

# AMERICA'S TOP YOUNG DESIGNERS

They hail from New York, Miami, Los Angeles, Chicago, Denver, Seattle, and other points around the nation. Their styles are as disparate as east and west, yet their similarities are many. They are young (all under 40) and they represent the next wave in interior design. In the following pages they identify their heroes, describe their dream projects, discuss trends, and reveal where they would choose to land if they could journey through time (Paris in the 1920s was a favorite). The other thing they share is talent. Make a note of their names. If you haven't heard of them already, you will in the future.



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**Who inspires you?** Mies van der Rohe, Jaime Rummerfield, Vernon Applegate, Gioi Tran, Vicente Wolf, Albert Hadley, Juan Montoya, and Darryl Carter.

**Describe your dream project** A flat in London where I'd combine traditional English furniture with modern pieces.  
**If you could go back in time, where would you stop?** The 1950s. I love the glamour, furnishings, clothes, cars, and homes of that era.

**How would you describe your style?** Traditional eclectic with a modern sensibility. I love the juxtaposition of classical traditional lines with clean hypermodern accents.



INTRODUCING

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LESLIE MAY  
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**Who inspires you?** Kelly Wearstler and Carolina Herrera.  
**Describe your dream project.** To renovate and restore a fabulous antebellum home.  
**If you could go back in time, where would you stop?** Florence, Italy, during the Renaissance.  
**How would you describe your style?** Elegant, with a youthful twist on traditional designs.  
**What do you consider "in" and what's "out"?** In: Traditional furniture upholstered in whimsical or contemporary fabrics. Out: Any design that's not comfortable for friends and family to live in and enjoy.



DARREN HENAULT  
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**When did you realize you were a designer?** When I was eight I would sit in church and figure out how to break up the space into different floors and where to put the rooms. I was torn about replacing the stained glass; it didn't work with my scheme but it seemed blasphemous to get rid of it.  
**Who inspires you?** People who live beautifully. It has nothing to do with money. It's about comfort and style, not flash.  
**Describe your dream project.** One that involves a client who encourages me to do what I do and totally trusts me.  
**How would you describe your style?** Proustian—rich, intricate, and multilayered.



SHELLEY JOHNSTONE  
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**Who inspires you?** People and cultures I see while traveling in places like Buenos Aires, Capri, and Paris. I always try to capture those impressions in some way.  
**If you could go back in time, where would you stop?** I'd love to work with David Adler and Frances Elkins. And Jean-Michel Frank furnishings—perfection!  
**How would you describe your style?** Fresh, timeless elegance in keeping with a modern lifestyle.  
**If you had not become a designer, what would you be doing?** If I had not become a designer, I would be dreaming of becoming one.



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**Who inspires you?** Thomas O'Brien for his simple style and subtle use of color.  
**If you could go back in time, where would you stop?** The early 1930s and '40s. I think I would feel at home with the level of sophistication in design and spirit that existed even as the world was in such turmoil.  
**How would you describe your style?** I always strive to create unexpected, fresh interiors that lack pretension.  
**What do you consider "in"?** Hardwood floors finished in something other than the traditional darker stains are in.



(continued on page 78)

CHRYSLER



# 2005 DESIGN INNOVATORS



## Driven by Inspiration

Chrysler is proud to seek out talented peers in the field of design—kindred spirits who leave their mark on the world by making it a more beautiful, functional place. Introducing the 2005 Design Innovators. All understand Chrysler's passion for great design, all are driven by innovation, and all share Chrysler's goal of steering design inspiration boldly into the future.