

GREAT DECORATING TIPS FROM AMERICA'S TOP 125 DESIGNER

# House Beautiful

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EXCLUSIVE:

## How to Get the New Ralph Lauren Look

Stunning furnishings, bedding, accessories,  
and tableware from the Lauren Collection

## DRAMATIC NEW MAKEOVERS:

- Fabulous family room  
before and after
- Making room for  
the new baby



## AMERICA'S TOP 125 INTERIOR DESIGNERS

House Beautiful's annual list of the nation's leading decorators includes tips on hot colors, final touches, where to shop, and a confession or two about big mistakes

Atlanta-based designer Nancy Beathwaite (below) says that decorating style (and) includes classic interpretations of country, traditional, and contemporary designs. As for colors, right now she's working with neutrals. "Very dark colors combined with light ones, but more muted and subtle."



### WHAT ARE THE COLORS FOR FAVORITE NOW?

**Kool-Aid colors.** They are the perfect antidote to gray and beige when light conditions—a main consideration for city dwellings. **ROBIN BELL**

**Pistachio green** and **Prussian blue** with accents of tobacco and a dab of burnt sienna. The balance is harmonious due to the crispness of the green, the depth of the blue, the strength of the tobacco, and the vibrancy of the sienna. **KIM ALEXANDRIUK**

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I always prefer clear, clean colors—earth tones such as burnt sienna, ochre, bronze green, chocolate brown, and eggplant are some of my favorites; they're warm and create a calm backdrop for light shades like parchment and French white. **MICHAEL BERMAN**

**Peacock blue,** burnt orange, pale silver gilt, and fat charcoal black are a few of the colors that I love now. Farrow & Ball paint has changed my decorating life forever, with their perfect translations of timeless classics. **THOMAS BESTON**

**Neutrals, black,** chocolate brown, beige white with a hint of ochre. **LINDA BODELL**

**Kim Alexandriuk**  
Santa Monica, CA  
310-334-6103

**Bertha Berg**  
Los Angeles, CA  
310-376-9977

**Linda Bodell**  
Aspen, CO  
370-325-4210

**Thomas M. Beston**  
West Hollywood, CA  
310-650-8234

**Robin Bell**  
New York, NY  
212-753-5660

**Sara Bengur**  
New York, NY  
212-226-8796

**Nate Berkus**  
Chicago, IL  
312-682-0404

**Michael Berman**  
Los Angeles, CA  
323-953-0230

**Lee Blaffy**  
**Christopher Drake**  
Beatty-Drake Assoc.  
Rochester, NY  
617-241-0041

**Jeffrey Blühner**  
New York, NY  
212-308-8888

**Nancy Beathwaite**  
Atlanta, GA  
404-355-1740

**Alexandria Branca**  
Chicago, IL  
312-767-6126

**Genie BrannerMann**  
New Orleans, LA  
504-891-7763

## Top Designers

**Markham Roberts**  
New York, NY  
212-268-6090

**Eve Rubenstein**  
New York, NY  
212-595-0567

**Todd Alexander Romano**  
New York, NY  
212-679-7722

**Daniel Romualdez**  
New York, NY  
212-993-8423

**Frank Rupp**  
Boston, MA  
617-267-0818

**Stephanie Saint-Onge**  
Boston, MA  
617-286-0500

**John Scialoja**  
New York, NY  
212-684-6875

### WHAT IS THE BIGGEST DECORATING MISTAKE YOU'VE EVER MADE?

**A very, very expensive** made-to-order tea from Connecticut was that fancy to do through the owner's web site. It was a treatment of high accuracy that aged me.

**TOP SCIENCE**

**Attempting to have a business partner.** It is rarely works.

**MARSHALL ROBERTS**

**Purchasing an expensive set of antique dining chairs from a Web site.** When they arrived I realized they were Adlon's chairs.

**THOMAS PRESTANT**

**We made a four-poster bed** too high for the room and cut holes in the floor to make it work. I don't think they ever wanted the bed.

**SCOTT SALVATOR**



Los Angeles-based designer Frank Rubenstein describes her decorating style (right) as "fresh, classic, and with a touch of eccentricity." Below are numerous links to her work and articles of design, design inspiration, inspiration, and more.

**Scott Salvator**  
New York, NY  
212-683-5336

**Tom Schaefer**  
New York, NY  
212-529-0744

**Roderick N. Shade**  
New York, NY  
212-663-7886

**Peter Shelton,  
Lee Mindel  
Shelton, Mindel & Associates**  
New York, NY  
212-242-3329

**Jan Showers**  
Dallas, TX  
214-767-5242

**Stephanie Shubin**  
New York, NY  
646-363-3322

**Stephanie Silb,  
Janice Hunsford  
Silb Hunsford Associates**  
New York, NY  
212-988-9636

**Michael S. Smith**  
Santa Monica, CA  
310-375-5018

**Matthew Patrick Smyth**  
New York, NY  
212-333-5353

**William Sutfield**  
New York, NY  
212-475-1300

**Jesse Sells Batemanport**  
Washington, DC  
202-658-8738



**Allison Spear**  
Miami, FL  
305-638-7200

**Stephanie Stokes**  
New York, NY  
212-758-3922

**Tom Stringer**  
Chicago, IL  
312-868-0568

**Madeline Stuart**  
Los Angeles, CA  
310-933-3303

**Emily Summers**  
Dallas, TX  
214-877-9665

**Rosa Tarlow**  
*Rosa Tarlow Interior House*  
Los Angeles, CA  
323-631-2350

**Jackie Terrell**  
Los Angeles, CA  
323-577-9622

# Matthew Patrick Smyth

## New York, NY

### 212-333-5353

212-267-4040

**Viviana Wolf**  
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212-868-6260