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**Designer Tips**  
*Secrets to  
Great Rooms* p. 86

**Before & After—Solutions that Transform Your Home**

# Simply Serene

A strict color palette, balance of scale, and mix of wood tones make for a welcoming space.



**DARRYL CARTER**

Washington, D.C.

*Known for a seamless mix of modern elements and antiques within a plain, unadorned envelope, Carter's spaces focus on comfort and a family's lifestyle.*

**ABOUT THIS ROOM**

In a townhouse, Carter combined the dining and family rooms into a single space. Two hues of white bathe the room in calm while black French doors draw the eye to an exterior garden. A round table at the room's center is flanked by antique tavern benches covered in faux leather so white fabric and children can coexist. Bookshelves near the fireplace get a sense of age from functional cremone bolt hardware and overscale hinges. A mirror with black lacquer and a gilded finish balances the stone mantel.

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# Island Inspired

With a mix of colors, patterns, and pops of the unexpected, a family space focuses on fun.



## CELERIE KEMBLE

New York City

*Kemble celebrates the beauty of traditional style by breaking some of its rules. Known for her love of green and bold use of color in unexpected ways, Kemble consistently makes design as fun as it is inviting.*

## ABOUT THIS ROOM

Her client, "a true Palm Beach girl," says Kemble, is blind to all colors except pink and green. In a casual gathering room for the client's young family, white outdoor fabrics upholster and protect furnishings from stains while natural floor coverings provide durability. Woven wallpaper covers the walls in playful grass green while graphic patterns and a punch of aqua add exuberance in throw pillows and window treatments.

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# Style Sophisticate

Beauty is a dining room wrapped in walls of warm gray with touches of feminine shimmer.



**SUZANNE KASLER**  
Atlanta

*Known for her classically designed rooms and feminine color palettes, Kasler injects Southern charm into every project. For her, design is in the sophisticated details, often haute couture touches derived from the fashion world.*

#### ABOUT THIS ROOM

Kasler prefers to mix chairs in dining spaces. Otherwise, she says, "it becomes very stiff, like a conference room." Various styles of chairs in two different finishes—a traditional, medium wood tone and a Swedish gray—pull up to a round dining table. The same large-scale print uphusters chairs and dresses the room's windows. A gray hue wraps the space in warmth, and metallic-finish lighting fixtures add sparkle.

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# Soothing Sanctuary

Inspired by the green meadows beyond its windows, this bedroom is a serene retreat.



## BARRY DIXON

Warrenton, Virginia  
*Dixon is a strong believer that our homes should imitate who we are. To that end, he creates elegant, individualized interiors centered on classical architecture and traditional designs.*

## ABOUT THIS ROOM

A spring color palette of soft greens and creamy whites served as inspiration for this guest suite. Located in a renovated 18th-century farmhouse, the suite combines historic architecture with fresh printed linen fabrics and furnishings designed for comfort. A sitting area by the fire offers check-covered seating for reading or conversation while classic linen prints dress the bed and upholster the walls. A green-painted ceiling and creamy trim offer the perfect finish.

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# Coastal Casual

Beach living calls for comfortable spaces dressed in the hues of sand, sea, and sky.



**BARCLAY BUTERA**

Newport Beach, California

*A California native, Butera believes in interiors with a contemporary take on old Hollywood mixed with a dash of British Colonialism. With an eye for details, Butera layers the fresh and current on a base of traditional style.*

**ABOUT THIS ROOM**

A strong example of Butera's signature beach look, his own living space—open to both his home's kitchen and an outdoor living space—offers a comfortable place to relax. Various tones of blue—from a strong navy to the palest sky—dress the room. "It's all about the blending of the spectrum of blues," Butera says. Woven elements, such as raffia upholstery, a sisal rug, and grass cloth, add texture to the palette.

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# Masculine Refuge

This home office is a formal meeting space as well as a relaxing escape from a hectic day.



## PHILIP MITCHELL

Toronto

*Sophisticated, tranquil interiors with distinct personality is this designer's calling card.*

### ABOUT THIS ROOM

This client gave Mitchell carte blanche to create a retreat within his home with a definitive masculine edge, Mitchell says. Burred mahogany paneling and ceilings finished with gold leaf highlights and a stone-wrapped fireplace give the room its formal library air. To bring in a sense of comfort, Mitchell chose an eclectic mix of art and antiques, custom-designed furnishings, and upholstered pieces in a spa-blue fabric. Accessory fabrics and the antique-look rug tie the brown, blue, and gold scheme together while lamps bring additional gold touches to the space.

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