

GREAT DECORATING TIPS FROM AMERICA'S TOP 125 DESIGNERS

House Beautiful

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EXCLUSIVE:

How to Get the New Ralph Lauren Look

Stunning furnishings, bedding, accessories,
and tableware from the Lauren Collection

**DRAMATIC NEW
MAKEOVERS:**

- Fabulous family room
before and after
- Making room for
the new baby



AMERICA'S **TOP 125** INTERIOR DESIGNERS

House Beautiful's annual list of the nation's leading decorators includes tips on hot colors, final touches, where to shop, and a confession or two about big mistakes

Atlanta-based designer Nancy Braithwaite (below) says her decorating style (right) includes classic interpretations of country, traditional, and contemporary designs. As for colors, right now she's working with contrasts: "Very dark colors juxtaposed with light ones, but always muted and subtle."



WHAT ARE THE **COLORS** YOU FAVOR RIGHT NOW?

Kool-Aid colors. They are the perfect antidote to gray and dingy urban light conditions—a major consideration for city dwellings. **ROBIN BELL**

Pistachio green and Prussian blue with accents of tobacco and a dab of burnt apricot. The balance is harmonious due to the crispness of the green, the depth of the blue, the strength of the tobacco, and the vibrancy of the apricot.

KIM ALEXANDRIUK

I always prefer clear, clean colors—earth tones such as burnt sienna, ocher, bronze green, chocolate brown, and eggplant are some of my favorites; they're warm and create a calm backdrop for light shades like parchment and French white.

MICHAEL BERMAN

Peacock blue, burnt orange, pale silver-gilt, and flat charcoal black are a few of the colors that I favor now. Farrow & Ball paint has changed my decorating life forever, with their perfect translations of timeless classics. **THOMAS BEETON**

Neutrals, black, chocolate brown, beige-white with a bit of color.

LINDA BEDELL

Kim Alexandriuk
Santa Monica, CA
310-394-8100

Barbara Barry
Los Angeles, CA
310-276-9977

Linda Bedell
Aspen, CO
970-925-4310

Thomas M. Beeton
West Hollywood, CA
323-650-9234

**Robin Bell
McMillen**
New York, NY
212-753-5600

Sara Bengur
New York, NY
212-226-8796

Nate Berkus
Chicago, IL
312-642-0404

Michael Berman
Los Angeles, CA
323-933-0220

**Lee Bierly,
Christopher Drake
Bierly-Drake Assoc.**
Boston, MA
617-247-0081

Jeffrey Bilhuber
New York, NY
212-308-4888

Nancy Braithwaite
Atlanta, GA
404-355-1740

Alessandra Branca
Chicago, IL
312-787-6123

Gerrie Bremermann
New Orleans, LA
504-891-7763

Top Designers

Sheila Bridges
New York, NY
212-535-4390

Betsy Brown
Birmingham, AL
205-871-2424

Mario Buatta
New York, NY
212-988-6811

Sue Burgess
Chevy Chase, MD
301-652-6217

William-Christopher Design
W. Tyson Burks, Christopher
Ridolfi
Dallas, TX
214-956-7973

Russell Bush
New York, NY
212-686-9152

Dan Carithers
Atlanta, GA
404-355-8661

Darryl Carter
Washington, DC
202-234-5926

Tim Clarke
Los Angeles, CA
310-659-1950



Eric Cohler
New York, NY
212-737-8600

Christopher Coleman
Brooklyn, NY
718-222-8984

Celeste Cooper
New York, NY
212-826-5667
North Easton, MA
857-222-0328

Nancy Corzine
New York, NY
212-758-4240

Robert Couturier
New York, NY
212-463-7177

Joseph Paul Davis
Palm Beach, FL
561-655-8676



Sheila Bridges (above left) says her finishing touch to a room is to "look around to see what might enhance the original scheme. It might be a rustic mirror or an antique box from a flea market, anything that might give the room one last pop."

Athalie Derse
Lake Forest, IL
847-735-0354

William Diamond, Anthony Baratta
Diamond Baratta Design
New York, NY
212-966-8892

Orlando Diaz-Azcuy
San Francisco, CA
415-362-4500

Elizabeth Dinkel
Los Angeles, CA
310-278-3700

Barry Dixon
Warrenton, VA
540-341-8501

T. Keller Donovan
New York, NY
212-760-0537

Jamie Drake
New York, NY
212-754-3099

Peter Dunham
Los Angeles, CA
323-848-9900

David Anthony Easton
New York, NY
212-334-3820

Mica Ertegun
MAC II
New York, NY
212-249-4466



WHAT IS YOUR FINISHING TOUCH IN A ROOM?

A great tray filled with appropriate things for that particular room. For instance, a library would get a mahogany tray fitted with a sterling mint julep cup for pens and pencils, a pile of monogrammed notepads, an Hermès address book, and maybe a magnifying glass.

T. KELLER DONOVAN

Artwork, books, and candlelight.

PETER DUNHAM

Flowers, indigenous and seasonal, ignite any room with organic fire. As they live and breathe, so does the room.

BARRY DIXON

Pillows and pottery.

TIM CLARKE

Jelly beans, color matched to the decor. Candles everywhere.

JAMIE DRAKE

Taking something away.

DAN CARITHERS

Every room needs some shine—a lacquer box, a Lucite table, or a metallic lamp!

CHRISTOPHER COLEMAN