

[the furniture issue]

Want to come in?

Whether colorful, or quirky, or classically beautiful, furniture is the foundation upon which great rooms are built. Here, five designers share knockout spaces filled with a carefully curated collection of pieces that satisfy the need for both form and function.



ROOM SERVICE

ELENA PHILLIPS } *Elena Phillips Interiors*

What's the story on this house?

This Colonial Revival in New Canaan belongs to a young family with two small children. The house was originally part of an estate built around 1914. The rooms are classically proportioned, and the property has beautiful landscaping and gardens.

Describe this room in three words.

Elegant, calm, and comfortable.

Was there a jumping-off point for this design?

The main criteria for this room was to create a furniture plan that could accommodate larger parties, yet still feel intimate enough for small gatherings. I also needed to incorporate a billiards table. Once the plan was set, I started working from the rug up, creating the palette.

How do the clients use the space?

Aside from entertaining, both of my clients play the piano, which is located in one of the window bays. In the other window bay there is a game table with four chairs and a billiards table beyond. There is plenty to do in this room, and a gorgeous lacquered bar is adjacent to the space!

Are there any custom pieces?

All of the upholstered furniture was custom made by one of my workrooms. The two coffee tables are bespoke; one made in London and the other made in New York. All of the lighting (lamps, sconces, and chandeliers) was custom made for this project. And lastly, the billiards table was made especially for my client down to every detail, including the green-colored cloth!

Where did you find the end tables?

I found the end table on the left at Gerald Bland in New York City. It is English, c. 1790 (and the oldest piece in the room). About four months later, I came across the other one at Harbor View Antiques in Stamford. It's English, c. 1810.

What are the fabrics used on the chairs and sofa?

The pair of green, barrel-back chairs are upholstered in a soft wool from Holland & Sherry with custom cord trim. The large sofa is upholstered in a Cowtan & Tout linen velvet with custom tape trim and cord.

How did you work with the paneled walls?

The entire living room is paneled. I didn't want the paneling to look too "flat," which can happen with plain paint, so I recommended glazing them. It gives the panels a little movement and creates a little more visual interest.

Tell us about the artwork above the sofa.

My client wanted a large statement piece in that space, so she commissioned her friend, Caroline Z. Hurley, to create this piece. We worked out the dimensions and told her the palette, and this is what she created!

Do you have a favorite piece in this room?

This is a tough question! I have three favorites: The set of four stylish and comfortable game chairs, the small reclining figure sculpture by Cornelia Kubler Kavanagh on one of the end tables, and the Christopher Spitzmiller spiral lamps.



PHOTOGRAPH BY JANE BEILES

frame of MIND



jewel BOX



PHOTOGRAPH BY NELL ANDINO JR.

AMY HIRSCH } amy aidinis hirsch, llc

Tell us a little about this home.

Nestled on a lovely street in Darien, the home is loved by a couple with a young girl and tons of furry friends! Initially, it was designed with French Normandy-style architecture, which the client had the vision to deconstruct and turn into a New England shingle-style gem. The design is a bit more transitional.

Were there any challenges in designing this space?

The dining table posed the most difficulty. First we explored the shape: round versus square, square versus rectangular. Once we identified the round shape as the most appropriate, we tackled the need for the table to expand properly to accommodate twelve people, but on a smaller scale, also create a more intimate gathering where everyone felt engaged. It was important that the top be solid when opened, no seams exposed for leaves. The leaves have been designed to add onto the perimeter. We must have exhausted tons of tables only to land on a custom design. It's furnished out of mahogany, and we added the beautiful brass bands on the legs. It's like jewelry—just a hint of sparkle under the base.

How involved was the client in making selections?

One hundred percent, she was the driving force on how we collectively arrived at our decisions. We have a great relationship, there is a ton of trust on the owners' part, which allowed me to explore and create without limitations.

Describe this room in three words.

Exuberant, polished, unique.

Were there any existing pieces in this room, or is it all new?

All of the pieces are new. They are a mix of custom and high-low price points. The dining chairs are from Restoration Hardware. We reupholstered the back in a digital print; the front and seat are contrasted in a vinyl leopard print, and we re-stained the legs for a more polished look.

