

SHOPtalk

In celebration of thoughtful details, what design moment from a recent residential project are you most proud of?

“Curating a deeply personal collection of pieces for a client who was as invested in the story as in the style. Together, we sourced functional works of art from around the world—each with its own history, craftsmanship, and meaning. We explored ancient furniture-making techniques and visited artists in their studios, experiencing their processes firsthand. By move-in day, every element had become more than beautiful—it carried a memory, a conversation, a connection. That layer of emotional resonance turned the house into a true home.”

—Janie Hungerford, Hungerford Interior Design

“A recent project was all about showcasing music as a life-style—not something relegated to a media room. At the bottom of the staircase is a piece by deconstruction artist John A. Peralta: Components of a 1908 Victrola phonograph that have been suspended above a pedestal housing a recording of the original music spool. It’s an ideal counterpoint to the full-blown McIntosh sound system—the fascinating history of sound, all in one space.”

—Fern Santini



“I was particularly happy with the outcome of a seafoam-painted lattice in the foyer of a waterfront, shingle-style 1930’s bungalow on the North Fork of Long Island, New York. It took a lot of time to plan it out mathematically, figure out the details, and execute the vision. The result is an architecturally interesting room with a punch of color as soon as you enter the home. The latticework travels up the stairs to the landing, which we turned into a small library. There, a hidden door pushes open into a kids’ bunk room—another fun detail that adds whimsy to a home full of personality.”

—Gideon Mendelson, Mendelson Group

“I’ve been thrilled to see our younger clientele embracing custom finishes. Not all houses come with architectural provenance and character; we often have to choose between settling for less or being more ambitious and creating it. It makes me so happy to see clients gain a deeper appreciation for craftsmanship, investing in artisans to layer their interiors with special techniques like trompe l’oeil, lacquer, or intricate plaster moldings. These decorative elements can lift a room from mundane to ‘wow.’ The best part? They’re realizing this is not their granny’s traditionalism: Classic is cool, and timelessness is hip.”

—Corey Damen Jenkins, Corey Damen Jenkins & Associates

“We see kitchen hoods as an opportunity for creativity rather than as a purely functional element. We’ve designed playful custom enclosures, unique to each setting, that become sculptural centerpieces: faceted, curved, at times colorful or clad in unexpected materials like fluted glass or lacquered cast plaster. By transforming something ordinary into a crafted object, these hoods bring character to the home, making the daily ritual of cooking feel both elevated and delightfully personal.”

—Ksenia Kagner, Civilian

