

# Designer Directory

# A to Z



CONSTRUCTING A LIST OF 100 TOP AMERICAN INTERIOR designers is eye-opening, maddening, and fun. It's a three-month-long process that we take very seriously. Coming up with a select group of talents entails heavy research, patience, and perseverance. We choose our winners from a pool of almost 1,000 decorators currently at work on residential projects from Lincolnville, Maine, to Las Vegas, Nevada. Some send in perfectly orchestrated résumés, portraits, and press kits. Others send in stacks of color photos of every project they've completed since 1956. And some simply ask friends to call us on their behalf. Unfortunately, not all are chosen.

What must a decorator possess to make it on *House Beautiful's* list? A history (long or short) of creating good-looking, appropriate, original rooms; clients that give him or her high marks; a strong reputation among architects, contractors, and artisans; and an ability to move with the times. To all of us at *House Beautiful*, our 100-plus honorees are more than winners: they're the power behind—and the point of—every page of our magazine. Without them, we're nothing. *Vive le talent!*

**Aero Studios Ltd. Thomas O'Brien**  
132 Spring St., NY 10012; 212-966-4700;  
fax: 212-966-4701; info@aerostudios.com

**Style:** "classic modern with traditional influences"

**Aman & Carson, Inc. Jim Aman,  
Anne Carson** 85 East End Ave.,  
NY 10028; phone/fax: 212-794-8878

**Style:** "classic elegance" →

**Bilhuber Inc. Jeffrey**

**Bilhuber** 330 E. 59 St.,  
NY 10022; 212-308-4888;  
fax: 212-223-4590;  
bilhuber@aol.com

**Style:** "Louis XVI Jansen  
Chippendale à go-go"

**TW Black Todd Black**

33 Riverside Dr., Ste. 5B, NY  
10023; 212-875-0014; fax: 212-  
580-3415; twblack2@aol.com

**Style:** "tailored eclecticism"

**Sam Blount Inc. 21 W. 58**

St., NY 10019; 212-888-0515;  
fax: 212-888-1127;  
sblountinc@aol.com

**Style:** "crisp traditional"

**Pauline Boardman Ltd.**

44 E. 67 St., NY 10021; 212-  
288-8379; fax: 212-628-4073

**Style:** "Georgian/comfortable"

**Nancy Braithwaite**

**Interiors, Inc.** 2300  
Peachtree Rd. NW, Ste. C101,  
Atlanta 30309; 404-355-  
1740; fax: 404-355-8693

**Style:** "simplicity and  
spareness"

**Branca, Inc. Alessandra**

**Branca** 1325 N. State Pkwy.,  
Chicago 60610; 312-787-6123;  
fax: 312-787-6125

**Style:** "comfortable classic luxe"

**Muriel Brandolini, Inc.**

167 E. 80 St., NY 10021;  
212-249-4920; fax: 212-288-  
6946; murielbran@aol.com

**Style:** "colorful"

**Sheila Bridges Design,**

**Inc.** 1925 Seventh Ave.,  
Ste. 8M, NY 10026; 212-  
678-6872; fax: 212-932-  
2514; sbdesign@aol.com;  
www.sheilabridges.com

**Style:** "comfortably classic"

**Thomas Britt, Inc.**

136 E. 57 St., Ste. 701,  
NY 10022; 212-752-9870;  
fax: 212-888-8735

**Style:** "Neoclassic period  
mix and contemporary"

designers  
on trends

Our top decorators differ wildly on how they approach decorating trends. Although the majority embrace new ones passionately, others say that the idea of "being influenced by fashionable design movements" doesn't jibe with their more traditional styles. American mid-20th-century and 1940s French furniture design are pervasive trends, as are "franker colors," "the mix-and-don't-match look," and "up-to-the-minute technology and appliances."

- **Dan Carithers:** "Simple, luxurious fabrics, glass accessories, earthenware American pots, and French ceramics."
- **Milly de Cabrol:** "I adore chinoiserie accessories mixed with contemporary furniture."
- **Thom Filicia:** "Gold-colored metal rather than silver."
- **Fisher Weisman:** "The only good trend is individual, totally custom interiors that are timeless."
- **Richard Keith Langham:** "My old friend, clear color, has finally made a comeback!"
- **John Oetgen:** "Rich colors, as well as super-pale mystery colors. Also big-scale antiques."
- **Miles Redd:** "I'm mad for glass and mirror, and I love using it in unexpected places."
- **Suzanne Rheinsteint:** "Solid-colored fabrics look right. So do hand-blocked printed materials from Cowtan & Tout and Clarence House and hand-screened fabrics by Robert Kime."
- **Katie Ridder:** "Lots of grass cloth and leather tiles on walls. Also, mirroring an entire ceiling with smoky glass, à la Tony Duquette."
- **Daniel Romualdez:** "I'm not into trends."
- **David Mitchell:** "More people are asking for modern interiors. This is 2001, not the 18th century!"
- **Brian Murphy:** "New technology—it's the biggest trend in decorating."



[above and left] Sara Bengur's palette is tinted with Eastern accents.



[above and left] LBDA's Laura Bohn specializes in relaxed atmospherics.

