

WOLFF ON MICHAEL EISNER: TOUGHER THAN SADDAM.
TOMASKY ON TORRICELLI: FLAMEOUT IN JERSEY

OCTOBER 14, 2002

NEW YORK

HOUSE TOUR

Keith McNally's Country Estate in the Village

A Brooklyn Church Converts to a Kid-Friendly Home

East Meets West in an Elegant Modern Duplex

BY WENDY GOODMAN

Does Your Apartment
Need a New Look?

THE CITY'S

100
BEST
Architects
&
Decorators



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Home Design 2002

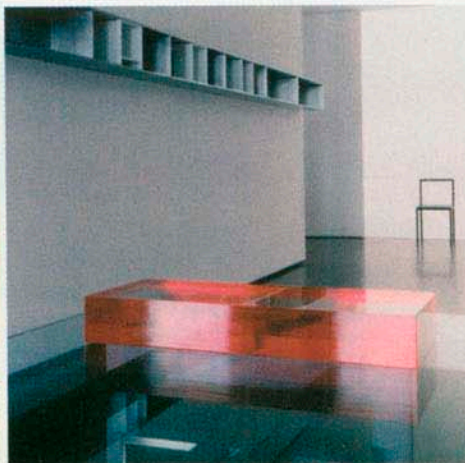
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- 42 **East Meets West** Product designer Michael Aram's downtown duplex offers a thrilling fusion of sleek modernism and Indian flourish, orchestrated by architect sisters Hariri & Hariri.
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- 66 **Word Painter** By Philip Weiss
Frederic Tuten, with an illustrious roster of writer friends and former students (Walter Mosley, Oscar Hijuelos), is a writer's writer. With a salon full of art-world friends (Ross Bleckner, David Salle), he's an artist's writer. With *The Green Hour*, his new high-art love story, his work may be seen on a broader canvas.
- 68 **Ladies' Choice** By Bob Morris
Arnold Scaasi's new show at FIT only goes to show what the grande dames he's dressed (from Barbara Bush to Barbra Streisand) have known for decades. As one designer says, "He's earned his divahood."

ON THE COVER: PHOTOGRAPHED BY CARLOS EMILIO.

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Muriel Brandolini



Deborah Berke & Partners Architects



Alternative Design

The Top 100 Architects & Decorators

Whether you long for comfy crushed velvet or gleaming stainless steel, our metropolis has a designer who is right for your apartment. Here, our definitive list of the city's top interior talents, their signature looks, and their most well-known clients. Bear in mind: You won't find some of New York's biggest draws—Philip Johnson, David Rockwell—in the following pages, largely because their focus is outside the home (call them, however, if you've got a fabulous restaurant or museum to build). What you *will* find is a range of home-design legends and up-and-comers, each of them ready to help you rethink how you live.

Aero Studios Limited

132 Spring Street (212-966-4700)

Thomas O'Brien has a sense of personal style so refined it can be broken down into its constituent parts: dark woods, pale colors, elemental lighting, and modern furniture (by himself and others) in sleek, subtly textured materials. His current passion? "This high-gloss epoxy paint I'm using in my new Bellport house. It has a wonderful vintage-yet-modern quality."

Clients: Giorgio Armani, Ralph and Ricky Lauren

Ahari Associates Architecture

225 Lafayette Street, Suite 205 (212-431-4456)
M. Nasser Ahari adds a romantic flavor to modern rooms, using handmade cast metal, his own sconces, and bronze tiles. An 1850s townhouse, for example, was retrofitted with shoji screens in the bedroom and an adjustable dining table that can be raised for pancakes, lowered for sushi. Plain spaces are roughed up with interesting ob-

jects, many from Asia, some from Africa. **Clients:** Abigail Disney, Robert Kelly

Alternative Design

334 Barrow Street, Jersey City (646-230-7222)

Principal Courtney Sloane's style is bold and high-tech, to suit the electronic needs of her entertainment-industry clientele. But she mixes the heavy metals—"copper in any form"—with a softer, seventies spatial sense (like conversation pits) and an array of Asian and African touches. "We always include ethnic accessories and artworks from other cultures, and mix them with cutting-edge, contemporary art." **Clients:** Sean "P. Diddy" Combs, Queen Latifah

