

INTERIOR DESIGN

EMILY SUMMERS DESIGN ASSOCIATES



Known for creating crisp, elegantly restrained contemporary rooms that still have a warm soulfulness, Emily Summers is a master at softening modernism's hard edges with sumptuously upholstered furniture and rich, tactile finishes. Befitting a decorator who cites influences as diverse as the streamlined artisanal products of the Wiener Werkstätte, the monolithic architecture of Louis Kahn, and the playfully sculptural furniture of John Dickinson, she eschews prescriptive approaches to modern design and delights in occasional whimsical notes. Summers, who considers auction catalogues bedtime reading, also believes that artworks are of prime importance—one of the reasons her Dallas firm offers not only interior design services but also art consultation. emilysummers.com



ARCHITECTURE

FERGUSON & SHAMAMIAN ARCHITECTS

Founded by Mark Ferguson and Oscar Shamamian, this Manhattan residential firm gives historic forms a welcoming refinement. Classically inspired details and proportions prevail among the pair's distinguished projects, which include a Palladian-style villa in Malibu, California; a neo-Georgian estate in Westport, Connecticut; and a pared-down penthouse in a landmark New York City apartment building. "Good design survives the test

of time," Ferguson and Shamamian wrote in the monograph *New Traditional Architecture* (Rizzoli, 2011). "The past, however, is never copied but interpreted, since it must be adapted to the client and to circumstance." Far from textbook, the duo's work invariably feels more friendly than formal. In their words: "While a house provides practical comforts and conveniences, it also arouses emotions, associations, and memories." fergusonshamamian.com



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FOX-NAHEM ASSOCIATES

Joe Nahem's interiors reflect the deep-seated confidence of a designer three decades into a successful career. Just 22 when he launched his New York City firm with the late Tom Fox in the 1980s, Nahem possesses the keenly honed instincts to suavely guide bold choices. Upending expectations in one traditional Connecticut home, he placed a swirling metal settee by Ron Arad in a classic bay window and furnished the paneled library with



custom-made chairs upholstered in a vivid faux-bois fabric. Always willing to stretch his talents, Nahem adapts his style to suit the context, whether it's preserving the historic elements of a Stanford White townhouse or adding luxurious paneling and plaster finishes to smarten a newly built space that's too bland. "While I do think most of our very varied projects have a common thread," Nahem says, "I take pride in *not* having a specific signature look." foxnahem.com →

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: SCOTT FRANCES; TREVOR OSWALT; PETER MURDOCK; JOSH GADDY; NIKOLAS KOENIG; LAURA WILSON