

# America's Most Brilliant Decorators

A to Z

For the fifth consecutive year, House Beautiful is proud to bring you THE definitive list of America's top decorators. From Maine to Malibu, our Rolodex of 164 interior designers spans all age groups, most budgets, and myriad styles from buttoned-up-18th-century-French to super-groovy-James-Bond-2001. Beyond an alphabetical parade of names

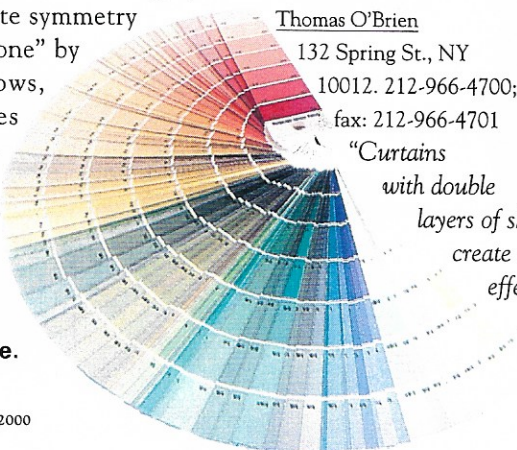
**Style is  
not expensive,  
quality is"**

Victoria Hagan

and addresses, we thought it helpful—and fun—to ask each of our design stars for a few golden nuggets of advice on renovating, selecting furniture, upholstering, collecting, and lighting.

We're frankly bowled over by the results: a whopping 100 percent say they "always, always" start decorating a room only after carefully scrutinizing the architecture (i.e. the size, location, and condition of all windows, doors, walls, floors, and ceilings, etc.). Ninety-five percent say they raise doorways at least 6 inches to give rooms more height, and 90 percent "create symmetry where there is none" by lining up windows, siting fireplaces smack dab in the middle of a wall, or punching out

**Consider using  
colors that you  
can't quite name.**



## Adams Soffes Wood Architecture & Interiors

Lawrence Adams, Eliot Soffes, James Wood  
158 W. 27 St., NY 10001. 212-929-0083;  
fax: 212-645-6721. E-mail: aswdesign@aol.com  
*"Small rooms look taller if you hang  
curtains from ceiling to floor—and don't  
forget vertical mirrors and tall floor  
lamps."*

## Aero Studios Ltd.

Thomas O'Brien  
132 Spring St., NY  
10012. 212-966-4700;  
fax: 212-966-4701

*"Curtains  
with double  
layers of sheer silk  
create a subtle moiré  
effect that's  
simple and  
beautiful."*



## Aman & Carson, Inc.

Jim Aman, Anne Carson  
85 East End Ave., NY 10028  
212-794-8878; fax: 212-794-8878

*"Custom trim detail gives a sophisticated  
look to curtains made of less expensive  
fabric."*

## John Barman, Inc.

500 Park Ave., NY 10022. 212-838-9443;  
fax: 212-838-4028

*"Infuse a stroke of deep color in a small  
space: a tiny niche, bar, or foyer will look  
more exciting."*

## Barbara Barry, Inc.

9526 Pico Blvd.,  
Los Angeles 90035.  
310-276-9977;  
fax: 310-276-9876

*"Use real plaster—  
delicious."*



Contrast is key.



## Bilhuber Inc.

Jeffrey Bilhuber

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

*"Buy the most beautiful, sleek electrical components and don't hide them."*



## Todd Black

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

*"Turning a sixties high-rise apartment into an English drawing room is silly."*

## Sam Blount Inc.

21 W. 58 St., NY 10019.  
212-888-0515; fax: 212-888-1127.  
E-mail: sbountinc@aol.com

*"Paint a stripe of color in the frieze of a crown molding."*

## Muriel Brandolini

212-249-4920; fax: 212-288-6946  
*"Don't fill your rooms with too many flowers."*

## Ronald Bricke & Associates, Inc.

333 E. 69 St., NY 10021.  
212-472-9006; fax: 212-472-9008.  
E-mail: rbricke@aol.com

*"Remove twenty percent of what you think is necessary."*

## Sheila Bridges Design, Inc.

1925 Seventh Ave., Ste. 8M, NY 10026.  
212-678-6872; fax: 212-932-2514.

E-mail: sbdesign@aol.com;  
Website: www.sheilabridges.com  
*"Balance upholstered pieces with non-upholstered. Too much of one or the other doesn't work."*

## Thomas Britt

136 E. 57 St., Ste. 701, NY 10022.  
212-752-9870; fax: 212-888-8735  
*"Bare floors look terrific painted in classic geometric patterns."*

**"To make a small space feel grand, try a large Picasso"**

Jarrett Hedborg, Jeff Hiner

## Bierly-Drake Associates, Inc.

Lee Bierly, Christopher Drake

17 Arlington St., Boston 02116.  
617-247-0081; fax: 617-247-6395  
*"An abundance of toile gives a cozy, casual look."*

**"A traditional room looks more modern if the clients are dressed in Gucci or Prada"**

Robert Couturier

## Bruce Bierman Design, Inc.

29 W. 15 St., NY 10011.  
212-243-1935; fax: 212-243-6615.  
Website: www.biermandesign.com  
*"Rugs determine the color scheme."*

## Laura Bohn

30 W. 26 St., 11th fl., NY 10010.  
212-645-3636; fax: 212-645-3639.  
E-mail: lbdznr@aol.com  
*"Use large moldings around important doors, windows, and fireplaces."*



*"Texture is a new pattern."*

## Nancy Braithwaite Interiors

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

## Branca

Alessandra Branca

1325 N. State Pkwy., Chicago 60610.  
312-787-6123; fax: 312-787-6125  
*"You cannot turn a modernist cube into a neoclassical pavilion."*

## Brown Siegel Design Associates, LLC

Nannette Brown, Stephen Miller Siegel

595 Madison Ave., Ste. 1300, NY 10022.  
212-832-5400; fax: 212-832-5404.  
Website: www.brownsiegel.com  
*"Make cavernous rooms comfortable with several intimate seating groups."*

## Randy Brown, Architect

6704 Dodge St, Omaha, NE 68132.  
402-551-7097; fax: 402-551-2033.  
E-mail: rba@uswest.net; Website: www.randybrownarchitect.com  
*"Space, volume, high ceilings is where we encourage our clients to splurge."*

## Mario Buatta, Inc.

120 E. 80 St., NY 10021. 212-988-6811; fax: 212-861-9321  
*"Start from the center and work out to the walls."*

**"Stay away from recessed lighting—too many holes in a ceiling looks like Swiss cheese"**

Eric D. W. Cohler