



INSPIRED HIGH-END
INTERIOR DESIGN

SHANE REILLY



Schiffer

FOUR:
COLOR





MATTHEW PATRICK SMYTH, INC.

Matthew Smyth recognized that he used his apartment mostly for evening entertaining, so he aspired to create a space that glowed and felt welcoming and striking at night. He was inspired by a red Italian vase he found on a trip and had a painter cover the walls in a similar color. "I always wanted to have red walls," he explained, adding, "it is an exciting, fun color. It has a definite statement and looks good in all seasons."

With red as his lead, Smyth set about adding items to the room that would suit the high contrast background and his personality. "I wanted things that were clean and designed, not too sterile, and everything with a masculine bent to it." He found the mirror over the sofa in a smaller version and had it recreated in a larger proportion. He chose striped fabric for the chair to highlight the shape of it, to add a vertical element, and to keep the room from getting too dark. The table from Cassina with a curved front was an easy, non-aggressive shape to have. "When I pick out objects, furniture, it is all about the silhouette." He enjoyed the texture of the large olive jar sitting on a smooth, rectangular, metal shape, next to the campaign-style chair. The pieces come to life in contrast to the red walls. "When picking a strong color – you can do it but you must make the rest of the room go with it. You have to just go for it."

Smyth speaks about his work: "In this case – it is not about money, it is about accumulation of everything I've learned and studied over the years. It is all about me. It is personal. It is edited. All of these things are what makes high-end design something that is not thrown together; attention was paid to it. It does not have to be expensive, but it has to be purposeful."

Photography by Peter Margonelli

"I wish I could go through life with these walls behind me."

“In this era of ‘fast fashion’, where trends change so frequently, we get accustomed to ‘disposable design’. High-end design doesn’t follow trends. It sets them, and, if done properly, is timeless.”

– **Will Wick**

“High-end design is a refinement of tastes, a careful selection of beautiful objects.”

– **Matthew Patrick Smyth**