

JAN/FEB 2011

LUXURY HOME

quarterly



TIMELESS
DESIGNS... *for kids*

SELLING TORONTO
Canada's booming condo market

+ A PEEK INSIDE *Rachel Ashwell's*
'Shabby Chic' master bedroom

DESIGNER SHOWCASE

PERFECT ROOM ACCESSORY

Made of bronze and lacquer, this Antony Todd Pebble coffee table "looks like a piece of jewelry," Robinson says. "It is a beautiful art form."

antonytodd.com





Eve Robinson Associates Inc.

Talk to interior designer Eve Robinson about her company, Eve Robinson Associates Inc., and you'll get a glimpse of the woman behind the high-end design company: a professional in overdrive, involved in every decision made at her firm; a trend-averse designer who opts for interesting styles that stand strong in any modern era; and a savvy businesswoman who has made quite a name in the tristate area, participating in numerous show houses since she opened shop in New York City in 1990.

BY RUTH E. DÁVILA



Kips Bay Show House

Started in 1972, the Kips Bay Show House gives designers the annual opportunity to create rooms for design lovers to admire, critique, and appreciate. Each year the show house is held in a different townhouse on Manhattan's Upper East Side.

"For the 2007 Show House (my fifth time participating), I was given the living room to design," Robinson says. "I wanted to create a space that was fresh, confident, and comfortable."

A rare diamond-patterned, parchment-fronted French 1940s cabinet strikes an artful balance with designer Paul Laszlo's sculptural armchair and a contemporary coffee table made of bronze and lacquer.

“It was important for us to keep the wonderful old character and charm of the house, but at the same time update it and make it feel more modern.”

EVE ROBINSON,
PRESIDENT



Forget what has been said about declines in the interiors industry; Robinson's customer list continues to grow. In large part, her company's success is due to meticulous execution. "I try to get as much information as I can about how people live," says Robinson, who serves as president of her company. "Do they allow food outside of the kitchen? Do they take off their shoes when they walk in? If so, I need to make sure the fabrics and materials are really durable to withstand this type of use."

More than standard decorating, Robinson's services have an architectural slant. In addition to sourcing fabrics, furniture, home accessories, lighting, and rugs, her team often designs cabinetry, new bathrooms, and kitchens.

To get a feel for her style, nothing speaks louder than a glimpse into Robinson's own home—or homes, rather. Her family's apartment in Manhattan's Upper West Side embodies her work/life balance: it's sophisticated (complete with a formal dining room) and clean-lined, as expected. But Robinson's Southampton weekend retreat, brightly accented with beachy décor, takes visitors on a creative journey.

Both of Robinson's abodes are featured in *Designers Here and There: Inside the City and Country Homes of America's Top Decorators*, by Michele Keith (Random House 2010).

House in Watermill, NY

In Robinson's vacation home, the designer wanted to create a cheerful, whimsical space to entertain family and friends. The home features a pink and red palette, shown here in the master bedroom, where the colors are used graphically in the window treatments and the Casa del Bianco bed linens. casadelbianco.com

Her vacation house in Watermill, New York—which she describes as “cheerful, whimsical, and fun”—was her most personal project to date. “My husband and I went looking for a house with our children on one cold winter’s day in 2004,” Robinson recalls. When they reached the eighth property, something eerie happened. “My kids ran into the house, ran upstairs, ran downstairs, and then ran out screaming, ‘This house is really scary!’” she says. “But my husband and I looked around and said, ‘You know, this has a lot of potential.’”

It's no shock that Robinson and her husband, Joshua Wiener, would gravitate toward a work-in-progress in their house hunt. Robinson has a proclivity for making spaces beautiful, and Wiener is a general contractor and owner of his own firm, Silver Lining Interiors. Robinson and Wiener fully renovated the main house, which was built in the 1940s.



BRIGHTENING UPDATES

Adding windows and increasing the size of the openings made the connection between inside and outside more tangible. The kitchen has cerused-oak cabinetry and multiple seeded glass pendants illuminate the space. The family room's rough-hewn beams show their natural color and contrast with the white painted paneled walls. Stone was added to the façade of the brick fireplace to give it texture and depth.

