

When Worlds Collide

We asked our Best Designers to open up about their own homes—their favorite rooms, redecorating habits, and what their spaces say about them as people and professionals.



"If my home could talk, it would say that I'm a risk taker and love experimenting."

Juliana Oliveira, Beyond Interior Design



"I do very little redecorating as I have never simply purchased furniture, art, and accessories as space fillers. The only thing that gets changed around in my home will be slipcovers from winter to summer and pillows."

Pam Kelley, Pam Kelley Design



"It's relaxing for me to walk into a space and not think there is anything left to do. I like to hunt for the perfect piece of art or a great accessory, and once I've found it, it's there for good!"

Alexis Pearl, Alexis Pearl Design

Do you spend a lot of time redecorating your own home?

What does your home say about you?

"It says that I am relaxed, layered, with a lot of interests and not afraid of a little imperfection."

Janet Gridley, Janet Gridley



"One of the nicest compliments I've ever received was from a friend who said that my home had a soul to it. You can tell from my home that I'm such a collector. Since high school, I've loved to collect beautiful and interesting accessories and textiles in a large range of styles."

Margaret Chambers, Chambers Interiors & Associates



"I hope my guest feels my joy of hospitality in that it is inviting and comfortable. My personal style embraces the Japanese concept of wabi-sabi, simplicity down to what is used and loved and the imperfection that living brings only adds more richness and beauty."

Jen Mauldin, Mauldin Designs

"My home is open, airy, modern, and friendly. Clients and friends tell me it is also very comfortable. I hope I am that kind of person!"

Cheryl Van Duyme, Cheryl Van Duyme Interior Design



"Our home is all about comfort and warmth. Surrounded by the accumulation from a lifetime of travel and collecting, each object or work of art is full of memories. There are no hard lines or sharp corners—furnishings new and old show the patina of lives lived."

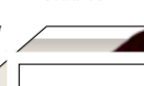
Pam Draper, Paul Draper Design

"I think all designers use their homes as their personal design lab, myself included. Pillows and rugs don't have long lifespans in my home—it's a hazard of the occupation! There's always something new and beautiful that we see."

Lindley Arthur, Lindley Arthur Interiors

"Nothing major, but we are always moving things around or adding to it. A designer's home is never done! Never!"

Carolina Gentry, Pulp Design Studios

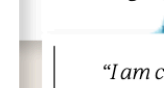


"In general, I love my home the way it is, and don't want to change much. I think that's part of feeling at home—there's a sense of comfort in things remaining the same sometimes."

Amy Williams, Amy Gibbs Interiors

"My home revolves around our family. It has a calming sense about it, which is important with three girls in the house. As a designer, I don't ever like for a space to feel too 'new,' so we have a collected mix of antiques and vintage pieces."

Carrie Hatfield, Carrie Hatfield Interior Design



"I am constantly rearranging furniture and bookshelves. It is my form of therapy. I have to do it when my husband isn't home, as he doesn't like change. Thankfully, he doesn't notice the changes most of the time."

