

Legends in the Room

Bow down to the icons of interior design—masterminds of the spaces we want to look at again and again. Presenting the 2026 A-List Legends, in a special portfolio shot on location for *Elle Decor*.

Laura Sartori Rimini
and Roberto Peregalli
on the balcony of
Studio Peregalli Sartori's
Milan headquarters.

Studio Peregalli Sartori

For Laura Sartori Rimini and Roberto Peregalli, the aim of each project is always the same: to make spaces that look and feel as if they have always been there. "For us that's the best possible recognition," Peregalli says. While the Milan-based partners' romantic interiors are historical in spirit, they are never slavish copies of the past but rather compelling "reinterpretations" of what could have been. Before joining forces in 1992, they worked for Renzo Mongiardino, the legendary decorator for names like Agnelli and Radziwill, who was also a Peregalli family friend. The duo's own clients have included the Etro and

Zegna families. They have designed a townhouse in New York's Gramercy Park for artists John Currin and Rachel Feinstein and are now working on a new chalet in St. Moritz, a Fifth Avenue apartment overlooking Central Park, and a flat in a Milan building designed by Piero Portaluppi. Their rooms tend to be sumptuously and meticulously appointed with layers of antiques, but the results are never too polished. For one Milanese flat they even commissioned trompe l'œil damp stains to be painted on the walls. Sartori Rimini explains, "We quite like a bit of shabbiness." —Ian Phillips

CARMEN COLOMBO

Pamela Shamshiri in the library of a New York townhouse she designed for a client.



Studio Shamshiri

Born in Tehran and raised in Rome, Iran, and Los Angeles, Pamela Shamshiri brings to interiors an evocatively layered, worldly approach that is filtered through a lens of laid-back California cool. Now based in L.A., Shamshiri got her start as a production designer before co-founding the award-winning design firm Commune. Since leaving to open her eponymous studio in 2016 with her brother Ramin, she has worked with such clients as Paul McCartney, Anne Hathaway, and Seth Rogen and designed jeweler Irene Neuwirth's New York City boutique. In

addition to a number of residential projects, Shamshiri is currently developing a furniture collection and has ongoing partnerships with Christopher Farr and Nanz Hardware. Through it all she returns to her hometown for inspiration. "The light in L.A. is hard to ignore, but it's really the contradictions that keep me interested," she says. "Things are constantly being added, replaced, sometimes erased. I think that's what I respond to most: spaces that feel like they've evolved, even when they've been very carefully designed." —Elizabeth Angell

JEREMY LIEBMAN (SHAMSHIRI, SILLS)

Stephen Sills Associates

When one thinks of Stephen Sills, what comes to mind are vibrantly sophisticated, eminently livable rooms highlighted by objects with heady provenance. The historically minded maestro makes the most of the rich personality imparted by pedigreed antiques and artworks, whether it's chairs owned by Billy Baldwin or a Christian Bérard portrait that belonged to Christian Dior. But the New York-based Oklahoman always keeps things fresh through his creative juxtapositions and lively combinations of texture and pattern—all of it impeccably

composed with flair informed by his far-flung travels. (A visit to the Grand Egyptian Museum is currently at the top of his must-do list.) "Inspiration for me always comes from my clients," says Sills, whose roster includes Aerin Lauder and Ian Schrager, and, previously, Tina Turner. With projects underway in places ranging from London to Washington, DC, to Jackson Hole, Wyoming, Sills is also putting together his third solo monograph. "I've been saving my last eight years of work for it," he says. "It's coming soon." —Mitchell Owens



Stephen Sills in his Upper East Side office.

