

INSIDER SECRETS OF THE AD100

The architects and interior designers featured in the AD100 approach their work with gusto and discrimination—seeking out master craftspeople and choice shops, journeying to inspiring destinations, feeding their aesthetic appetites (along with those of their clients). Keeping their eyes wide open is key, as what they see becomes part of their design DNA, shaping the structures and spaces they devise.

With that in mind, we reached out to dozens of our 2012 honorees and asked them to share their favorite sources, products, and travel spots, as well as the objects and places that fuel their creative and acquisitive sides. Consider the following pages an essential insider's guide, offering invaluable ideas and insights from the world's top design authorities. →

PRODUCED BY JACQUELINE TERREBONNE



“I don’t do flea markets—but I’m not one to miss a good church fair on a Sunday afternoon.”

—JEFFREY BILHUBER,
Interior Designer

SOURCES

Where the experts shop, commission specialty pieces, and hunt for treasures

MARIO BUATTA, INTERIOR DESIGNER

“I bought a Regency penwork tabletop chest of drawers from the Brooke Astor estate sale at Sotheby’s. I love anything done by hand, and penwork was drawn in ink to mimic inlay. The first example I ever purchased was a writing table in brown, white, and red, which I found at Colefax and Fowler in London in 1964. I have around 30 pieces now, mostly boxes and small tables. Every time I see another, I have to stop myself and say, ‘Don’t I have two of those already?’”

ALEXA HAMPTON

“Stark’s Antelope carpeting is a staple, basic but with a lot of pattern. And Dornbracht’s Madison sink fittings with the old-fashioned hot and cold levers are classic—plus it’s a brand plumbers like to use.”

JENNIFER POST, INTERIOR DESIGNER

“Maharam and Rogers & Goffigon are my go-tos for fabrics. Sandra Jordan for alpaca textiles, Loro Piana for anything.”



SUZANNE KASLER, INTERIOR DESIGNER

“Every time I go to Scott Antique Markets in Atlanta—held the second weekend of every month—I find unique items: maybe a fabulous wood sphere, great art fabric, or custom-made pillows. Really anything you can think of.”

THAD HAYES, INTERIOR DESIGNER

“My favorite source for custom-made carpets is V’Soske. I love going through their archive of samples from the 1960s and ’70s. I don’t send someone from my office to the showroom. I’d much rather go myself because it’s such a delight.”

DAVID ROCKWELL, ARCHITECT AND INTERIOR DESIGNER

“I’ve discovered some really offbeat, interesting items at Blackman Cruz in Los Angeles.”

WALDO FERNANDEZ

“Bulthaup kitchen cabinetry is consistently clean, practical, and modern—without ever being formulaic.”

RICHARD MISHAAN

“I often find amazing objects and furniture in Chinatown in New York City. And there is a strip of shops in Dania Beach, Florida, along U.S. 1, just north of Miami. It’s hit-or-miss, but I’ve found some seriously good things there.”

Clockwise from far left: Design shop Revival in Chattanooga, Tennessee. A tabletop penwork chest of drawers from Brooke Astor’s estate. Objects creatively displayed at Blackman Cruz in L.A. Darren Star’s Bulthaup kitchen, designed by Waldo Fernandez.

DAVID COLLINS

“In Milan, Guglielmo Miani’s store, Larusmiani, has really handsome made-to-measure suits and coats. I am embarrassed to say I rarely buy furniture or become inspired by architecture in Milan, but in terms of fashion, the city is second to none.”

BOBBY MCALPINE, MCALPINE TANKERSLEY, ARCHITECT AND INTERIOR DESIGNER

“The savviest, prettiest, loveliest design store in America is Revival in Chattanooga, Tennessee. You might as well back your truck up to it.”

JOHN IKE

“One of my favorite antiques shops is Robertaebasta in Milan, which has the most incredible collection of 20th-century Italian design. It’s probably the best source in the world for Gio Ponti pieces.”

TIMOTHY CORRIGAN

“The finest specialty wall finishers I have found anywhere are employed by Atelier de Ricou, just outside Paris. I’ve used them on projects all over the globe and they never disappoint.”

AXEL VERVOORDT, INTERIOR DESIGNER

“I recently bought a beautiful painting by Kazuo Shiraga, a major Japanese artist, whose work is included in a recent show at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles.” →