

Interior Design Review Volume 16

常州大字山书馆藏书章



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A famously pointless game that is reserved for exceptionally long car journeys is grading the greatest ever actor, sportsman, statesman (James Stewart, Mohammed Ali, Winston Churchill). Comparing interior designers is equally invidious. Comparing them over all of history is especially ridiculous. Nevertheless, here is the Andrew Martin Top 10 Greatest Interior Designers of all Time. In reverse order:

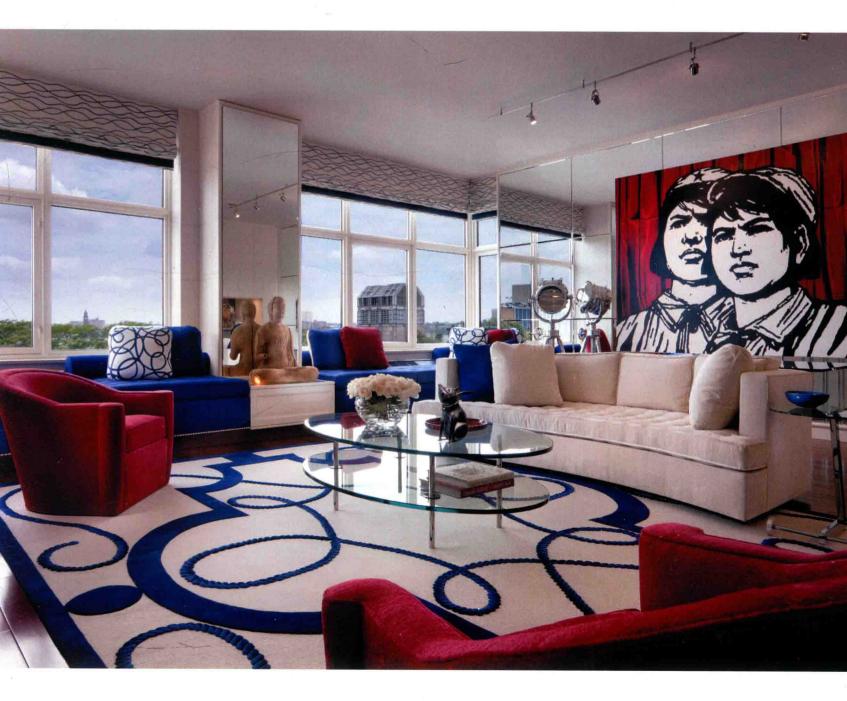
- 10: Billy Baldwin 1903-1983 The 'Dean of American decorating' defined an American postwar aesthetic and set the tone for American pre-eminence in interiors.
- 9: Thomas Jefferson 1743-1826 The only one who might feature on the actor, sportsman, statesman debate. The 3rd President of the United States consolidated the influence of the Federal Style. His multi faceted design at Monticello remains a watershed in the development of American interiors. He also found time to write the Declaration of Independence.
- 8: Le Corbusier 1887-1965 Despite his dodgy politics and sometimes unreliable architecture, Le Corbusier's idea of a 'machine for living' resonated throughout the 20th Century. His purism of white walls, bare bulbs and tubular frame furniture is as relevant today as it was in 1930.
- 7: Elsie de Wolfe 1865-1950 New Yorker magazine claimed 'interior design as a profession was invented by Elsie de Wolfe'. In 1913 she published 'The House in Good Taste' and introduced a world of light, fresh, feminine vibrancy. As she said 'I opened the doors and windows of America and let the air and sunshine in'.
- 6: Robert Adam 1728-1792 Robert Adam was the most influential architect, interior and furniture designer of the Georgian age. The light 'classical rococo' style that bears his name is recognised as the highpoint of English taste (though he was Scots). He is buried in Westminster Abbey. His pallbearers included three Earls and a Duke.
- 5: David Hicks 1929-1998 The quintessential grand decorator, David Hicks was a paragon of charm, snobbery and sophistication and a talent nonpareil. His elegant precision and restrained flamboyance set the benchmark for a legion of disciples.
- 4: Charles Le Brun 1619-1690 Described by Louis XIV as 'the greatest French artist of all time', Le Brun was also the master decorator extraordinaire of Versailles. In 1660 he established and became director of the Gobelins factories (subsequently a byword for tapestries) which made every kind of furniture. It was said 'everything that was manufactured in the kingdom was based on Le Brun's sketches and drawings'. Thus almost single-handedly he created the Louis XIV vernacular.
- 3: Liu Bingzhong 1216-1274 When Marco Polo visited the summer palace of Kublai Khan at Xanadu, he was astonished. His account of its extraordinary splendours inspired the fashion for Chinoiserie that has lasted for 700 years. It was Liu Bingzhong, one time monk, credited with occult powers and the ability to foretell the future who masterminded the design of the city. His work is forever immortalised in Samuel Taylor Coleridge's poem.
- 2: Michelangelo 1475-1564 Not just a sculptor, painter, poet and engineer but also an architect and interior designer. The best example of his interior work is the Laurentian Library. His radical rearrangement of accepted ideas gave birth to the Mannerist movement, which was to so influence Andrea Palladio. At the age of 74, he designed St. Peter's Basilica. He was also useful if you needed a ceiling painted or a sculpture for the front hall.
- 1: Phidias 490BC-430BC Phidias directed the construction of the Parthenon and was responsible for its colossal statue of Athena. However, he was not just the greatest sculptor of the ancient world. More than anyone, Phidias was the instigator of the classical Greek style that has dominated Western culture for 2500 years. In addition he created one of the Seven Wonders of the World, the statue of Zeus at Olympia, 42 feet high, Zeus was made of gold and ivory. Phidias died in prison, falsely accused of theft.





