

What must a decorator possess to make it on *House Beautiful's* list? A history (long or short) of creating good-looking, appropriate, original rooms; clients that give him or her high marks; a strong reputation among architects, contractors, and artisans; and an ability to move with the times. To all of us at *House Beautiful*, our 100-plus honorees are more than winners: they're the power behind—and the point of—every page of our magazine. Without them, we're nothing. *Vive le talent!*

**Aero Studios Ltd.** Thomas O'Brien  
112 Spring St., NY 10012, 212-966-4300,  
fax: 212-966-4301, info@aerostudios.com  
**Style:** "blends modern with traditional  
influences"  
**Anna & Carson, Inc.** Jim Annan,  
Anne Carson, 35 East End Ave.,  
NY 10026, phone/fax: 212-794-8828  
**Style:** "blends elegance" 



(Below and right) Anne Taylor uses her sense of tradition (below) Designer Marianne Russo (right) Anne Smyth, (bottom) Madeline Stewart's soft sophisticated



## designers on color

Only two designers from our 100-plus roundup prefer white as white on white color schemes. About 20 percent say that they prefer to work with yellows, blues, or muted purples, and about 30 percent think beige, grays, greens, or sand is the key to "improve comfort" and elegance. "On the other side of the color wheel, a whopping 70 percent report that they are intrigued with "saturated," "vibrant," and "bolding" combinations of fish, deep, or bright tones. As expected, color preferences in the most personal of all client-room preferences.

- Thad Hayes:** "Neutral monochromes always and everywhere."
- Emmie Mac:** "Lushes green, lavender and champagne."
- Sam Bostant:** "Soft, elegant, warm, soft on, and shoring blue—the colors of the Mediterranean Algarve."
- Pfirs Hauder:** "Shy orange gets a warm glow."
- Alexandra Branka:** "Bright yellow walls with beige trim and red accents."
- Victoria Vogt:** "White walls, white floors, and white decor."
- Rose Taylor:** "Shy pale pinks instead of the usual white."
- Laura Baker:** "Stewart's Williams Spanish Green (SW7724) goes on grey-green on walls, Euro Gray (SW7517) [soft beige] on trim and door-caps. Blue limestone floors in Bulgaria's white."
- Toled Back:** "The Palazzo Maribona (muted) and muted sage-like walls, sky blue-green upholstery and shades of cream."

**Sally Betancourt Jost**  
**Sally Betancourt** 1779  
 Connecticut Ave. NW,  
 Washington, DC 20006, 202-  
 479-4794, fax: 202-479-0039;  
 jost@sallybetancourt.com

**Style:** "simplicity, minimalism,  
 and Old World charm"

**Charles Spada Interiors**  
 I Design Center FL, Inc.  
 547, Boston 02210-417-051-  
 0008, fax: 417-911-9900;  
 arispada@tdi.com

**Style:** "updated classical"

**Aileen Spear, AIA**  
 111 E. 79 St., 4th, NY 10021,  
 212-478-8506; fax: 212-478-  
 8508/280-NE 19 St., 4222,  
 Miami, FL 33147, 305-458-458-  
 1200, fax: 305-458-1223;  
 aileen@alicespear.com;  
 www.alicespear.com

**Style:** "single architectural  
 envelopes, multi-period  
 furnishings"

**Whitney Stewart Interior  
 Design** 4200 Venice St.,  
 Bethesda, MD 20817, 301-  
 429-2404, fax: 301-520-6522;  
 whitney@whitney.com

**Style:** "non-European"

**Madeline Stuart & Anne...  
 Inc.** 400 S. La Brea Ave.,  
 L.A., CA 90008; 323-915-  
 1508; fax: 323-915-1540

**Style:** "timeless sophistication  
 without pretense"

**Sofield Sofield Williams**  
**Sofield** 340 Lafayette St.,  
 NY 10003; 212-473-4300;  
 fax: 212-473-6500; ds@sofield-  
 studiosofield.com

**Style:** "meditative that's  
 not austere"

**Emily Summers** 1193  
 Cedar Springs Dallas  
 75204, 214-871-9668; fax:  
 214-871-7875

**Style:** "20th-century modern  
 and elegant eclectics"

**Matthew Patrick Smyth,  
 Inc.** 12 W. 57 St., New York  
 10019; 212-333-5353; fax: 212-  
 333-5093; smythinc@aol.com  
**Style:** "Clean, edited,  
 traditional"