Dimorestudio

"We have this mantra of pushing things that are wrong, juxtapositions that at first glance don't look like they should work," says Britt Moran, the North Carolina-born half of the Milan-based Dimorestudio. "It makes a room feel more lived in, less perfect," the firm's Tuscan co-founder and creative director, Emiliano Salci, adds. Animated by twists of pattern and color, the duo's interiors exude a seductive Italian flair with a tinge of nostalgia, drawing on influences ranging from Carlo Scarpa to Japanese design. Their high-profile

projects have included the Grand Hotel et de Milan, the Dolce Vita Orient Express train, and the Fendi Palazzo Privé, an apartment for VIP guests in a Roman palace. During this year's Milan design week, Dimorestudio unveiled a gallery in a former bank for their furniture collection, and they are overseeing several residential and hospitality projects across Europe. "Our ambition lies in continuity," Moran says, "developing a coherent body of work that evolves organically, without repetition." —*IP*



Dimorestudio's Emiliano Salci (left) and Britt Moran in Salci's Milan apartment.



Charlotte Moss in the study of her Manhattan townhouse, days before moving out.

Charlotte Moss

One might fairly assume that in her 41st year in the interiors business, Charlotte Moss would be slowing down. That assumption would be wrong. The doyenne of classically elegant decorating, who launched her New York City firm after a stint on Wall Street, is a historicist at heart, always personalizing spaces based on deep relationships with her clients. In addition to her residential work, Moss is currently spearheading the redesign of the St. Regis Houston and leading the renovation of the Red Fox Inn & Tavern in Middleburg, Virginia, one of America's oldest guesthouses. Her 13th book, *Charlotte Moss: At Home in Virginia*, is out in September and will showcase the country home and gardens she has created for herself in her native state. "The decorating process is a very organic one," Moss says. "Ideas emerge without force as a result of experiences, travel, people, dogeared and time-worn clippings, and the occasional eureka 'must do this' moment." She adds that the house in Virginia gave her an opportunity to experiment and, as she puts it, "loosen my collar and work with people I admire, enjoy, and love learning and laughing with." —*EA*



Peter Marino in front of a sculpture by Richard Deacon at the Peter Marino Art Foundation in Southampton, NY.

Peter Marino

Few wear the label of design impresario as boldly as Peter Marino. Over his half-century career, the New York architect has established himself as a supreme arbiter of luxury retail environments, masterminding brand-defining boutiques for the likes of Chanel, Dior, Fendi, and Tiffany, elevating them with adventurously chic, eye-catching design and art. Marino, whose first job was for Andy Warhol, has always attracted an elite clientele, designing residences and the occasional yacht for titans of finance (Martinez, Safra, Schwarzman) and fashion (Bergé and Saint Laurent, Wertheimer, Armani, Arnault). His firm—150 employees strong—has a sprawling portfolio that encompasses hotels, offices, apartment buildings, and historic preservation projects. Obsessive about materials and craftsmanship, Marino approaches every project with a connoisseur's eye, commissioning creations from his favorite artists, who are also in his rangy personal collection. His own trove of Tiffany silver, for example, is the subject of his latest book. On the heels of his revamp of Dior's New York flagship, Marino is completing the brand's Osaka flagship with a façade by Sou Fujimoto while continuing renovations at the Hotel Cipriani in Venice and working on several private residences from St. Bart's to St.-Tropez. —*Stephen Wallis*

VICTORIA HEY-HUTCHINSON

JEREMY LIEBMAN (MOSS, MARINO)

India Mahdavi
in her showroom
in Paris's 7th
Arrondissement.



India Mahdavi

"Polyglot and polychrome" is how India Mahdavi describes herself. Born in Iran and raised in the U.S., Germany, and France, the Paris-based designer has, since launching her firm in 2000, established herself as a virtuoso of sensual geometry and bright, poppy colors. Reflecting a belief that interiors should be "happy spaces," Mahdavi's best-known projects include a Paris apartment for the late fashion designer Alber Elbaz, two iterations of the Gallery at Sketch restaurant in London (the first in pinks, the second in radiant yellows),

the Cloître hotel in Arles, France, and her redesign of the iconic Turkish Room at the Villa Medici in Rome. Mahdavi's product collaborations range from boots for Aigle to rugs for CC-Tapis and La Manufacture Cogolin, and her own furnishings collection features more than 100 designs, the best known being her chess piece–like Bishop stools. Always a champion of artistry and craftsmanship, Mahdavi also runs an exhibition space in Paris to showcase the work of other designers. —IP