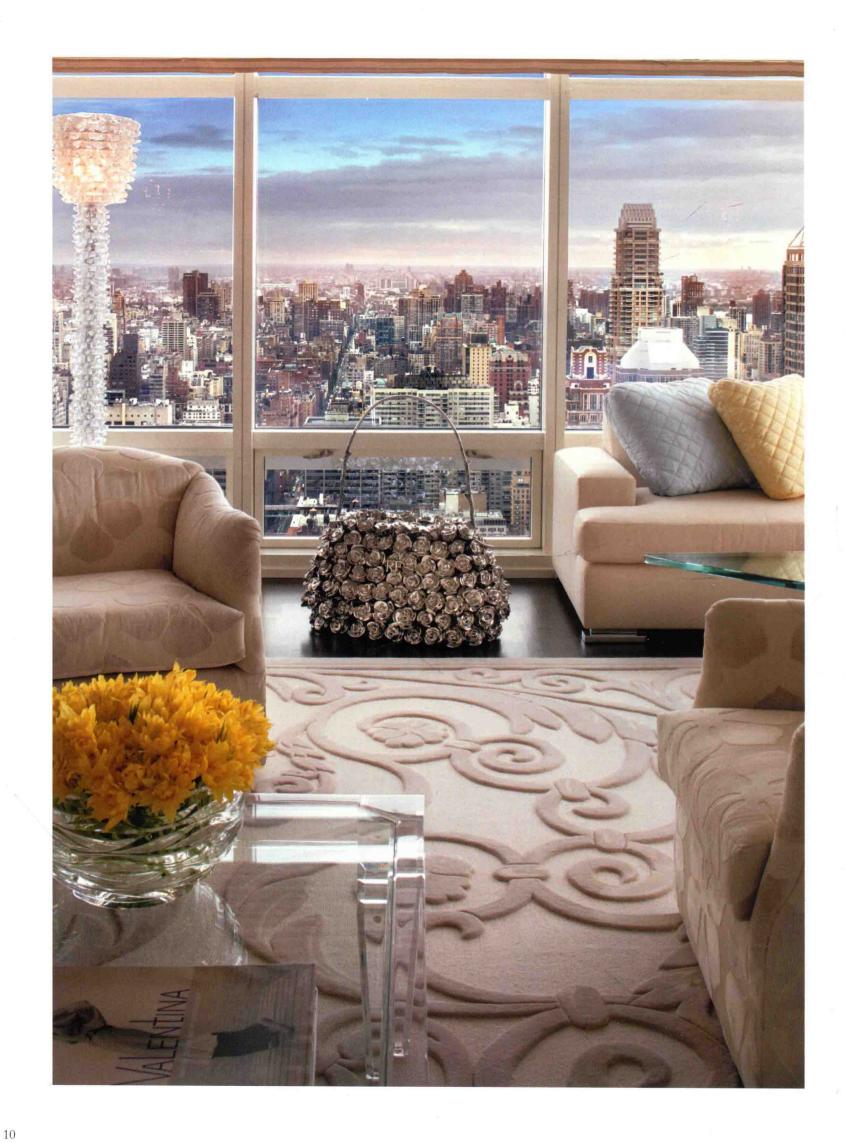


Designer: Geoffrey Bradfield. Company: Geoffrey Bradfield Design, New York, USA. Specialising in luxurious residences and offices for an international clientele. Current projects include a 100,000 sq ft residence in Central Tokyo, a 300,000 sq ft estate outside Shanghai and a penthouse in Jerusalem with three apartments below for the residents' children. Recent work includes a 7,000 sq ft duplex penthouse in Mexico City, the subject of newly released 'A 21st Century Palace', the New York apartment of Hollywood Director, Oliver Stone, facing the Hudson and a 6,000 sq ft apartment for a Russian family on Madison Avenue, New York City.













