

**O**  
**AT HOME**  
AN **OPRAH**  
MAGAZINE

**FALL IN LOVE WITH  
YOUR OWN HOME**

**NO-HASSLE MAKEOVERS**

**BLAH TO WOW**

**IN 1 HOUR, 1 DAY, 1 WEEKEND**

**SURPRISE! YOU'VE GOT SPACE YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD**

**THE DIVINE  
BEDROOM**  
page 100



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# pillowtalk

Three designers, seen here with their own work, go behind the seams to share their pillow principles. Their strong (and sometimes conflicting) ideas reveal that, as always, an object's beauty depends on its beholder.



**▲ Michele Varian** "A lot of times, people bring their sofa swatches in to make exact matches between pillows and their sofa. But I don't think the eye is so sophisticated that an exact match is necessary. Another mistake people make when they buy pillows is that they wait until they're nearly finished designing a room, when they don't have a lot of juice left—financially or mentally. Start looking at pillows early, even if you can't purchase them for a while.

Even more than architecture, textiles and color can transform a space. They're what we respond to first. What I'd like to achieve with my pillows is the antithesis of people walking around with swatches: I'd like people to purchase pillows because they love them, much in the same way a person buys a handbag or a piece of clothing because she can't live without it."



**▲ John Robshaw** "I like opulence and more! more! more! Some people use only two pillows on a giant sofa, which I think is too fussy and precious, but I'll put them in a big pile on the floor—it's much more sculptural that way. Try odd-shaped and big pillows. And if you can't find what you're looking for, then make your own or ask your dry cleaner to make you one with your favorite fabric. Have more pillows than you need so that it's not as if you're trying to draw with only three colors. Overbuy and mess around."



**▲ Sheila Bridges** "I design pillows I'd want to live with in my own home. I prefer square pillows for their symmetry, and I like a crisp, tailored look, which is why I don't use a lot of fringe or tassels. I don't mind a little embellishment, but I don't want anything that would make the pillow uncomfortable. Breathable, natural materials like linen and cotton are my favorites. They're easier to clean than silk and feel good against the skin. I love florals and stripes, too. You can mix the designs if you have a color that ties the pillows together.

I don't care for a ton of pillows on the couch. If you're collecting, that's one thing, but too much of even a nice thing makes an object lose its uniqueness. Pairs create balance, and a single in the middle of a love seat will make the pillow seem special."

For details, see Shop Guide.