



PROJECT:

A young family's West University kitchen

RUNNER-UP

Dodson Interiors, Julie Dodson.

INDIVIDUAL ROOM – KITCHEN

FIRST PLACE: COURTNEY HILL INTERIORS, COURTNEY HILL FERTITTA, WITH HALLIE HENLEY SIMS AND GWEN KELLY

DESIGN IDEAS:

Like the airy clerestory of a medieval cathedral, this kitchen has an elevated and holy relationship with natural light, which floods into the room from a wall of windows that overlook the gardens. Designer Courtney Hill Fertitta's timeless appreciation of classic principles of space, light and color imparts a relaxed elegance. A palette of refreshing and crisp whites is articulated in countertops of veined white marble, tile backsplashes and wooden cabinetry; glass fronts provide further transparency. The honed Leuders limestone floor grounds the room with an earthy foundation that makes one believe this is how nature intended kitchens to look.

WHAT OUR JUDGES HAD TO SAY:

Diane Dorrans Saeks: "Her design is superbly executed. It is cohesive, intelligently planned and harmonious. The materials all support the concept and feel. She created the French bistro look her clients wanted without overdoing it — she knew when to stop, and the reticence of her design speaks to her professionalism."

Bobby McAlpine and Greg Tankersley: "A classic farmhouse kitchen. I believe food would taste better in here."

Mary McDonald: "I find the restraint in total simplicity refreshing."

DESIGN IDEAS:

While some might envision this as a living room, it may be more fitting to call it a salon. How easy it is to imagine elevated discussions à la Marie-Louise Bosquet within these confines. The marriage of old and new, contemporary and vintage is remarkable in its cohesive execution; no piece competes for attention, allowing the eye to seamlessly digest the whole. There's also a nonthreatening wit at play: Consider the Damien Hirst piggy bank alongside the sofa or the Mongolian fur stools that conjure Claude Lalanne sheep. Textures ranging from Lucite to seagrass add dimension. Furthering the argument for this room as a salon is its strategic layout, which ensures no guest is ever denied a surface upon which to prop a cocktail, while intelligent furniture placement encourages multiple conversations.

WHAT OUR JUDGES HAD TO SAY:

the sofa or the Mongolian fur
Bobby McAlpine and Greg Tankersley: "An expert assembly of texture and color. A perfect glamour salad."

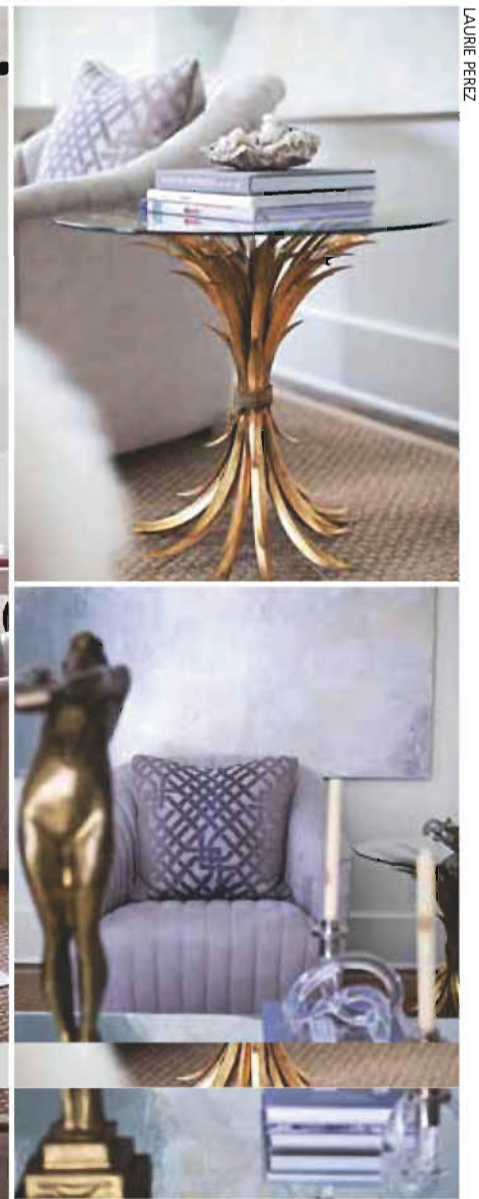
PROJECT:

The decorator's own living room



RUNNER-UP

Sally Wheat Interiors, Sally Wheat (for a second project).



INDIVIDUAL ROOM – OTHER

FIRST PLACE: SALLY WHEAT INTERIORS, SALLY WHEAT

AND THE WINNERS ARE . . .

Some months back, we put out an APB for compelling design projects across four categories: Interior Design, Interior Architecture, Historic Restoration and Garden Design, with subcategories for each. The competition yielded 129 entries, 1,000 photographs and countless hours of careful consideration by a distinguished panel of judges. Our jury of design sages included **Mary McDonald**, **Martyn Lawrence Bullard**, **Bobby McAlpine** and **Greg Tankersley**; **Diane Dorrans Saeks** had the honor of breaking all ties that arose.

The winners were announced at a formal presentation this spring at The Houston Design Center (see page 14 of this section for complete social coverage of the night). Here, a closer look at the exquisite details of the winning homes, restaurants, commercial spaces, gardens, offices and preservation projects, peppered with some astute comments from our judges.

THE *PAPER*CITY DESIGN AWARDS AT THE HOUSTON DESIGN CENTER

BY SETH VAUGHAN

PROJECT:

A River Oaks powder room

DESIGN IDEAS:

Designer Courtney Hill Fertitta's team reworked this powder room in finely rendered materials, where the glory is in the details. And details abound. Diminutive tile is arranged in a manner that gives an air of Art Deco. Fixtures — sourced from Fixtures & Fittings, Bradley Hughes, Urban Archeology and THG — are so refined and polished that one might think they were graduates of Miss Porter's School. It all belies a refined design fluency. The commitment to color is commendable, and the ability to neutralize its potency through reflection or light is inspired, whether it be the gilded mirror above the console vanity or the sconces positioned on either side to properly illuminate. We tip our hats to this budding master.



JACK THOMPSON

WHAT OUR JUDGES HAD TO SAY:

Mary McDonald: "I found this space had a sense of balance while achieving very rich layers of drama and glamour, which can often go wrong. I love the use of the deeper eggplant walls with the fluency. The commitment to color, the black finishes, brass fixtures and vanity banding, the high-quality millwork as well as the rich marble edge detailing. This room is the perfect balance of total saturation without going too over-the-top with multiple materials. Perhaps she can come redo mine."

Martyn Lawrence Bullard: "A great use of space and gorgeous, luxurious color palette."

Bobby McAlpine and Greg Tankersley: "I'd feel more dashing just walking in this powder room."

INDIVIDUAL ROOM – BATH

FIRST PLACE: COURTNEY HILL INTERIORS, COURTNEY HILL FERTITTA, WITH HALLIE

HENLEY SIMS AND GWEN KELLY

HONORABLE MENTION:

Collaborative Design Group, architect Mickey Bufalini and Mark Bufalini • Courtney Hill Interiors, Courtney

Hill Fertitta, with Hallie Henley Sims and Gwen Kelly (for a second project) • Biscuit Home, Bailey McCarthy.