



## On the Edge

Design pros walk us through the dos and don'ts of decorative moldings /// BY BRADLEY LINCOLN

**B**arely there or boldly assertive, moldings and decorative trim are an element of interior design that can complement furniture and accessories or, if not executed with care, skew the mood of a room and make everything feel off. With a myriad of options available and no cut-and-dried formulas to guide us, picking appropriate ornamentation can be intimidating and potentially bank-breaking. We talked trappings with design experts to get practical hints on composition, color, style, and proportion.

PHOTOGRAPHY: ERIC NAUSMAN

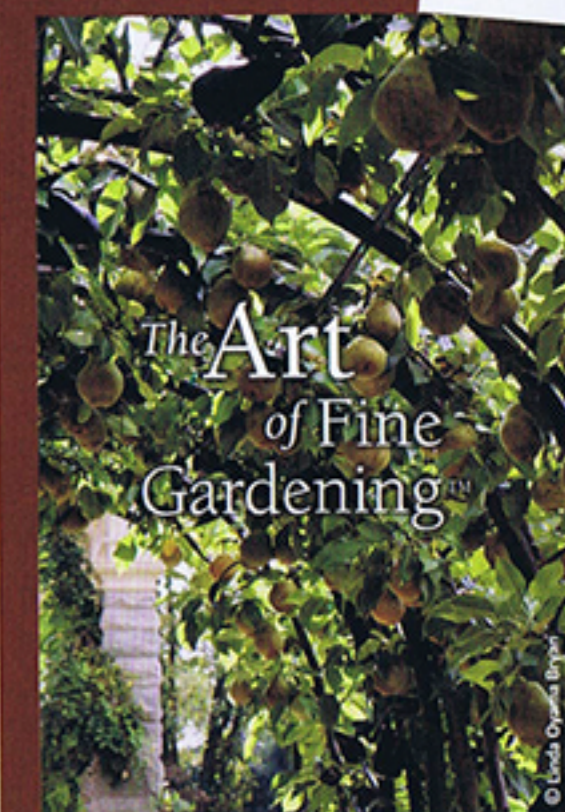
At left, designer Shelley Johnstone used a variety of basic moldings from floor to ceiling to give a traditional living room visual depth and detail. Below, she framed mirrors with casings that underscore the architecture of a bathroom, and manipulated a bedroom's proportions by beefing up the existing crown molding.



**Not Just a Pretty Facing** Most molding is used in a decorative manner with no real function other than to enrich a room visually, but it can also have practical applications. Before the days of Teflon-tough paints and scrubbable wallpapers, wainscoting served to protect the lower sections

of walls from fingerprints and abrasions—now, designer Todd Haley (3520 N. Lake Shore Dr., 773-755-7170; toddmhaleyinc.com) also puts the panels to use for their unobtrusive soundproofing qualities, sometimes doubling up materials for thickness and extending the treatment well

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