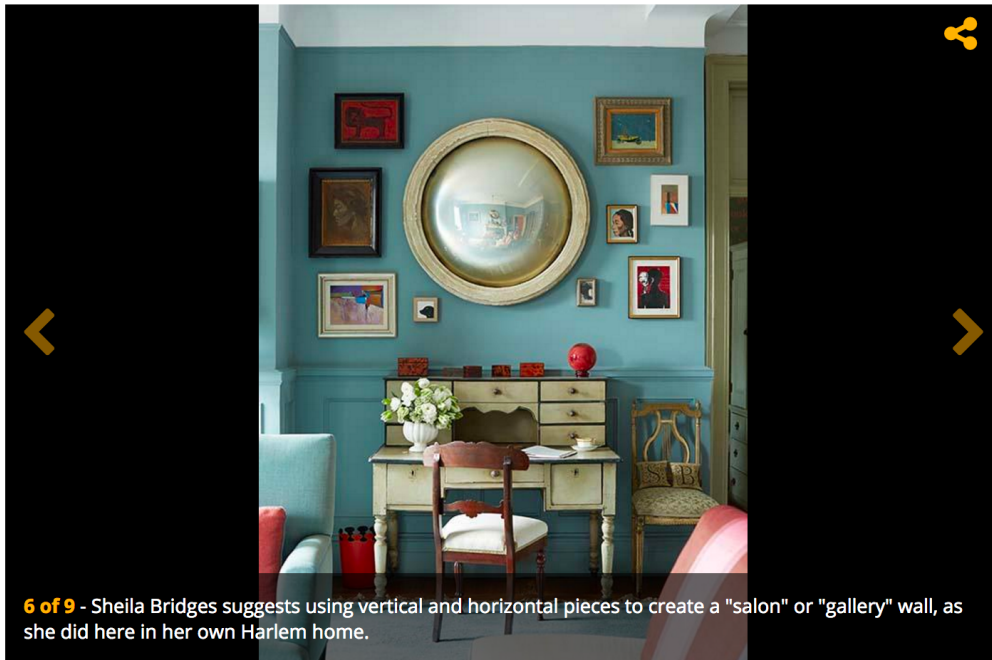


YOUR HOME

# Nate Berkus and 8 other designers share their best advice

Top professionals tell their secret tips for home design

Jura Koncius/The Washington Post | [February 9, 2017](#)



**6 of 9** - Sheila Bridges suggests using vertical and horizontal pieces to create a "salon" or "gallery" wall, as she did here in her own Harlem home.

## 5. Max out your sofa length

"My go-to is loooooong sofas. Equally perfect for sprawling and napping as holding a gaggle of friends and family for cocktails or a buffet. I don't watch much football, but great for a Super Bowl party, too!" —*Jamie Drake, New York, the designer for Michael Bloomberg and Madonna is the owner of Drake Design Associates, which after 30 years is joining forces with Caleb Anderson Design to become Drake + Anderson.*

## 6. Build a gallery wall around the largest piece

"I usually start with the largest piece first; in this case, it is a large, antique convex mirror from Paris that I've had on my wall for more than a decade. The next step is to build around it with both vertical and horizontal pieces, small and large, mixing frames and colors until you have a composition you like. It's always a good idea to lay everything out on the floor first. Just be careful not to step on anything valuable!" —*Sheila Bridges, New York, the Harlem-based designer for Bill Clinton also created the popular Harlem Toile de Jouy wallpaper.*