Designer Profile

Playing Favorites

Tastemakers in every way, Shea and Martin both play favorites when it comes to certain things. Curious to know the dinner party soundtracks, vacation destinations, and appliance manufacturers they prefer over all others? Read on!

Favorite Jackson Hole Restaurant

Kampai

Favorite Chicago Museum

Do you even have to ask? The Art Institute!

Favorite City in the World

Paris for sure

Favorite Hostess Gift to Give

Shea: A design book, or really nice hand soap

Martin: Blessing swans from The Golden Triangle

Favorite Sunday Breakfast

Shea: A frittata made with vegetables from the community garden at our lake house

Martin: Yogurt and blueberries with granola

Favorite Dinner Party Soundtrack

Shea: Yuna

Martin: Norah Jones

Favorite Apparel Brand

Shea: Maria Pinto

Martin: Suitsupply for clothing and Salvatore Ferragamo for shoes

Favorite Netflix Binge

Shea: I don't really watch TV – but I love listening to podcasts

Martin: I have two: White Lotus, and The Gilded Age

Favorite Kitchen Appliance Manufacturer

Shea: Miele

Martin: La Cornue

Favorite Naples, Florida Restaurant

Shea: Molto Trattoria

Martin: Bleu Provence

Favorite White Paint

Shea: Fine Paints of Europe WC-07

Martin: Benjamin Moore White Dove – of course!

Favorite Way to Relax

Shea: Turning off all my devices and giving my family 100 percent of my attention

Martin: Walking my dog Oliver or listening to the Calm app

Favorite Fabric Brand

Shea: Leveille

Martin: Prelle

Favorite Home Goods Shop

Shea: The 1818 Collective in Sag Harbor

Martin: In Chicago, Jayson Home; in New York City, Creel & Gow

DESIGNER PROFILE

Andy Lauber

Director

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Mother Nature, says Andy, offers expert lessons on symmetry, proportion, and color – which explains his penchant for uncluttered rooms that blur the distinction between indoors and out. "Life, like nature, should be peaceful and beautiful,' he says.

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Design Inspiration

Five Interior Design Trends for 2023

At Soucie Horner, we love trends reports as much as you do. But what we love even more is reflecting back on our own year and making predictions for what's next based on trends we've identified among our clients.

Much of what we're anticipating for 2023 continues to be driven by pandemic-oriented factors. We've seen a pronounced shift in the way people live, work, and spend time in their homes. That in turn impacts the way we approach our work. With that in mind, here are Sheo's and Martin's thoughts on what to expect in the coming year:

Multiple Home Offices

Since many of our clients have multiple residences, we're seeing a growing need to create home offices that are the same or very similar in each of their houses. That way, no matter where in the world they are, our clients will appear to be "home" when they're zooming with their own clients and teams.
We never suggested multiple, similar offices to clients prior to covid, but since the pandemic's arrival they've become an increasingly welcomed idea among our clientele.

An Even Greater Emphasis on Handcrafts

For a few years already, we've been talking about the best design work exhibiting an artisan's touch. While we acknowledge (and applaud) the wide availability of well-designed goods found through the trade, retail outlets, and online, we also feel strongly there is nothing – and we mean nothing – that compares to objects crafted by hand.

Simply put, they add incomparable soul and instant history to even the newest of spaces. Incorporating handcrafted furnishings, rugs, and objects into our designs has been a hallmark for years already; what's new is the degree to which our client's interest in such goods continues to grow.

New Ways of Customizing

Long gone are the days when a monogram would suffice to personalize an object or a space. The customized ideal they once represented has exploded to include forms of personalization that were unheard of just a few years ago. Thanks to both technology and the talents of our own in-house graphics design team, we're able to personalize and brand space by creating customized wall coverings and even custom carpets embedded with logos.

While this trend may not be ubiquitous – not every design firm has in-house graphics capabilities – it is becoming an increasingly prevalent aspect of the work we do for our clients' homes and workplaces.

Art Integration from the Get-Go

The past couple of years have proven to us that clients interested in building art collections are increasingly motivated to plan their collections into their design schemes from the very beginning – often, even before their homes have been built. We do this by creating architectural niches to showcase important pieces of sculpture, for instance, or intentionally leaving broad expanses of wall space free of windows, doors, and ornamentation to highlight art.