Shelby Wagner, Shelby Wagner Design

THE BEST LIST

THE 139 BEST DESIGNERS IN DALLAS 2022

- A Well Dressed Home** Adcock-Smith Design
- Alexis Pearl Design** Alice Cottrell Interior Design
- Allen Kirsch & Associates, Inc.** Allison Seidler Interiors
- Amy Berry Design** Amy Gibbs Interiors
- Amy's Interiors** Angeline Guido Design LLC
- Anne Williams Design** Ashley Dalton Interiors
- Avrea and Company** Barbara J. Vessels Interiors
- Betty Lou Phillips Interiors** Beyond Interior Design
- Bobbitt & Company** Bodron/Fruit
- Breck Woolsey Interiors** Brette Jacques Interiors, Inc.
- Burkle Creative** Cadwallader Design
- Cameron Drinkwater Interiors** Canon & Dean Design
- Carrie Barron Interiors** Carrie Hatfield Interior Design
- Cathy Kincaid Interiors** Chad Dorsey Design
- Chambers Interiors & Associates** Charlotte Comer Interiors & Collectibles, Inc.
- Chelsea Hargrave Interiors** Cheri Etchelecu Interior Design
- Cheryl Van Duyme Interior Design** Childress Interiors, Inc.
- Collins & Sweezey** Collins Interiors
- Corley Design Associates** Dallas Design Group Interiors
- Dana Bass Designs** Deborah Walker + Associates
- Debra Owens Interiors, Inc.** Debra Stewart Interior Design
- Deleo & Fletcher Design** Denise McGaha Interiors
- Dona Rosene Interiors** Doniphan Moore Interiors
- Dunbar Road Design** EJ Interiors
- EJM Interior Design** Emily Summers Design Associates
- Erin Sander Design** Fagan White Design
- Furstenwerth + Bagley Design** Heidi Arwine Interiors
- Hillary Littlejohn Studio Design** Holly Hickey Moore
- House of Amelia** IBB Design Fine Furnishings
- Ike Isenhour Inc** J Wiley Designs
- James McClroe Incorporated** Jan Jones LLC
- Jan Showers & Associates** Janet Gridley
- Jean Liu Design, LLC** Jenkins Interiors
- Joanie Wyll & Associates Inc.** John Phifer Marrs Interiors
- Joseph Minton Inc.** Joshua Rice Design
- Josie McCarthy Associates** Kara Adam Interiors

- Kim McCue-Cypress Designs** Kirsten Kelli
- Kristen Fegale Interiors** Kristin Mullen Designs
- Laura Lee Clark Interior Design, Inc.** Layered Dimensions Interior Design
- Lee Lormand Design** Linda Fritschy Interior Design
- Lindley Arthur Interiors** Lisa Henderson Interiors
- Lynn Sears Interiors** Maddie Hughes Designs
- MADRE Design** Maestri Studio
- Marilyn Rolnick Tonkon** Mary Anne Smiley Interiors LLC
- Mary Beth Wagner Interiors** Mauldin Designs
- Meredith Ellis Design** Meredith Steinhart Interior Design
- Michelle Nussbaumer Design** Molly Van Amburgh Interior Design
- Morgan Farrow Interiors** Morrissey Home
- Neal Stewart Designs** Pam Kelley Design
- Pamela Fitch Design** Paul Draper Design
- Paul Duesing Partners** Peters Cates Design, Inc.
- Pickering House Interiors** Pulp Design Studios

- R. Brant Design** Richard Gordon Design
- Richard Trimble & Associates, Inc.** Rick Rozas Design
- RN Interior Design, LLC** Robert Trown & Associates
- Robyn Menter Design Associates, Inc.** Roz Murphy Design
- S.B. Long Interiors** Salem & Associates
- Samantha Fisher Interiors** Schooler Kellogg & Co
- Sees Design** Seitz Design LTD
- Shannon Bowers Designs** Shelby Wagner Design
- Sherry Hayslip Interiors** Smith & Ragsdale Interior Design
- Studio Ten 25** Studio Thomas James
- Studio White Interiors** SWOON
- Ten Plus Three** The Collective
- Tiffany McKinzie Interior Design** Tori Rubinson Interiors
- Traci Connell Interiors** Traci White Designs
- Tracy Hardenburg Designs** Trish Sheats Interior Design
- Urbanology Designs** Wendy Konradi Interior Design
- William-Christopher Design** Williams Design Inc.
- Yates Desygn**

This list is the result of a peer-based survey. A panel of industry professionals vetted the list. The resulting list reflects the companies who received the most votes from their peers. It does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editors or the publishers of *D Home*.

THE KITCHEN

"The kitchen. My wife and I love to cook, and it's where friends and family always seem to gather whenever they come. It is warm and comfortable, and full of the texture of hanging pots and utensils, baskets and bowls of fruit and produce, cookbooks and dishes."

Paul Draper, Paul Draper Design



THE LIVING ROOM

"The living room, as it is the perfect stage for an at-home movie night or a fabulous cocktail party."