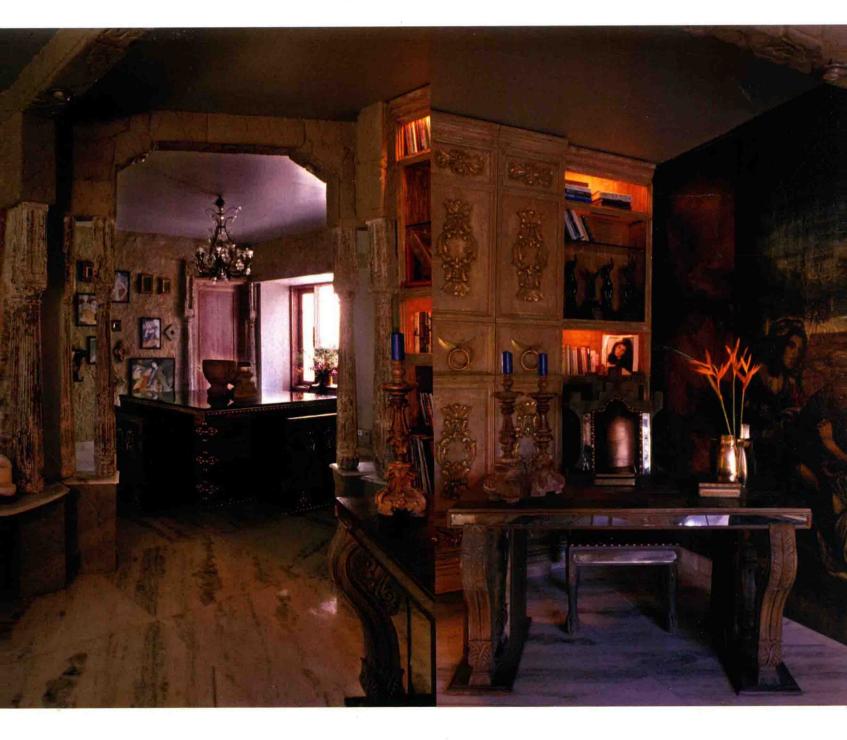






Designers: Abu Jani and Sandeep Khosla. Company: Abu Jani Sandeep Khosla, Mumbai, India. The country's premier couturiers who diversified from their core business of fashion to enter the world of Interior Design in the mid 90s. Specialising in residential projects, they have designed homes in London, Mumbai, Hrishikesh and New Delhi. Recent work includes Mohinder Verma's New Delhi residence, The Passi house in New Delhi and a villa in the hills of Hrishikesh, North India. Their signature style is maximalism and attention to detail, their skill is combining art, artefacts and antiques to create homes fit for modern day Maharajahs.





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