Approaching art placement as an integral part of the design process and not as an accessories-only afterthought has become our go-to approach. We see this as a trend that will continue to blossom.

Continued Passion for Antiques

This is another trend born of the pandemic that shows no signs of abating. When supply chain issues first hit the world, the design industry turned its attention to items that were already in stock and available for immediate delivery. Many of these items were antiques. Once chosen because of their easy availability, they quickly became the darlings of many designers thanks to their instant ability to tell stories and lend gravitas to rooms both humble and grand.

And while antiques have always been favored by certain designers or for particular room styles, what's new is a more widespread appreciation for the charm, the history, and the uniqueness antiques bring to a space. Without the pandemic, antiques might have continued to be of interest to just a subset of designers. Today and into the future, we see them becoming of greater interest to our clients, who are increasingly attracted to the warmth and richness antiques bring to their homes.

DESIGNER PROFILE

Grace Lynch

Associate Designer

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Grace is an outgoing perfectionist who draws inspiration from everywhere: scents, memories, moods. "I find lots of my choices to be rooted in how I am feeling," she says. Grace grew up on a farm and recently received a call at the office that her chicken coop was flooding.

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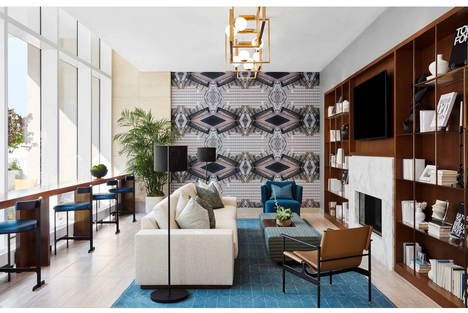

Featured Story

Customizing: A Soucie Horner Specialty!

At Soucie Horner, customization goes far beyond the usual realms of fabric treatments and bespoke furniture pieces. While those are key components of any luxury interior, they're certainly not where our capabilities end. Does custom wallcovering pique your interest? Custom artwork? How about that same artwork printed on fabric, just for you?

Thanks to the expertise of our in-house design team, we can do all that and more. We're able to dive deep – *really* deep! – into the world of customization to make your bedroom, home, office, building lobby, boat, you name it, unique in every sense of the word. After all, uniqueness is one of the hallmarks of our work. We don't have a "look." Our design work is customized to our clients' individual lifestyles, aspirations, needs, and wants – not a formulaic result.

Some examples? Let's start with wallcoverings. Murals such as these lend truly one-of-a-kind cachet to our designs. For a racing enthusiast, a mural for a garage housing a luxury car collection. For an Asian art lover, a motorized Lutron bathroom shade onto which we directly printed an Asian-inspired graphic. For a sentimental mom, dining room walls papered in a reproduction of hand-written words penned by her poetry-creating son. For all of them – and perhaps, eventually, for you – singular flourishes such as these speak to highly personal interests and tastes and add immeasurably to the personality of their homes.

But luxurious residential homes aren't the only beneficiaries of design schemes incorporating custom murals. Commercial spaces, too, are ripe for such applications. For an audio visual company, we printed custom artwork onto speaker fabric to create a massive, wall-spanning mural that also incorporates sound speakers and television screens. For a rental apartment building, we developed a series of eye-catching murals that bestow unique character on a wide variety of shared amenity spaces. *(We can also print artwork onto tile and sound-absorbing ceiling or wall panels; create video animations; and even develop logos – but that's another conversation for another day!)*

In fact, our design studio's creative and technical know-how is a lot like the customization we've been doing for more than a decade through our SHIIR Rugs division, where luxurious hand-woven carpets are distinguished by their custom coloring, sizing, pattern placement, fiber options – you get the idea.

Want to learn more? Ask how we can raise the bar on customization of your own project, no matter where, or what, it happens to be!

DESIGNER PROFILE

Drew Waiss

Creative Brand Director

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Drew brings his passion for graphic design to his role leading our marketing team and also partners with our designers to extend the options for our design work. "We can personalize our clients' homes or offices with custom wall coverings, or develop digital branded experiences to enhance the corporate space," he says. "The possibilities are endless and really set us apart as a firm."