Studio Sofield

If there's a word that summarizes the work of Studio Sofield, it's *luxury*. But that would be underselling the boundlessly creative spaces masterminded by the New York practice helmed by William Sofield and Emma O'Neill. The firm made its mark with boutiques for such revered fashion labels as Gucci and Yves Saint Laurent, and, as with the best couturiers, its exquisitely tailored work seduces with refined materials and fresh vision. Over four decades Sofield has devised homes for creative luminaries such as Tom Ford, Ralph Lauren, and

Helen and Brice Marden, as well as hospitality projects like the Soho Grand Hotel, and upscale apartment buildings—most of it documented in the studio's first monograph, published last fall. "I'm committed to not having a signature style," Sofield says. "Putting the book together reinforced the breadth of our work." Recent projects include a Fifth Avenue apartment building, residences in the Flatiron Building, and a superyacht. "The book covered the first 40 years," he says. "We already have more for the next one." —Tim McKeough

William Sofield in
Studio Sofield's
Manhattan office
with his dog Walter.



MATEO VERZINI

JEREMY LIEBMAN

Vincent Van Duysen in the Palazzo Molteni, the Milan headquarters of Molteni&C, where he is creative director.



Vincent Van Duysen

The interiors created by Vincent Van Duysen are endowed with a supreme sense of calm and groundedness. A master of evocative minimalism, the Antwerp-based architect and designer favors natural materials, elemental shapes, atmospheric lighting, and spatial rigor. He aims to reduce things to their essence, as he has put it, "but not at the expense of comfort and soul." His influences include Andrée Putman and timeless architecture, whether ancient classical structures or vernacular buildings in Asia and Africa. His many brand collaborations, designing both retail

spaces and furnishings, include Zara Home, Flos, Kvadrat, Zanotta, B&B Italia, and Molteni&C, where he serves as creative director. To "unplug and recharge," Van Duysen retreats to his home on the Portuguese coast, which he describes as "the ultimate source of serenity." Currently on his drawing board are residences in New York, Belgium, Thailand, and Hong Kong, as well as a pair of hotels for JNcQUOI in Portugal. Look no further than Van Duysen's third monograph, coming out this fall, for affirmation of his mantra: "Eliminating is the purest form of elegance." —IP

Kelly Behun Studio

Great design and great art are inseparable. This has been Kelly Behun's guiding principle over the two decades since she founded her New York City studio. They are not, however, interchangeable—artwork should never be just another element in an interior scheme. "Art, for me, lives in its own lane, and that is not about decorating," Behun once told *Elle Decor*. It is her fluency in the languages of both worlds that has made her one of the most sought-after names for such big name collector clients as Alicia Keys and Swizz Beatz. Behun got her start

in Ian Schrager's design studio, where she worked with Andrée Putman and Philippe Starck. The influence of her foundational experience designing of-the-moment hotels, like the Delano in Miami Beach and the Royalton in New York, can be seen today in her portfolio of modern, airy, elegantly edgy spaces stocked with statement-making, sculptural furniture and spirited art. Behun's debut monograph, to be released next year, showcases the full range of a practice that has made her studio a standard-bearer. —Julia Cancilla



Kelly Behun in the living room of her Manhattan home and studio in Soho.

VICTORIA HEY-HUTCHINSON (VAN DUYSEN); JEREMY LIEBMAN (BEHUN)



Tom Scheerer in a Fifth Avenue apartment he designed for longtime clients.

