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INTENTIONAL INTERIORS



TWELVE PROJECTS BY INTERIOR DESIGNERS WHO TELL STORIES WITH THEIR SPACES

BY REBECCA FALZANO

Brett Johnson and his Maine Street Design Co. team have a mantra they follow on every project they work on: "There are many ways to live." A simple message, obvious even, and yet no less powerful as an ethos. The challenge of an interior designer, of course, is to figure out which one of those ways your client wants to live, and then to help make it happen through a carefully conducted orchestra of color palettes, material choices, furnishings, fixtures, and fabrics. This issue, devoted to the art of interior design, is one of our favorites because it highlights the notion that, just as there are many ways to live, there are many ways to design. On these pages, we share with you some of our favorites.

A MARRIAGE OF STYLES AS A FAMILY EVOLVES

DESIGNER: Ariana Fischer | Ariana Fischer Interior Design



Having worked with her for many years, Ariana Fischer knew her client is never afraid to step out of bounds to indulge a moment that brings joy. With a new and demanding career and most of her four children moved out and into their own homes, Fischer's client sought spaces for large family gatherings as well as comfortable and serene spaces for just her and her husband.

To fit the relaxed, contemporary vibe of the house, Fischer mixed streamlined Scandinavian design with vibrant, whimsical family elements. This involved incorporating what the family already owned while updating the space to better reflect their current lifestyle.

"My client has the capacity to embrace really vibrant colors, but because there is such a mixture of styles, we had to keep in mind patterns, florals, and textures that would speak to the contemporary and traditional," says Fischer.

In the family room, Fischer worked to harmonize a vibrant painting from the Caribbean with the sleek lines of midcentury Danish furniture. In the dining room, a formal family portrait is complemented by a contemporary Swedish dining room table and chairs. "Bringing in strong natural textures and colors—like sheepskin on an antique chair, a sisal rug, and pewter paint on the sideboard—married these two seemingly incongruous elements."

"I always like to mix styles and create balance among them," says Fischer. "We are all like that ourselves—a bit of the past, iterations of the present, and carrying aspirations for tomorrow. Objects come together over a lifetime, circumstances change, and tastes evolve, so each space is a true reflection of the people who live there."

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