Philip Vanderford, Studio Thomas James



THE MEDIA ROOM

"Our favorite room is what we call Lady's Lounge, which is an homage to our dog. We created a moody media room out of our home's second bedroom, complete with walls painted in a deep Farrow & Ball paint and a creamy area rug with pops of color. The rug is a souvenir from our Kips Bay Decorators Show House Dallas space!"

Bryan Yates, Yates Desygn



"My sunroom. Light bleeds into it from three sides. When I sit in that room, I can see lots of green, thanks to the room overlooking the backyard. The bookshelves give me the opportunity to surround myself with books and pictures that I love. And there is no TV in this room. It's a great place for napping, reflecting, and reading."

Linda Fritschy, Linda Fritschy Interior Design

THE SUNROOM

DMAGAZINE.COM

MY CLOSET

"My personal closet, designed and built in 2021, is a long-term dream that became a reality. I designed and styled it as a minimalistic small boutique with exquisite details, materials and illumination. Upon entering, I experience the serenity and beauty of the space."

Robyn Menter, Robyn Menter Design Associates, Inc.



MY KIDS' ROOMS

"I love my kids' rooms. They are cozy and envelop our whole family every night as we read together, and I know my children will have lasting memories of us all being together in these spaces."

Mia Brous, MADRE Design



THE LIBRARY

"Our library satisfies the soul, as it is an alluring cocoon for my other career, which is writing. The room dons hundreds of books, a dozen family photographs, Fortuny fabrics, an antique French desk, and warm walnut paneling."

Betty Lou Phillips, Betty Lou Phillips Interiors



What is your favorite room in your house and why?

"My outdoor living space. It was designed to host a lot of family and friends (birthdays, weddings, etc.), and it became increasingly more valuable during the pandemic."

Heidi Arwine, Heidi Arwine Interiors



THE BACKYARD

"Our bedroom and bath are my most favorite. It is where I retreat after a long day to take a hot bath before bed, a steam shower in the mornings, and where I work from bed. I think we often leave our own private spaces to be the last areas we update and it should be the other way around. How can we be ready for each day or sleep well if our surroundings aren't inviting and beautiful?"

Denise McGaha, Denise McGaha Interiors



THE PRIMARY SUITE

"The family room will always be my favorite room because of the combination of my wood-burning fireplace and the memories made there with my kids. It has been a place where my family and I spend most of our time and a comfortable space where we recharge."

Amy Atkins, Amy's Interiors



THE FAMILY ROOM



Honorary Chair
This chair was a favorite of several of our designers.

GWYNETH CHAIR (\$999/CB2)

Traci Connell expertly incorporates accessible pieces like Ikea chairs among her finery. Her fellow designers weigh in on blending one-of-a-kind finds with off-the-shelf scores.

Balancing Act

"Not everything must be 'fine'—if everything is special, nothing is! Mixing in a variety of elements keeps a space feeling accessible and personal." —Paul Duesing, Paul Duesing Partners

"I really do believe some of your more affordable pieces can rise up to your investment pieces. It's how all the items in the room work together to create something layered and unique." —Tori Rubinson, Tori Rubinson Interiors

"There is a misconception that more accessible pieces are always lower quality; price and quality are not always aligned. A well-designed space considers all of the elements and principles of good design first, and focuses on the actual 'merchandise' second." —Abbey Ragsdale, Smith & Ragsdale Interior Design

"I design without the price in mind. I truly believe cost dampers creativity, so I design without limits and can always value engineer if need be." —Juliana Oliveira, Beyond Interior Design

"I love to mix high and low because it makes a home look like it's been collected over time and wasn't all bought new from showrooms at one time." —Alice Cottrell, Alice Cottrell Interior Design

"Fear not! Mix it up! Good design comes in all shapes and sizes. To quote Shakespeare, 'There is nothing new under the sun.' But in the ways in which we 'mix it up,' we can find fresh new perspective." —Mary Elizabeth Canon & Hannah Dean, Canon & Dean Design

"It's all about how you put it together. When it's done right, you'll have people guessing

what you splurged on versus what you saved on." —Shay Geyer, IBB Design Fine Furnishings

"We do it all the time! It's like mixing a Target t-shirt with designer jeans!" —Liz Dauwe, Studio White Interiors

ON THE CONTRARY...