Tom Scheerer

Since opening his New York City firm in 1995, Tom Scheerer has perfected the art of mixmaster rooms that fly under the radar—casually elevated, uncannily soothing—for a discreet, patrician clientele. His interiors exude a sophisticated sunniness, even when not in seaside locales, where he has done some of his best-known work, notably for the Lyford Cay Club in the Bahamas. There are no Scheerer giveaways, unless one counts Knoll’s classic Saarinen table, a favorite modern touch he has called perfect in every way, or Quadrille’s graphic faux-bamboo trellis wallpaper, which graces numerous Scheerer interiors. He also has an affection for wicker and clean white architecture, both defining attributes of his own unfussily chic Bahamas retreat. “The resonance of great architecture is irrefutable in the way it can enhance life,” the designer says, pointing to Haussmann’s Paris, where he lives four months out of the year. Scheerer, who published his latest book, *Still Decorating*, in 2025, says these days he gravitates toward preservation projects, citing his work on an Addison Mizner clubhouse in Florida. “I’ve built a reputation for getting heritage projects just right—respecting tradition but bringing them into the present.” —*MO*

Patricia Urquiola in the Milan office of Studio Urquiola.



Studio Urquiola

Spanish-born Patricia Urquiola moved to Milan nearly 40 years ago to study architecture and design under Achille Castiglioni, and she hasn’t strayed far—from either the city or her mentor’s conviction that design should be both rigorous and alive. Today her wide-ranging practice—she and her husband Alberto Zontone oversee a team of more than 100—moves fluidly between furniture and product design, residential interiors, hotels, and retail spaces. In addition to an astonishing range of furnishings, Urquiola has created bags, shoes, clothes, and faucets, all of which bear the stamp of her playful, tactile sensibility. Since 2015 she has been the creative director of the Italian furniture behemoth Cassina, and this past April she received the iF Design Lifetime Achievement Award, citing her “distinctive approach, which combines sensuality, material exploration, and technological innovation.” Urquiola, the accolade added, “is regarded as one of the most respected designers of our time.” —*JC*



Robert Couturier with one of his four dogs in his townhouse in Harlem, in front of a portrait by JR.

Robert Couturier

Deeply connected to France, where he grew up and studied architecture, but creatively nourished in New York, where he has been based for four decades, Robert Couturier conjures dashing, cosmopolitan interiors in which Old World sophistication feels perfectly up to date. Armed with an encyclopedic knowledge of design history, he is continually on the hunt for fresh sparks, prizing inventive contemporary creations as much as stately centuries-old portraits and ancien régime furniture. “I am particularly keen on works of art that pull from different inspirations

to achieve something really new,” says Couturier, whose aesthetic adventuring never fails to produce charismatic results. He doesn’t hesitate to hang a strikingly sinuous Ingo Maurer light fixture in an English country house from 1904, blast a prewar Manhattan apartment with Hermès-orange paneling, or install a canopy bed trimmed in bright pink in his own Harlem home. Working for a distinguished roster of clients, such as Anne Hearst, Jay McInerney, and Frédéric Fekkai, Couturier has a joie de vivre that is always unmistakable. —*TM*

JEREMY LIEBMAN (SCHEERER, COUTURIER); VICTORIA HELY-HUTCHINSON (URQUIOLA)

Luis Laplace (right) and Christophe Comoy in front of a painting by Philip Guston in their Paris office.



Laplace

For more than two decades, Luis Laplace has been a favorite designer for art world heavyweights. The Argentine-born, Paris-based architect and his French partner, Christophe Comoy, launched their firm in 2004, just as they took on their first project for the family of powerhouse art dealers Manuela and Iwan Wirth. They have since designed several Hauser & Wirth galleries around the world as well as multiple projects for the Wirths' hospitality arm, most recently the Chesa Marchetta hotel in the Swiss alpine enclave of Sils Maria. Their studio, now a team of

60, brings an art-centric *savoir-faire* to understatedly luxe spaces for clients such as collector Mick Flick, dealer Emmanuel Perrotin, and artists Cindy Sherman and Rashid Johnson. Of the firm's own 19th-century headquarters, Laplace says, "We created a 15,000-square-foot ecosystem that houses our offices, design studios, viewing rooms, and a ceramics atelier." Current projects include Hauser & Wirth's new Palo Alto gallery, residences from Los Angeles to Miami to Paris, and the California Academy of Studio Arts in San Francisco. —SW

