

NEW+NOW

GET TO KNOW FOUR TEXAS INFLUENCERS AS THEY SHED LIGHT ON WHAT'S OF THE MOMENT IN DESIGN, ART AND ARCHITECTURE.

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1 THE ILLUMINATOR ANDY SINGER

What's intriguing you now in design?

I love the way midcentury items have made their way into today's design projects. My preference is for a more subtle use of them as a nice surprise.

Having a moment:

Kelly Wearstler's collection for Visual Comfort probably had the most interest of anything we have launched in quite some time.

Kelly's love of mixed metals, stones and unique textures employs an inventive use of scale and depth. This collection will serve to deliver her signature "raw and refined" aesthetic to the world of high-end lighting.

Hot in Texas:

J. Randall Powers' most recent project in River Oaks was spectacular. The way he marries classic style and intimacy in a grand home is what makes him an extraordinary designer, but this project was truly special.

Material palette of the moment:

Natural materials such as alabaster, crystal and stone are always on-trend because they can be polished for a sleek modern look or cut raw for a more organic feel.

Spotlight on:

I'm constantly inspired by the classics in all things—from my Chuck Taylors to the John Staub architecture of my family's home.

Dream job:

I'd love to switch roles with Ralph Lauren and discover all the various layers of his world. I've worn Ralph Lauren and lived in Ralph Lauren as long as I can remember; and a ranch in Colorado would be nice, too.

Houston's most beautiful building:

The Bank of America Center designed by Philip Johnson is without a doubt my favorite structure in the city. The Postmodern design creates a unique silhouette against the Houston skyline.

Andy Singer is the founder and president of Visual Comfort & Co., a Houston-based company that is keeping the lights on (literally). Singer counts the perfect Houston day as one spent in his office, wearing one of his many vests. Outside: 72 degrees and no humidity.

2 THE DESIGNER COURTNEY HILL

What's intriguing you now in design?

Design is always evolving. Anyone can contribute to that evolution—from fashion designers to architects to landscape architects—and I'm constantly curious about what's next and how I can participate.

Happening in Houston:

Between our endless culinary experiences, the Museum District and the city's rich history, Houston is buzzing with excitement more than ever at the moment, and I feel as though design is really pulling from that energy. The Menil Collection is adding a \$40-million Drawing Institute, and The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston unveiled its \$450-million redevelopment plan earlier this year. Its new construction will work to make the museum the cultural heart of Houston. I'm eager to see how the city will continue to burgeon with creative energy.

Hot spots:

If you're visiting the city, start with brunch at Tiny Boxwoods, followed by detours to Carl Moore and the W. Gardner antiques shops. Then, spend the afternoon exploring a few of my favorite local stores—Shabby Slips, Area, Found, Mecox Gardens and Biscuit Home.

Luxury is:

Being the fourth largest city in the U.S., Houston is the ultimate urban concrete jungle. We create beauty within our homes. The simple details from places such as Longoria Collection create luxury. It's this atmosphere and environment of beauty, and the way we welcome friends and families into our homes, that make life feel luxurious.

Biggest design influences:

For me, it's about a return to where it all began, with Victoria Hagan Interiors and Greg Jordan Inc. in New York. I worked



Images: Clockwise from top left: Lighting fixtures from the Kelly Wearstler and Visual Comfort collaboration (the Cubist medium chandelier in aged iron and the Strada large oval pendant in gold, respectively). Two of Courtney Hill's designs: a sleek all-white kitchen and a modern study.

for them after college before returning to Houston and launching my own company.

Material of the moment:

I love a subtle addition of inlaid metal, brass for example, in wood floors or cabinets. A simple border of metal can make for a stunning detail.

Up next:

I've always dreamt of one day starting my own fabric line. The boutique fabric collections intrigue me.

Courtney Hill operates her eponymous interior design practice out of Houston, where she's known for her elegant, polished and classic aesthetic. She dreams of one day nabbing an assignment to design a boutique hotel or flexing her green thumb by planting her own vegetable garden.

SINGER HEADSHOT: COURTESY VISUAL COMFORT & CO.; SINGER PHOTOS: COURTESY KELLY WEARSTLER FOR VISUAL COMFORT & CO.; HILL HEADSHOT: PRISCILLA DICKSON; HILL PHOTOS: JACK THOMPSON.