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Designer Profile

Different Styles, Common Goals

What happens when two interior designers with very different aesthetics – but perfectly synced opinions on the importance of creating uniquely personal spaces – design their own homes? Soucie Horner principals **Shea Soucie** and **Martin Horner** are about to show you. Because while they may be hugely successful business partners and lifelong friends, their approaches to achieving homes that reflect their (and their clients') unique lifestyles are quite different. Read on for three examples of what we mean.

Shea's Kitchen

With four active kids and a big teddy bear of a dog, Shea's happy household is lively in the best possible way. Add running a business, frequent travel, and the fact that she's surrounded by color and pattern all day at the office, and you can understand her need for calm and respite at home. Hence Shea's affinity for clean, uncluttered, white spaces, which is on spectacular display in the kitchen of her fully renovated historic home.

Unadorned cabinetry conceals dishes, glassware, and small appliances; countertops are clear save the occasional texture-rich accessory; and the only pattern in sight comes courtesy of beautifully veined marble. "My life is so busy," Shea says, "that I really need my visual surroundings at home to be quiet and peaceful."

Martin's Kitchen

Martin, on the other hand, shares his architecturally classic home with another adult – his fiancé Ryan – and, no surprise to anyone who knows his love of dogs, their spaniel Oliver.

An avid collector, Martin enjoys showcasing the objects of his desire for all to see and enjoy, which is best accomplished via glass-front cabinetry in his kitchen and butler's pantry. If it's beautiful, it's on display! Woven window shades, richly grained hardwood floors, and a butcher block add texture to this warm and cozy space.

Shea's Family Library

Designed to gather the family for movie night, encourage the kids to read, and offer a quiet study space away from the first floor action, Shea's second floor "**kids' family room**" is filled with comfortable, tailored furnishings in neutral hues and kid-friendly materials.

Books are organized into columns for each of her children; quotes with meaning to Shea and her family are stenciled on the walls above to motivate and inspire. Plenty of rough-and-tumble fun takes place in this room, yet by design it exudes the same, orderly calm as the rest of her home.

Martin's Library

See what we mean about contrasting styles? Martin's library overflows with verve courtesy of color, pattern, and fearlessly sentimental style. Shelves are artfully piled with **literary works**, themselves layered with meaningful mementos: here, a treasured collection of altered books; there, a strand of beads from a particularly memorable Mardi Gras weekend.

To admire Martin's bookshelves is to join in remembrances of vacations past, parties hosted, and flea market treasures found. The pleasure Martin receives from displaying things that make him smile is rivaled only by the satisfaction he feels from playfully mixing and matching furniture styles, eras, and fabrics. "If I love it, I'll find a way to make it work," he says. "It's all about feeling great in your surroundings."

Shea's Primary Bedroom

Shea's primary bedroom, where each of her carefully curated furnishings communicates her appreciation for handcrafts, continues her home's quiet color palette. There's the custom iron bed with its pale leather headboard. The antique rug, coveted ever since Shea and her husband, Chris, first fell in love with the floorcoverings they discovered on their honeymoon in Turkey.

The antique side tables that blend patinaed wood with aged brass ornamentation, accessorized with a pair of matching bedside lamps whose classically shaped shades hover over sculptural bases. Though there is pattern, it is minimal. And muted.

Martin's Primary Bedroom

The same cannot be said of Martin's primary bedroom! A riot of deep, rich, saturated color, its hand-painted cobalt blue walls are matched for drama only by the custom oxidized wool and silk SHIIR rug on the floor.

An exhilarating decorative envelope, the blue hue is an ideal backdrop to a gallery wall of nudes, mismatched bedside tables, and a cherished, inherited, leopard print chair. Shy, it is not –yet importantly, it still manages to lull easily courtesy of calming, creamy white bedding that provides a landing spot for the eye.

Deeply personal and uniquely individual, **Shea** and **Martin's** homes could not, at first glance, appear more different. Still, they share their owners' combined passion for creating lovely, livable homes that speak to their inhabitants' lifestyles as only Soucie Horner can.

DESIGNER PROFILE

Mara Boo
Communications Manager

Our resident wordsmith describes her home as a living scrapbook. "Everything in it tells a story," she says, noting that when it comes to design, she's not exactly a minimalist. "Quirky architecture, pattern, patina, collections, books – to me, more is more."

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