MATTHEW AVIGNONE

Sheila Bridges

Perhaps the only designer to have her work printed on Converse high-tops and included in the collections of the Victoria & Albert Museum and the Smithsonian, Sheila Bridges is a rare talent. The sensation-causing Harlem Toile de Jouy pattern she created for wallpaper and upholstery has been used on Wedgwood china and Le Creuset cookware. Bridges's distinctive brand of playful, witty classicism has made her the designer of choice for a client roster that includes music moguls

and high-profile figures like Bill Clinton, whose Harlem offices she designed, and Kamala Harris. Between frequent visits to Rome ("It's been my go-to for inspiration for the past 40 years," she says), Bridges splits her time between a historic apartment building in Harlem, a built-from-scratch barn in Hudson, New York, and a pied-à-terre in Reykjavik, where she goes to ride Icelandic horses and soak in the volcanic hot springs. Up next? A tabletop collection with Walmart. —EA



At home in Harlem, Sheila Bridges poses with a Roman bust she bought 30 years ago.

JEREMY LIEBMAN

Legends: The Extended List

ALEX PAPACHRISTIDIS INTERIORS

Rooted in tradition, the New York native's richly layered rooms deliver warmth and pizzazz with the utmost rigor and refinement.

AXEL VERVOORDT

The atmospheric, patinaed interiors that the Belgian designer and dealer creates for clients including Calvin Klein and Robert De Niro remain the ne plus ultra of minimal chic.

BRANCA

Rome-born, Chicago-based Alessandra Branca specializes in eminently livable, spirited takes on classic style.

CULLMAN & KRAVIS

Traditional or modern, the interiors devised by Ellie Cullman and her team are bewitching interpretations of American style.

DARRYL CARTER

The onetime lawyer's discerning way with art and his creative takes on modernism have made him a longtime Washington, DC, favorite.

DAVID KLEINBERG DESIGN ASSOCIATES

A master of materials, textures, and the subtlest of details, Kleinberg crafts dashing, supremely refined interiors around the world.

DEBORAH NEVINS

The landscape designer's esteemed work ranges from urban gardens and private estates to the Stavros Niarchos Cultural Center and Park in Greece.

GRENNY GREIG ASSOCIATES

London-based Veere Grenney infuses his elegantly tailored spaces with a joyful sophistication, from Knightsbridge to Mustique.

HAYNES-ROBERTS

A sleek, luxurious take on downtown cool is the hallmark of partners in life and work Timothy Haynes and Kevin Roberts.

HOLLANDER DESIGN

Led by landscape architect Edmund Hollander, the firm has a diverse portfolio that spans Hamptons estates, public parks, and, recently, the Fall Line private resort in Georgia.

JACQUES GARCIA

With a résumé that includes the Wynn Las Vegas and the royal apartments at Versailles, the French designer is a virtuoso of high-impact, sumptuous spaces.

JACQUES GRANGE

Thanks to his exquisitely curated interiors for Yves Saint Laurent, François Pinault, and Aerin Lauder, the Paris designer's name is practically synonymous with good taste.

JAMIE DRAKE

Fabulous is an appropriate adjective for Michael Bloomberg's longtime designer, who crafts bold, ebullient interiors defined by sculptural furnishings and chromatic flourishes.

JAYNE DESIGN STUDIO

Thomas Jayne brings a passion for history and decorative arts to every project, whether a Soho loft or a Palm Beach mansion.

JOSEPH DIRAND

Meticulously composed and artfully detailed, Dirand's residential, retail, and hospitality projects—from Balmain's Paris flagship to the Surf Club in Miami—exude an irresistible restrained glamour.

JUAN MONTOYA DESIGN

The Colombian-born, New York-based Montoya is a maestro of unforgettable, heady interiors, typically layered with far-flung references, objects, and art.

MICHAEL S. SMITH

The Obamas, Harrison Ford, and Shonda Rhimes are clients for whom Smith has seamlessly melded European classicism and modern American style (see page 74).

OLSON KUNDIG

Led by co-founder Tom Kundig, the Seattle firm designs public buildings, hospitality projects, and houses; the latter favor a modern aesthetic that melds industrial and organic materials, with an emphasis on integration with nature.

PAOLO MOSCHINO LTD.