"It was important for us to keep the wonderful old character and charm of the house, but at the same time update it and make it feel more modern," Robinson says.

First on the agenda was to lighten things up. "The house was very dark and depressing when we purchased it," she recalls. "By painting the original cedar walls white, we brightened up the space." To that end, they enlarged existing windows and added new ones to gain a sense of the outdoors. Bringing the colors and textures of nature inside, she created a colorful balance. In the living area, Robinson incorporated "pinks and reds of summer flowers" for a splash of wildlife. She filled the home with bursts of blue to embody "the idea of the sky coming inside," she says.

The Watermill kitchen can be considered a signature Eve Robinson design—harmonious and simple with a dash of wit. She removed the wall between the original kitchen and dining room for added depth. In the center of the kitchen, an old farmhouse table is surrounded by 1950s schoolhouse chairs. Above the table, Robinson hung a bleached coconut light fixture, "reminiscent of a hula skirt."





**A one stop, full service
resource for Interior
Designers, Architects
and Contractors**

OUR SERVICES INCLUDE:

- ▶ ARCHITECTURAL MILLWORK
- ▶ CUSTOM FURNITURE
- ▶ CUSTOM KITCHEN CABINETRY
- ▶ UPHOLSTERY & METAL WORK
- ▶ RESTORATION/ REFINISHING
- ▶ PARCHMENT/ SHAGREEN LAY UP
- ▶ GILDING / METAL LEAF
- ▶ CUSTOM LACQUER / FRENCH POLISH
- ▶ FULL SHOP DRAWINGS / PROJECT MANAGEMENT
- ▶ LEED ACCREDITED



East 58th Street Apartment

This 3,000-square-foot apartment on the 44th floor of Cesar Pelli + Associates' Bloomberg Tower has spectacular views of New York City. "Our clean-lined design was intended to complement the sublime view," Robinson says. "We transformed the windowless gallery into a jewelbox. The client was desperate to create a light-filled space. We covered the walls in white, back-painted glass and used bronze for the mullions. The result is pure luxury and luminosity." The gallery also features a BDDW Captain's Mirror (bddw.com) and a credenza from Therien & Co. (therien.com).

On the ceiling, rough-hewn beams infuse the room with a rustic mood, contrasting with the white-paneled walls and white, modern bucket-seat barstools. And kitchen cabinetry is made of cerused oak—sand-colored to remind the family of the nearby beach. Old and vintage furnishings are used throughout the Watermill home, for sustainability as much as aesthetics. Outdoors, she installed solar panels on the roof to make the house more eco-friendly. Overall, the laid-back design and energy-efficient elements combine to create a weekend home that conserves energy—mentally and otherwise. "It's a place for us to escape the busyness and craziness of the city and relax and entertain," she says.

At work, Robinson puts as much heart into her designs for customers—from Park Avenue to Connecticut—as she does into her own home. But an important distinction is that she doesn't bow to the latest craze. "You want things to be fresh and current, but don't want them to be so trendy that they'll go out of style, because furnishing a home is expensive; it's an investment," she says. It's precisely this philosophy of timelessness that has kept Eve Robinson Associates going strong, making the firm as enduring as its designs. ■

A MESSAGE FROM SILVER LINING INTERIORS

It has been an absolute pleasure working with Eve Robinson over the last 18 years. From the initial steps of a project to the final product, Robinson makes sure that the clients and collaborators are as informed as possible by providing them with excellent drawings and thorough schedules. Her decisive nature speeds up what can be a long process.

I have always admired her ability to seamlessly fuse both contemporary and traditional elements in the same project. She has created strong connections with vendors so her clients can be sure to receive high-quality products at the best value. She is not simply a designer but is invested in meeting the practical needs of her clients; she has been known to measure books on shelves and plates in the closet of clients existing homes to ensure everything fits seamlessly after the renovation. She makes sure to attune herself with her clients' lifestyles, and that care, when combined with her attention to detail, makes her one of the best designers to work with.