"Wait until you can get something you love. Josie McCarthy taught me that if you buy the right thing, it only hurts once." —Barry Williams, Williams Design, Inc.

"Have you ever been mad at yourself for buying too high-quality of anything? When people regret a purchase, it's typically because it was something that was too cheaply made." —Margaret Chambers, Chambers Interiors & Associates

Put Your Money Where Your [Heart] Is

Where should you invest and where can you afford to cut corners? Though there's not necessarily a one-size-fits-all answer, designers spell out where they typically recommend spending more of your money.



WHERE TO SPLURGE

VERELLEN "ZOLA" SOFA (TO THE TRADE/BRENDAN BASS)

SOFAS
"It costs more upfront, but getting a high-end, well-made sofa will last years and years." —Mary Anne Smiley, Mary Anne Smiley Interiors LLC

"I call it investing in the price per sit." —Carolina Gentry, Pulp Design Studios

"Buy good quality upholstered chairs and sofas. They last for years and can be reupholstered many times." —Barbara Vessels, Barbara J. Vessels Interiors

Jaxx of All Trades
S.B. Long Interiors' Susan Bednar Long is currently loving this playful (and affordable) side table.



"JAXX" STOOL (\$499/CB2) »

"With the right design/pieces/mix, it's not easy to discern the high-dollar pieces from the more accessible pieces. A good mix is 70 percent high-dollar and 30 percent accessible."

Heidi Arwine, Heidi Arwine Interiors

FRAMING
"It's just as important as the art you are selecting. If it's framed on the cheap, it can really bring the piece down. But a \$5 score at a thrift store can instantly look like a million bucks if it's in a beautiful frame with thoughtful matting." —Meredith Ellis, Meredith Ellis Design

LIGHTING/PLUMBING
"If I had to choose what we consistently ask our clients to splurge on, I would say we push our clients on lighting and plumbing. We feel that these are two key areas that make or break a home." —Sam Sano and Joslyn Taylor, SWOON

WHERE TO SAVE

the look and feel of an expensive rug." —Linda Fritschy, Linda Fritschy Interior Design

DECORATIVE ACCENTS
"Save on accent pieces. You'll enjoy the freedom to update a room by changing out the small accessories periodically or seasonally (without breaking the bud-

get)." —Javier Burkle, Burkle Creative

LARGE YARDAGE

"Good drapery treatments are always expensive, but there are ways to cut corners. I often use non-functional decorative side panels for softness, color, and depth around a window—this cuts



BIG-BOX ITEMS THE PROS ARE LOVING NOW

"LIND" POUF (\$1,049/ROOM & BOARD)

HIGH-IMPACT SPACES
"To set the tone and for a great first impression, splurge on everything in the entry." —Linda Fritschy, Linda Fritschy Interior Design

"We focus our 'splurge' pieces for high-impact rooms—mostly downstairs where guests will be using. In high-use rooms, we dial up quality so we can make sure we get longevity out of the selections." —Morgan Farrow, Morgan Farrow Interiors

"CLOUD LOOM" TOWELS (FROM \$18/COYUCHI) »

"STOCKHOLM" MIRROR (\$130/IKEA) »

way down on required yardage and labor—and employ a less expensive flat privacy treatment such as solar shades, Roman shades, or wood blinds." —John Bobbitt, Bobbitt & Company

"Upholstery will inevitably need to be redone. I'll splurge on sumptuous fabrics for smaller items but keep large items like

FREQUENTLY USED ITEMS
"I tell clients to splurge on things they use every day. Great towels, nice crystal glasses, a good mattress—anything you can enjoy." —Gonzalo Bueno, Ten Plus Three

"Towels and bedding should always be a splurge for everyone. You use them every day, and those are the little luxuries that really make a difference in your everyday life." —Carolina Gentry, Pulp Design Studios

ONE-CHANCE PURCHASES
"If you fall in love with something on vacation, buy it on the spot. You'll regret passing it up if you return the next day and it's gone." —Bryan Yates, Yates Desygn



