



>>INSIDE STYLE

Above, Sheila Bridges has helped the country regain its love of nesting. Top, An example of the saturated color combinations Bridges is championing of late.

LIFESTYLE GURU These days, design is so important that the professionals who dispense advice are fast becoming bona fide celebrities—breathlessly sought out for their opinions on everything from window dressing to washing machines. Case in point: New York-based interior designer Sheila Bridges, who came to national prominence after decorating the Harlem offices of former President Bill Clinton. Named designer of the year by *Time* magazine, Bridges wrote *Furnishing Forward*:

“My goal is to introduce a new generation of clients to the value of good design and the importance of interior environments that reflect one’s personality and cultural history.”

—Interior designer
Sheila Bridges



Decorating for a Lifetime (Bulfinch Press), which is available to purchase at sheilabridges.com. She’s also an occasional correspondent on NBC-TV’s *Today* and hosts her own show, *Sheila Bridges: Designer Living*, on the Fine Living Network. “I’m thrilled that people are embracing their home environments,” she says. “Nesting seems to have become America’s favorite new pastime.”

Here, Bridges opens her source book to reveal the season’s hot design picks:

▶ “I love the fact that bedding is becoming so big, whether it is purchased through mail-order catalogs or from stores like Pratesi and Frette. People are beginning to understand that sleeping on great sheets really makes a difference. Where else do you spend eight hours a day on your back? Two of my sources for bedding are Leontine Linens in New Orleans (leontinelinens.com) and West Elm (westelm.com).

▶ “Stainless steel is chic again for bathroom and kitchen hardware, so forget all those expensive nickel lavatory sets. Save money and show style at the same time! Waterworks (waterworks.com) has some great options.

▶ “Bright and richly saturated color combinations are making news, especially red and beige, pink and chocolate brown, or—the colors of my own bathroom—slate blue and black. The ‘Modern Country’ episode of my show featured a Connecticut farmhouse where the powder room has Hermes-orange walls and chocolate-brown floors. So bold and sophisticated.

▶ “Here’s something new and great: I recently discovered a company that makes a flooring kit called rug-in-a-box (interfacefloor.com). With these eco-friendly, colorful and highly versatile flooring tiles, everyone can be an interior designer by designing their own carpet.”

For more of Sheila’s insights, see sheilabridges.com.