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On your radar:

There is a revitalization of the downtown area going on right now, the Klyde Warren Park and McKinney Avenue. There's a lot more progressive architecture going on, with lots of cantilevered and gravity-defying structures. The right folks are heading our way, and our economy is booming, so that means business is really building here.

The future...

I'm waiting for the moment when furniture has no legs and floats in space but still looks good.

Color palette of the moment:

I love a statement-making navy so dark you're not sure if it's black or not—all lacquered and full of lead, like the doors in London. I'm also enamored with Chinese red, flour sack white, rich camel, bright peacock and flat, dirty khaki brown. The whole thing is rather intense, but it's sexy as hell.

Prized possessions:

In my own home, there's nothing I treasure more than my three Cole Morgan paintings and my gorgeous Harry Borgman sculpture.

Morgan paintings and my gorgeous Harry Borgman sculpture.

Biggest design challenge?

I designed, engineered and constructed a 35-foot continuous dining table, separated on eight pedestals, for the George W. Bush Presidential Library. It took over a year to finish, with multiple drawings and models to approve, but it turned out perfectly lovely.

What's trending?

I think the design industry is about to close off a full circle—breaking away from midcentury a bit and heading back to traditional, classical style with richly carved wood that's been worn, worked and stained by hand and with luxe European textiles.

Up next:

I'm working on designing more upholstered furniture and developing my own textile collection. Most importantly, I'm not allowing either to be like anything else out there.

George Cameron Nash is the owner and curator of two namesake Texas showrooms in Dallas and Houston. From his Dallas-based headquarters, he misses the Mad Men-like buzz of the era he lived through—the sound of real phones ringing and the clatter of IBM Selectric typewriters.



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3 THE MERCHANT
GEORGE CAMERON NASH

Intriguing you now:

Designers are creating wonderful, approachable interiors with substance, detail, correctness and intelligent use of antiques and imagination. This new crop of designers, too, are entering the business with much more training: people who can draw a room setting at a ¼-inch scale in pencil. It's so refreshing!

4 THE ARTIST
MEGAN ADAMS BROOKS

What's trending?

Mixed-media is so interesting to me right now. Recently, I visited the Erin Cluley Gallery in Dallas to see Josephine Durkin's show, "Maps, Flora and Highlighters." I fell in love with her collages made of paper and photographs all stitched together.

Keep an eye on...

Fellow Dallas artist Brenda Bogart. Her original piece, *Dictators and Other Dicks*, was in a group show at Parsons in New York City called "Romancing True Power: D20." Her pieces were hanging alongside artists like Andy Warhol.

I can't get enough of...

The Womb chair by Eero Saarinen. I inherited my grandma's original, and I can't wait to get it reupholstered soon. It's comfortable to sit in and can be a statement piece.

Dallas hot spots:

There's nothing like a night at The Joule Hotel, and then head over to Mi Cocina for some good Tex-Mex and a Mambo Taxi—a swirly blend of frozen margarita and sangria. Next, shopping around the design center to places like Scout, Again & Again and Lula B's.

On my wish list:

A Chapman Kelley painting from the 1970s. I love his poplars paintings and abstract wildflowers from that time period. I'm also on the hunt for the perfect antique Oushak rug or possibly a Saarinen Tulip table for my breakfast room.

Go-to winter exhibit:

I am looking forward to the Dallas Museum of Art's "Jackson Pollock: Blind Spots" exhibit that will be on display through March 2016.

Up next:

I am working on expanding my textile line to include a new hand-printed line of fabrics. The production process includes dyeing the ground material first and then printing my designs in ink on top.

Megan Adams Brooks is an artist and textile designer whose practice is based in Dallas. When she's not in the studio creating intricate patterns on silk, you can find her in the kitchen baking up a strong rum cake, a recipe she got from her mother.

Images: Clockwise from top: The Duneland chandelier by designer Debra Weninger is one of many fixtures available in George Cameron Nash's Texas showrooms. Two pieces of art by Megan Adams Brooks—both hand-painted on sheets of silk in her Dallas studio.