

DESIGNERS TODAY

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PORTFOLIO



GRATEFUL *Spaces*

Amid coronavirus chaos, people are rediscovering—and appreciating—areas of their homes that provide a sense of calm and order. Nina Mason of Contour Interior Design says her clients understand the connection between design and well-being and want spaces that can be utilized for both work and relaxation. On the following pages, designers share pre-COVID projects that promote productivity and peace in a pandemic.

Photo: This page, Julie Seeler; Exterior Design: Contour Interior Design; Furniture: Paola Lenti; Photo: Opposite page, top to bottom: Kelly Marshall, Kelly O'Neal

BRINGING IN *Brutalism & Biophilia*

Under Laurence Carr's expert curation, an Englewood, New Jersey, family, used to globetrotting in search of art and vintage finds, can luxuriate locally—cooking, eating and gathering, in an eco-friendly, organized and state of the art kitchen inspired by Brutalist architecture. While the contemporary aesthetic with its quartz countertops may vibe minimal, materials and smart appliances—such as the Wolf steam oven and Thermador fridge with temperature control for preserving produce—provide maximum energy efficiency. Carr, who specializes in holistic interior design, creates with energy flow in mind and thoughtfully incorporates reclaimed, green and living materials into her projects. Choices here include salvaged lumber for the cabinets, Benjamin Moore Advance waterborne alkyd paint and an indoor herb garden.



GOING WITH *GREAT*

In addition to painting, designing product and managing the creative direction at Design Legacy, the colorful home and décor brand he cofounded, Kelly O'Neal practices interior design...selectively. This home office, in fact, belongs to a couple who he has worked with for two decades. Ready to downsize, these active empty nesters once again turned to O'Neal to redesign an industrial loft in Dallas' Design District. This space, once an odd sitting area that bridged the living room and master bedroom, seemed better suited as a home office, and with the addition of a sound-reducing and light-emitting glass partition, seemed perfect. The 100-year old "Carter the Great" statement piece was a flea market find. O'Neal loves its timeless appeal and says it's one of the couple's favorite objects.



NURTURED BY *Nature*

When Jennifer Cohler Mason's clients bought their dream beach house in Watermill, New York, it was still under construction, affording the designer the luxury of fully customizing the interior including the master bath, one of eight bathrooms in the house. With picturesque views of Mecox Bay, Mason brought the outside in and kept the windows free of fabrication. However, with her client's comfort top of mind, when complete privacy is desired, a touch of a button turns the glass from clear to white. The mosaic floor, floating vanities and shower were all custom designed by [J Cohler Mason Design](#). Stone and tile are from Artistic Tile, and the fixtures and bath accessories are from Ferguson.



EFFORTLESS & ELEGANT

While the envelope of this main living room—with its plaster walls, antique ceiling beams and natural hardwood floors—feels like it has stood the test of time, this Atlanta home is actually a new ground-up build by architect Keith Summerour with interiors designed by [Tish Mills](#). Decorated with comfort in mind, Mills ordered Verellen linen sofas and deep custom down club chairs that beg sinking into. Positioned between a screened porch and an outdoor kitchen, Mills calls this space “the epitome of casual living,” and says the room is a total reflection of the homeowner, explaining that just as the space effortlessly transitions from family hangouts to entertaining, so does her client from jeans to a cocktail dress.



A *Reflective* RETREAT

Walking into the former master study in the home used for the 2020 Kips Bay Palm Beach Showhouse, Sarah Magness of [Sarah Magness Design](#) was reminded of a Shinto shrine, with the loft's open truss and vaulted ceiling. In a matter of weeks, she transformed the space into a mindfulness retreat, with a meditation bed in the center of the room inviting rest and reflection. Taking inspiration from Japan, as well as her clients who, she says, have showed an increased interest in electronics-free quiet rooms for meditation and yoga, Magness carried water and sky themes throughout in color and pattern, most notably in the silvered and shimmery Gracie Koi Pond wallcovering that covers the ceiling and the high-gloss Symphony Blue paint from Benjamin Moore.

Photos: This page, top to bottom: Brett Beyer, Chris Little, Sargent Architectural Photography
Opposite page, top to bottom: Michael Alan Kapsel, Aydin Arjomand

BEST SEAT IN THE *HOUSE*

The Winnetka, Illinois, house had lovely bones—designers Melinda Cahill and Suzanne Glavin of [North Shore Nest](#) called it a “wonderful canvas waiting to be enhanced.” So when their client asked for a functional, stylish and golden retriever-friendly area for homework, office work and playing games, Cahill and Glavin delivered with verve, carving out a corner in the large living room for a custom banquette upholstered in a performance ultra-leather and a Bungalow 5 pedestal table suitable for the family of four. Rich fabrics and peppy prints enliven the space and sconces from Arteriors shed light. “With a view of the TV and the backyard, this corner is now the most popular spot in the house!” the designers said.



LAYERING ON THE PATTERN

In this Fifth Avenue apartment in Manhattan, designer [Philip Thomas](#) was tasked with creating a multifunctional space for work and relaxation—a room that was “polished but not perfect.” Since the library was not large, he was creative in space planning and chose items, such as a leopard-patterned ottoman that serves as cocktail table and footrest, that do double-duty. Elegant yet playful, textures include velvet and hide. With all the visual stimulation, it is Fine Paints of Europe's slick red coat, as well as the metallic ceiling, that lends overall warmth and vibrancy to this chic cocoon. “It really transmits the light in the room,” says Thomas, “and the ceiling feels like it glows! It's happy!”