"CLOUD LOOM" TOWELS (FROM \$18/COYUCHI) »

"STOCKHOLM" MIRROR (\$130/IKEA) »

Mirror, Mirror
Pulp Design Studios' Carolina Gentry loves this budget-friendly mirror so much, she has one in her own home.

sofas and lounge chairs reasonable." —Josh Pickering, Pickering House Interiors

KIDS' SPACES
"Game rooms and kids' spaces we consider more disposable." —Morgan Farrow, Morgan Farrow Interiors

It's Rich!
Studio Thomas James' Philip Vanderford loves this saturated color for small spaces.
BENJAMIN MOORE "SALAMANDER"



"Not gonna lie, the Casaluna bedding line from Target is amazing. I have one of the covers in my primary bedroom."
Angeline Guido Hall, Angeline Guido Design LLC



"In a bedroom, using a taller statement headboard will anchor the wall and give the illusion of depth. Adding mirrors is another age-old trick that always works."
Mary Elizabeth Canon and Hannah Dean, Canon & Dean Design

"We're currently crushing on the CB2 Specchio mirror—it boasts all those '50s vintage Italian vibes without the price tag."
Jean Liu, Jean Liu Design, LLC

Live Large

Small spaces can still be big on style! Designers share their techniques for how to maximize a minimal footprint.

EDIT

"I downsized to 1,350 square feet, so I live this! Hidden storage and multifunctional furniture, but most of all: edit, edit, edit!" —Carrie Barron, Carrie Barron Interiors

"When it comes to designing, sometimes to move forward, you have to go back and edit to make a meaningful visual statement. This is not to say the process is meant to be painful—only that streamlining is central to creating a setting that radiates beauty, comfort and the feeling of well-being." —Betty Lou Phillips, Betty Lou Phillips Interiors

"Less stuff, better stuff."
—Mil Bodron, Bodron/Fruit

USE VISUAL TRICKERY
"Seeing beyond" is a favorite concept—openings align with windows so you have as long a view as possible. I like reflecting natural light with metallic, highly polished, or mirrored surfaces. A long sofa can make the space flow well." —Kathy Adcock-Smith, Adcock-Smith Design



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Mary Elizabeth Canon and Hannah Dean, Canon & Dean Design

"We're currently crushing on the CB2 Specchio mirror—it boasts all those '50s vintage Italian vibes without the price tag."
Jean Liu, Jean Liu Design, LLC

the room." —Cameron Drinkwater, Cameron Drinkwater Interiors

BE MINDFUL OF YOUR PALETTE AND PATTERNS
"Use one upholstery fabric on all upholstered items." —Alice Cottrell, Alice Cottrell Interior Design

"I like to start with a large single piece of art and use that as the inspiration and color palette for the rest of the small space." —Dona Rosene, Dona Rosene Interiors

"Monochromatic wall colors throughout the house really helps one space transition into the other."
—Pam Kelley, Pam Kelley Design

EMPLOY MULTI-PURPOSE PIECES
"Almost every piece of furniture needs to be multi-functional. Tables that self-store leaves or convert from square to round with fold-under leaves, storage ottomans, coffee tables with drawers and shelves all help with storage, which is usually a challenge in small spaces. Kitchens with baseboard roll-out drawers for wine bottle or cookie sheet storage, built-in cutting boards over trash receptacles, and hidden storage below countertop in an island at the sit-down counter location." —Suzy Childress, Childress Interiors, Inc.

NAIL THE SCALE
"Start with a furniture plan! Draw out the size of the pieces and where they will go before you shop, otherwise the scale and proportion will be off. And in a smaller space, it will be much more noticeable." —Mary Anne Smiley, Mary Anne Smiley Interiors LLC

"Don't go too small with your furniture! You don't necessarily have to have an apartment-sized sofa if you live in an apartment. Small pieces draw more attention to a small space. Make sure you get normal size pieces—like an 84-inch sofa—so you can take it with you when you move into a larger home." —Emily Larkin, EJ Interiors

"Go bold! Using larger-scaled pieces always feels better than trying to scale down for a space." —Philip Vanderford, Studio Thomas James