

# THE DESIGN

# INNOVATORS

Jean-Pierre Villard courtesy Pierre Yovanovitch

Avenue rounds up 50 of the most influential players in New York's adrenaline-filled world of design

# The Conceptualists

MASTERS OF  
THE SUPERIOR  
INTERIOR



**Miles Redd** ↑

It hardly needs to be said that Miles Redd, of Redd Kaihoi Design, has never met a color he didn't like. Yet that also goes for a very major, "very no-color" apartment that he's finishing for a client this fall. "It's a departure for me, quite modernist," he says. As far as he's concerned, "post-Covid, I see interiors continuing to be especially important in people's lives as they start to host again—how fun that we can all finally be together." What's at the top of Redd's hosting list? "A stiff drink as soon as you come in the door. I come back to gin and tonics all year round." As for color: that means "there's a bowl of limes on the bar at all times." [reddkaihoi.com](http://reddkaihoi.com)

**Danielle Colding**

Since launching her eponymous design firm over a decade ago, the Stanford alum and winner of HGTV's *Design Star* season seven has become a darling of the design world, highly sought after for her elegant yet eclectic interiors, a mixture of high and low, custom and vintage she sums up as "cozy cool." A recipient of numerous accolades, she was included in this year's Black Interior Designers Network (BIDN) Top Ten African American Interior Designers, whose judges included industry heavy-hitters Amy Astley of *Architectural Digest* and Asad Syrkett of *Elle Decor*. [dcdny.com](http://dcdny.com)

**Celerie Kemble** ↓ "What we're known for," says Celerie Kemble of Kemble Interiors, the firm originally founded by her mother, Mimi Maddock McMakin, in Palm Beach in 1982, "is making things more themselves, giving a project more of its personality, and bringing out a sense of place." That seems to be everywhere for the sparkly, Harvard-educated Kemble this year, from an Upper East Side townhouse "with a fabulous secret swimming pool," to new launches with Schumacher that run to tortoiseshell, birch bark and embellished sisal. Then there's someplace truly personal—the house she found in Murray Hill "after I got divorced a few years ago," from Eagle Capital Management's Ravenel Boykin "Boykin" Curry IV. She's just moving in now, and the staid neighborhood off lower Park Avenue will never be the same. [kembleinteriors.com](http://kembleinteriors.com)







**Sheila Bridges** ↑ Not every designer, no matter how celebrated, can lay claim to an iconic design. But Sheila Bridges' "Harlem Toile de Jouy" became an instant classic when it first appeared in 2006, and it's still fomenting a creative stir today. On top of her recent collaboration with the Met for its new *Before Yesterday We Could Fly: An Afrofuturist Period Room*, the decorated bone china line Bridges launched with Wedgwood is almost sold out and she is about to introduce another, a Jasperware nod to Harlem Toile. "People are looking at it as legacy china," Bridges says proudly, "the way I look at the Limoges that belonged to my grandmother, and my parents' more contemporary china that I grew up with." [sheilabridges.com](http://sheilabridges.com)

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**Ashley Whittaker** ↓ "I feel like the city is really having a resurgence now," says Ashley Whittaker of her forays down from her base in Millbrook. "For a long time it felt like families were leaving New York, and now they're coming back and there's tremendous apartment turnover—doing those apartments makes me very happy." For the big New York comeback, Whittaker won't let her clients look to her design past, either. "I'm trying to push everyone out of their comfort zone," she explains. "I just told a client, 'Rather than chinoiserie, let's blow up the scale, and let's look at a Japanese painting style that's more modern, but rooted in history.' We went for a metallic background." If you think that's radical, what about this? Whittaker is set to redesign Millbrook's fraying Cottonwood Motel. "I don't know what it's going to be called," she laughs. "But anything that's not as quintessentially *Schitt's Creek* as it is now." [ashleywhittakerdesign.com](http://ashleywhittakerdesign.com)

