

MANHATTAN FILE

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Inside the bedrooms of the city's most wanted singles

**Plus: Young Co-op Buyers Transform the Upper East Side
Gifts for the Rich and Paranoid**

**All You Need to Know About Seven of Manhattan's Best Decorators
NY's Most Eligible Bachelors**



matthew patrick SMYTH

FROM: New York City

TIME IN BUSINESS: Sixteen years: finished studies at F.I.T. in 1980, began own firm in 1988.

AESTHETIC: "Organization. Whether I'm asked to do a contemporary or traditional room, I believe in solidifying the floor plan, architecture, and focus of the room—then you are free to add as much or as little as you please."

SOURCE OF INSPIRATION: "Travel—to gain a perspective on how we live, not just in an architectural sense, but in attitudes, style, and habits."

LIKABLE CURRENT TRENDS: "The acceptance of 20th century design as a staple of traditional design."

DISLIKABLE CURRENT TRENDS: "Flea market decorating."

CELEBRITY DREAM CLIENT: "As any discreet, self-respecting, Irish-Catholic decorator would want, Mr. and Mrs. JFK Jr."

FANTASY JOB: "My own cottage on the West Coast of Ireland where I could sit by the fire, read, and sleep."

BEST OBJECT FROM AN UNUSUAL PLACE: "A William Merritt Chase painting for \$200 at a small shop in upstate New York."

ITEM IN OWN HOME THAT HE CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT: "My Breuer lounge chair. It's the perfect fit for me, and it's where I make my early morning calls to clients and contractors."

WHAT ONE CLIENT SAYS: "I met Matthew through my sister-in-law, and was one of his first clients," says Stormy Good Byorum. "I decided to hire him because I liked the idea of working with someone newly out on their own. We have totally different taste: he had never done anything that wasn't taupe before. My apartment is gold, red, and green—certainly not taupe. But he is enormously creative, and was able to accommodate my taste. He knew what I wanted and delivered it. The other wonderful thing about Matthew is that he is excruciatingly dedicated to his clients, a characteristic that I'm told is rare."

