

ELLEDECOR

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outdoor
style

**THE A-LIST:
30 DESIGNERS WE LOVE
MEG RYAN'S BEACH HOUSE
75 SENSATIONAL
SUMMER GIFTS**



relax



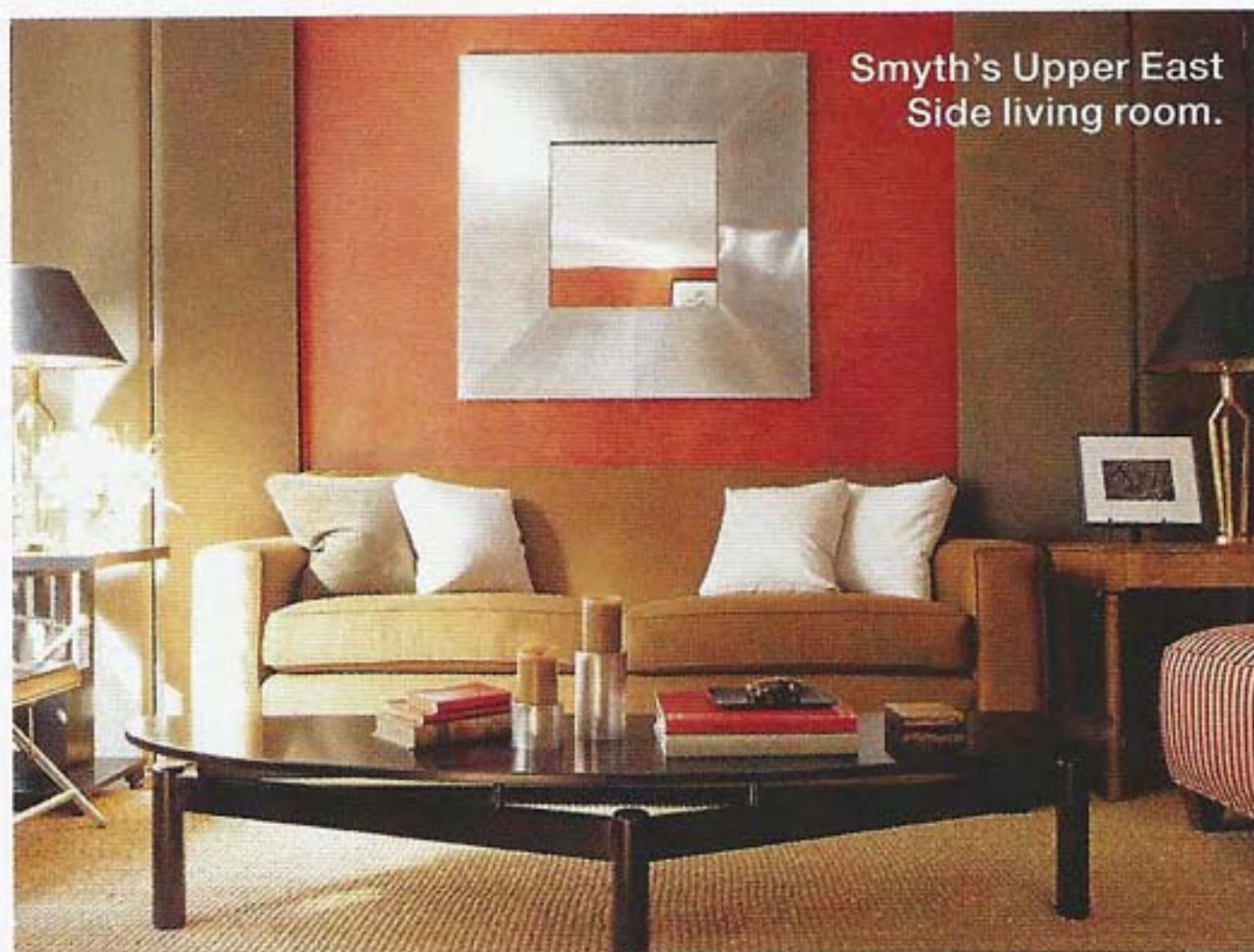
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ELLE DECOR's *A*-LIST

Coming up with our first A-List of 25 interior designers wasn't easy. The editors of ELLE DECOR spent weeks sifting, sirling, discussing, and examining. We studied photographs, paged through back issues, and navigated websites. We argued—correction: *rhake* that conversed in lively fashion—late into the night. The goal was to produce a list of authentic tastemakers in the U.S. whose rooms reflect the passions of ELLE DECOR—high style, serious comfort, snappy ideas—and whose innovative approach to the art of decoration will be studied for generations. We've also included a shortlist of five up-and-coming interior designers we think are on their way to influencing the way you live, emerging talents you might not have heard of yet but whose intriguing spaces promise bright futures.

These lists are only the beginning, however. At elitedecor.com you will soon find more information on each of these 30 in our new Designer Registry, as well as our selection of design's Grand Masters, those talents whose work is already so prominent and influential that their status is unquestioned.

Each year ELLE DECOR's A-List will grow richer and more diverse. Because if there's one thing we know, it's that design never stops getting better. So without further ado, welcome to our magazine's inaugural salute to America's best and brightest, from the long established to the rising stars. And if you think we've overlooked an inspiring designer or design team, let us know. On ELLE DECOR's A-List, there's always room for more. ▶



Smyth's Upper East Side living room.

^ **MATTHEW PATRICK SMYTH**

Friendly, restrained, exquisitely appointed rooms have been Smyth's forte for more than two decades. It's all about quiet style with legs, a classically inspired but always lively mix of traditional furniture, up-to-the-minute upholstery, and luxe fabrics that run the gamut from graphic ethnic

prints to Savile Row-style wools and cashmeres. His international experience has made him equally adept at Continental flair and the American vernacular; what unites his disparate rooms is subtle drama and an appreciation for quality. matthewpatrick Smyth.com