You always design the best dining rooms. Are they a favorite room of yours to design?

One of them! They tend to be more playful, where as a designer you can take more of a risk.

Where did you find the artwork?

This is from the client's collection. They sourced it from Amy Simon Fine Art in Westport.

Where is the chandelier from?

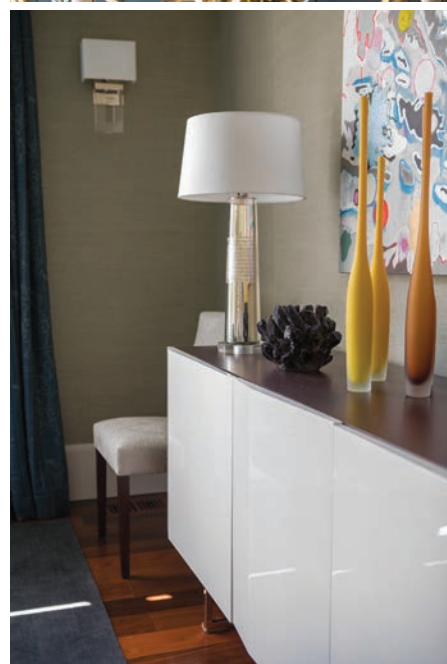
Remains. It's Tony Duquette's Splashing Water. It was the first piece we selected for the room. It certainly takes center stage!

Why did you paper the ceiling?

I love wallpaper on the ceiling. Architecturally, the room was very simple, so I wanted to add something with texture and dimension. This wallpaper is raised two-dimensionally. I also love the sultry peacock blue tone.

Tell us about the accessories—how did you choose them?

I wanted a throwback to the '40-'50s era, so the setting on the center of the table reminds me of old Hollywood.





full HOUSE

CHRISTOPHER STEVENS }
christopher stevens, llc

Where is this space?

This is my own studio apartment in the West Village. It was my sister's until she moved out of the city over ten years ago. I swooped in as soon as she left. Finding a place here is tough.

What's the paint color on the walls?

Benjamin Moore "Autumn Orange" in Flat Finish. I had it painted before I moved in a stick of furniture. The apartment doesn't get a tremendous amount of light, so I wanted something warm without being too strident. It was such a success—everybody's skin looks great in there.

Where is the coffee table from?

Hidden Galleries in Stamford. I didn't know it at the time (and I doubt they did either, given the price), but it is by Richard Blow, who's pretty collectable. A nice bonus, but at the end of the day, I just liked it as an object.

Describe this space in three words.

Stimulating, satisfying, telling.

Tell us about the artwork above the sofa.

The largest piece is by Matthew Palladino, an artist working in Brooklyn. Amazingly, it's a watercolor, but it's so precise and graphic that it almost looks printed. He wove in a reference to the history of painting, with a repeated abstraction of a Rubens painting—it totally satisfied the art history nerd in me. There is also a James Bidgood photograph from the '60s, two pastel abstractions by Irene Lipton I picked up in Provincetown, and a John Derian plate.

Do you change things around a lot?

I'm more of an accumulator. At this point I'm at saturation though. When something comes in, something has to go, so it's more about being strategic and upgrading.

What's the oldest thing in this space?

I recently got a 16th Dynasty Egyptian bust at auction, so that wins the prize. I've been an Egyptophile since I was a kid. The thought that I might have something from there is a little mind blowing.

What does "home" mean to you?

I think it's about a place that comforts and re-energizes you. I feel so settled and satisfied here. I scan the room and I'm reminded of all the places I've been, people I've met, and the stories and histories that move me.

What's your next project in this space?

It's a rental, so I feel sort of silly doing anything major, though given New York real estate, I'm likely not leaving anytime soon. I do have this great faux marble wallpaper I'm tempted to put up in the bathroom. I also just got a pair of Regency pen work chairs in L.A. that is being restored. When they show up, something is getting the boot!

Are there any antiques in this space?