Run by Moschino with Philip Vergeylen, the London studio works on projects from Gstaad to Mustique, in addition to collections of fabrics, lighting, and furniture.

PETER PENNOYER ARCHITECTS

Specializing in historically inspired houses and high-rises as well as preservation work, the erudite Pennoyer thoughtfully balances classic and contemporary, whether in apartments for Natalie Massenet and Jeff Koons or a Czech Cubist-style house in Ohio.

PIERRE YOVANOVITCH

The Paris designer devises warm, clean-lined residences and hotels outfitted with sculptural, even whimsical furnishings, often from the collections at his Paris and New York showrooms. His creative talents also extend to exhibition design and opera sets, including productions in Korea and Italy last year.

ROCKWELL GROUP

Conjurers of evocative dining and hotel spaces as well as imaginative theater sets, this multifaceted firm led by David Rockwell knows how to create a memorable show.

ROMANEK DESIGN STUDIO

Catering to a starry clientele that includes Beyoncé, Christian Bale, and Demi Moore, the Los Angeles-based Brigette Romanek creates distinctive spaces with personality to match.

ROSE TARLOW

Admired for the historical sensitivity in her projects, the Los Angeles-based Tarlow is beloved for her lines of furniture, textiles, lighting, and accessories.

SELLDORF ARCHITECTS

Long one of the art world's go-to architects, Annabelle Selldorf breathes new life into institutions like New York's Frick Collection. Rigor, understatement, and material finesse are her calling cards, whether for a Hamptons home or the new Shaker Museum in Chatham, NY.

SHELTON MINDEL

Passionate and knowledgeable, principal Lee F. Mindel specializes in crisp modern spaces punctuated with art and masterful mixes of new and vintage design for clients like Sting and Trudie Styler. He also has multiple product collaborations and runs Galerie56.

S.R. GAMBREL

Steven Gambrel masterminds glamorous yet livable residences animated by high-voltage gestures and bursting with character. Known for his deftness with historic homes, he's also become synonymous with statement kitchens.

TENBERKE

The 2025 AIA Gold Medal winner, architect Deborah Berke, currently dean of the Yale School of Architecture, crafts inviting modern spaces that embrace ample touches of luxury.

TOSHIKO MORI ARCHITECT

Environmentally and culturally attuned, Mori's sculptural structures, from Senegal to Brooklyn and beyond, are known for exquisite interplays of light and landscape.

VICENTE WOLF ASSOCIATES

Cozy yet elevated, meticulously arrayed with worldly furnishings and art, Wolf's interiors attain an unmistakable serene elegance.

VICTORIA HAGAN

From Aspen to Palm Beach, Hagan deftly translates her winsome, understated brand of American elegance for any climate.

WILLIAMS LAWRENCE

Well versed in traditional decorating, Bunny Williams and Elizabeth Lawrence are all about making classic comfortable—and fun. Williams, a true figurehead of the industry, also spearheads a wide-ranging eponymous home collection.

Kelly Wearstler

Whether she's crafting a statuesque birchwood piano or conjuring a cozy take on Brutalism for a bistro in the French Alps, holding back isn't in Kelly Wearstler's vocabulary. The Los Angeles-based powerhouse is beloved for her punchy, offbeat interiors that meld eye-catching patterns, vintage treasures, and an exuberance that has been much copied but is impossible to replicate. She also designs bespoke furniture and serves as the creative engine behind the Proper Hotel brand. One of her enduring aesthetic touchstones is the radical simplicity of pioneering

French designer Andrée Putman. "There was a graphic clarity to her approach to space and proportion that feels timeless," Wearstler says. "It is rigorous, yet effortlessly elegant." The designer also finds inspiration closer to home: "My library is a deeply personal archive of rare and out-of-print books and printed matter," she says. "It's a refuge for me to slow down and disconnect." This fall will see the release of her collection of modular furniture for H&M Home as well as a new line of glassware for Belgian design label Serax. —Geoffrey Montes



Kelly Wearstler in Milan's Palazzo Acerbi, where her H&M Home collection was exhibited.