Archi-Tectonics

111 Mercer Street (212-226-0303)

Architect Winka Dubbeldam will soon be known for her 497 Greenwich Street condo project, an eleven-story building with a hori-

zontally rippling glass façade. Dubbeldam's houses and apartments also favor the avant-garde: A globetrotting bachelor got a blue concrete tub rising out of the floor, a suburban couple a house like a continuous corridor, with cul-de-sacs for eating, sleeping, and working. **Clients:** Frederique Van Der Wal, Steve Saks

Architecture Research Office

180 Varick Street (212-675-1870)

The work of partners Stephen Cassell and Adam Yarinsky moves beyond modern via adventures in materials: laser-cut stainless steel, leather floors, a translucent beeswax partition in a home. "Our work uses carefully studied details, materials, and light to create intimacy and warmth."

Bruce T. Bananto Inc.

159 West 25th Street (212-727-0282)

Light practically bounces around a Bananto-designed apartment, reflecting from tin ceiling to

UT

158 Lafayette Street, second floor
(212-966-8815)

Partners Clarissa Richardson and Heidar Sadeki act as if the swinging sixties had never ended, with punchy furniture and environments that combine hot colors and smooth, flowing surfaces. The designers of Bliss, they are also expert in the maxi-bathroom—his and hers tubs, steam rooms, two-way glass. "One client rented a Hamptons house but never used it," the duo note. "They didn't want to leave their townhouse in the city."

Clients: Marcia Kilgore

Alan Wanzenberg

211 West 61st Street (212-489-7840)

Wanzenberg combines the best of the architect's and the decorator's sensibilities. His rooms have a librarylike feel, with warm lighting, simple shapes, and the textures of leather and wood.

Michael Watson Architect

66 West 38th Street (212-221-6936)

Watson shines in tricky urban renovation projects, incorporating original architectural elements into modern, practical interiors. Clients also love his low-key, detail-oriented personality.

Clients: Alan Pakula, Sidney Lumet

Bunny Williams

306 East 61st Street (212-207-4040)

A thorough traditionalist, who worked for the legendary Sister Parish before starting her own firm, Williams has the history of neoclassical decorating firmly in her head. Whether you want country comfort—like her own Connecticut living room—or formal Georgian elegance, Williams can make magic, intuiting whatever you need.

Tod Williams

Billie Tsien & Associates

222 Central Park South (212-582-2385)

Williams and Tsien's projects change moods with the changing light, which appears not through windows but through gaps between sharply cut walls of exquisite materials: bronze, fiberglass, glazed brick, or the smoothest concrete. True urbanites, they can cleverly fit life's necessities into tight spaces—a lap pool below a townhouse, for example—without sacrificing serenity. **Clients:** Jerry Speyer

Vicente Wolf Associates

333 West 39th Street, tenth floor
(212-465-0590)

A master of restraint. Wolf's interiors typically have a light palette, strictly edited to highlight the furnishings, which gives his rooms a distinctive linear quality. The sensuous appears via luxurious materials and pieces picked up on Wolf's travels. "I take a global point of view, blending different periods and cultures, seeking a mood that is peaceful, calm and user-friendly." **Clients:** Clive Davis, Ralph Pucci, David Copperfield

Finding the right interior designer has never been easier!

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DESIGNER REFERRAL SERVICE OF NEW YORK

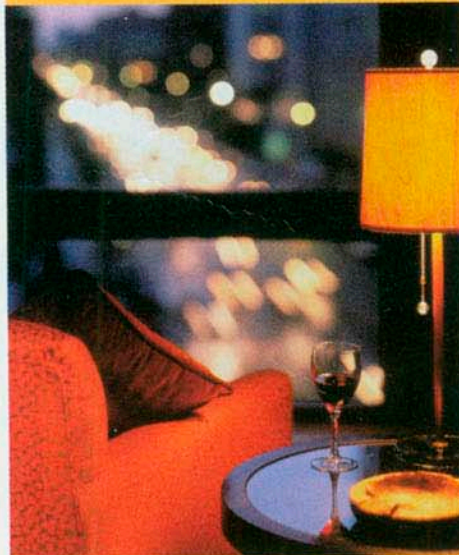


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