There's a bunch of vintage scattered about, but I have been able to purchase a few good pieces here and there. There is a bronze Grand Tour tazza on the coffee table I brought back from Sweden and a really cool Jugendstil green ceramic chandelier in the corner I picked up in Copenhagen.



PHOTOGRAPH BY DREW GARDENER

citrus **TWIST**





PHOTOGRAPHY BY STACY BASS



JENNIFER SMOKLER

} *jennifer smokler interiors*

Where is this home?

This is a prewar apartment on Park Avenue in New York City.

Who lives here?

A young family with three children under five years old!

Was there an overall feeling or vibe the clients wanted?

Sophisticated and stylish, but comfortable and family friendly.

What was the biggest challenge with this design?

The room needed to work for hosting charity events and cocktail parties but needed to be child friendly and comfortable for lounging and watching sports.

How did you address the transition from room to entry?

Since the walls were neutral in the living room, we liked seeing a pattern when looking into the entry. The blue background of the entry paper was soft enough that it worked off all the other rooms. In another direction you can see into an orange playroom!

What's your favorite thing in this space?

The curtain fabric from Donghia. It's a neutral silk with splatters of color at the bottom half. We used those colors, such as green and orange, to accent the room.

It was the very first thing I found for the apartment. The minute I saw it, I was able to envision the whole room.

What's the oldest thing in this space?

The pair of 1950s Bertha Schaefer side chairs at the game table. I found them on 1stdibs.

Where did you find the green chairs?

Van Den Akker Antiques in New York. They are French steel-framed modernist club chairs c. 1970.

Those painted shelves are bold. Did that take any convincing on your part?

No. My client loved the idea and really wanted the room to have some youthful, fun touches! The color is Benjamin Moore #2027-30 "Eccentric Lime."

What is the treatment on the walls?

The walls are a custom café au lait color, hand-painted Venetian plaster by Artgroove.

Where is the mirror in the hallway from? And the wallpaper?

The mirror and console are English antiques from the client's parents. The wallpaper is from Donghia.

Are there any custom pieces?

The game table and sectional are custom. We wanted specific sizes and finishes for both.



southern CHARM

THOMAS JAYNE } *jayne design studio*

Where is this home located?

The Garden District of New Orleans.

Who are the clients?

Author Julia Reed and her husband, John Pearce.

Describe this room in three words.

Antique. Modern. Cool.

What was the biggest challenge in designing this space?

The grand scale and adapting to it.

Did the view have impact on the design?

Yes, there is a beautiful old garden around the house (which is a Greek Revival that dates from 1847). It feels present in the decoration in subtle ways—I think the colors inside resonate with those outside.

What inspired the design of this room?

The inspiration came from Julia's memories of her great grandmother's house in Nashville. The house was decorated by Herbert Rodgers. (Interestingly, the renowned decorator Albert Hadley got

his start at Rodgers' firm before coming to New York and was Rodgers' assistant on the project.) Julia shared images of these rooms with me and Egan Seward (the Senior Project Manager in my office who worked on the project) on vintage slides in an equally vintage viewer, which we were asked to use as a source for ideas.

What did this room look like before you got there?

I seem to remember crumbling white paint but good bones.

How did you choose this color palette?

The color choices were strongly influenced by the Rodgers slides we saw. The wall color is Farrow & Ball "Sutcliffe Green."

What is this room used for primarily?

It is mostly an entertainment space. There have been some great parties held there.

Are there any custom pieces?

The yellow silk curtains with tape trim are handmade.

Any antiques in this space?

Most everything in the room is antique: The coffee table is a 19th-century lacquer piece, and the chandelier was purchased through New Orleans Auction Galleries.

Is that the original fireplace?

Yes. It is made of Italian marble.

What's the newest thing in this room?

The paint!

What's the oldest thing in this room?

The 19th-century mirror over the fireplace.

Where are these benches from?

They are English Regency faux-bamboo, which we upholstered in a silk fabric from Claremont. Julia had bought these before she bought the house.

Any special pieces on the mantelpiece?

There is a beautiful French porcelain urn fitted with a clock at the center.