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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 HISTORIC HOUSE GETS A LITTLE EDGE

DESIGNER: Deborah Chatfield | Chatfield Design



In 1802 Joseph and Hannah Maxcy hired Ebenezer Alden to design and build this Federal-style house. Alden had previously worked on the home of General Henry Knox, who had been George Washington's secretary of war. The house was placed on the National Register of Historic Places for its exceptional carving found in the crown moldings, architraves, and mantelpieces in all four rooms of the ground floor, as well as its hinged paneled wall on the second floor, a rare feature even in the highest style houses of the time. By lifting this wall and fastening it to the ceiling, the Maxcys could open the entire south side of the second floor for social functions.

To give this historic house a little bit of edge, Deborah Chatfield incorporated antiques, new fabrics, and wallpaper

while paying special attention to the historical architectural details. The current owner, a retired curator of the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., has an extensive art collection, so Chatfield kept the palette neutral, infusing color through the fabrics.

"This was one of those projects that didn't aspire to a certain 'look,'" says Chatfield, "but more the lifestyle of the client. I love using and repurposing furniture, whether antique or new, and this house required that. My philosophy is applying this talent to the individual client needs, whether they be modern, contemporary, coastal oriented, or farmhouse—the sky is the limit."

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