

BUILDING BRIDGES

When Sheila Bridges graduated from Brown University in 1986, she never dreamed that one day she would be designing office space for a former U.S. president or a home for a well-known rap star. After all, she wrote her senior thesis on gender and race stereotyping in advertising, not interior design. Instead of heading for Madison Avenue, however, Bridges started taking classes at Parsons, which led to a position at the architectural firm Shelton Mindel and Associates. Then there was a stint with the famed Renny Saltzman, and finally, in 1994, her own company. Today, in addition to running a booming design business from her home in Harlem, Bridges has just published her first book, *Furnishing Forward*, a glossy tome, and finished taping "Designer Living," her first television series, set to air on the Fine Living network in January, 2003. "My ultimate goal," Bridges says, "is to encourage people to develop their own sense of style." —JOHN LOECKE

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PORTRAIT BY JEFF PASANO

AT
HOME

