

A photograph of a traditional dining room. In the foreground, a dark wood dining table is partially visible with a large, ornate chandelier hanging above it. Three chairs with patterned upholstery and dark wood frames are arranged around the table. In the background, a wooden sideboard holds a vase of red flowers and other decorative items. A window with red and blue striped curtains is visible behind the sideboard. The overall atmosphere is warm and classic.

TRADITIONAL HOME.

fresh and
Fabulous
*Wake up rooms with inviting
color, comfort, and style*

*fashion
for the Fall table
the beauty of
Biedermeier
secrets to
his & her
decorating*



domestic detente

Here are some designer devices for achieving spaces that please both genders:

- Scale** Buy heavier pieces that add weight to a space. If tight perimeters force you to skimp on size, balance with such large-scale accents as vases, urns, and baskets.
- Lines and Patterns** Choose furnishings with clean, simple shapes, strict fabrics, rags, and wall coverings in straightforward patterns.
- Textures** Varyed surfaces—from heavily polished tabletops and smooth glass to more textural leather, oak, wicker, and salvaged wood—keep spaces from appearing too perfect and pristine.
- Color** Minimize the femininity of intense color by mixing in substantial doses of black, gray, or brown—hues that help anchor a room. Black-painted furniture adds a masculine presence.
- Architectural Details** Play up moldings, paneling, and built-ins. Wood suggests strength and stability.

Matthew Patrick Smyth Hampton Showhouse at Villa Maria

Matthew Patrick Smyth designs rooms that are organized, crisp, and serene. For the dining area, he chose furniture and colors to enhance the architectural details, tempering femininity with a dash of masculine boldness.

"The molding and paneling are beautiful pale wood," says Smyth. "Balanced with patterns in dark, masculine colors, the combination works well with the home's seaside location."

Decorative details about the room's pattern and colors. Oxford stripes in blue, cream, and apple green cover the walls. Regency-style dining chairs are accented with "button-down skirts and backs" fabricated by Boston Handblenders, once the dressmaker for Van G. Laarck. The chairs sit at a contemporary 17th-century dining table that Smyth painted black to give it a subtle new point of view. ■

Styled by Bruce Mahoney Photography by Tom Green

