

Designers Uncensored

Twenty of this year's **Decorator Showcase** participants sound off on guilty-pleasure tchotchkes, emerald fatigue, and the lure of the blue-box Swede.

BY LAUREN MURROW (APRIL 27–MAY 27, 2800 PACIFIC AVE.)

DECORATOR SHOWCASE ROOM YOU'RE MOST EXCITED TO SEE

★ **TOP PICK:** **Martha Angus's** family room. "Her designs are tailored but playful, and she always selects great artwork." —Catherine Kwong, *Catherine Kwong Design*

RUNNERS-UP: Catherine Kwong's living room, Jay Jeffers's office



DESIGNER'S HOUSE YOU'D MOST LIKE TO LIVE IN

"My house was previously owned by **Orlando Diaz-Azcuy**, and it was so beautiful and minimal then. His current house is simple and clean, with a view." —Stephanie Fillbrandt, *Marsh and Clark Design*

→ **David Oldroyd.** "When are you moving out, David, so I can move in?" —Matthew Leverone, *Leverone Design*

RUNNERS-UP: Martha Angus, Ken Fulk, Will Wick

Designer you'd most like to punch

"Darin Geise of Coup d'Etat, only because he finds the best pieces. It would be a punch of envy."

—Jaimie Belew, *Jaimie Belew Interior Design*

The Looker Survey



Item of furniture you'd sell your soul to own

"I'd not only sell my soul, but I'd give it to the devil for one of those Hudson Furniture **Pangea chandeliers**." —Phillip Silver, *Bigelow + Silver*

→ "A **Fornasetti cabinet**, for heaven's sake." —Martha Angus, *Martha Angus Inc.*

"I would sell a kidney for Edward Wormley's **Listen to Me chaise**." —Zoe Hsu, *Z Dimensions Interior Design*

"Scala Luxury's **Klismos chair** in any finish. So hot!" —Shelley Cahan, *Shelley and Co.*

"Any piece from the **Hermès Maison** collection." —Barbara Chambers, *Chambers and Chambers*

→ **Favorite conversation piece:** "A strategically placed copy of the **Sex** book by Madonna. It's difficult to resist the aluminum cover, and once open...oh my!" —Kriste Micheline, *Kriste Micheline Interiors*

DESIGN TREND YOU'D LIKE TO REVIVE

"Eccentricity. I love nothing more than clients who don't just want their art to match their sofa." —Alexandra Ray, *Five Senses Art Consultancy*

"Pink. It's a great color, if used correctly." —Willem Racké, *Willem Racké Studio*

"Chintz. I'd like to see it reinvented in a cool way." —Jay Jeffers, *Jeffers Design Group*

DESIGN TREND YOU'D LIKE TO KILL

"I am going to die if I see another reclaimed wood and metal table." —Kelley Flynn, *Kelley Flynn Design*

"Color of the year. Who gave Pantone the right to choose the color of the year?" —Matthew Leverone

"Flash-sale addiction. I'd explain, but I only have five minutes and 42 seconds left to decide whether to buy this ivory towel set." —Emilie Munroe, *Emilie Munroe Design*

PANTONE®
17-5641
Emerald

↑
2013
color of
the year

BEST SOURCE FOR VINTAGE AND ANTIQUES

★ **TOP PICK:** **Stuff.** "You can lose hours just exploring. Establish a goal before diving in." —Emilie Munroe

RUNNERS-UP: Alameda flea market, Past Perfect



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: COURTESY OF FORNASETTI; COURTESY OF PANTONE; COURTESY OF STUFF; PHILLIP HARVEY



BEST LOCAL DESIGN STORE OR SHOWROOM

★ **TOP PICK:** Coup d'Etat. "I really think it's driving the zeitgeist of how design is changing in San Francisco right now."
 —Catherine Kwong

RUNNERS-UP: De Sousa Hughes, Kneedler-Fauchère, Hedge Gallery

DESIGNER YOU'D MOST LIKE TO HAVE A DRINK WITH

"Kendall Wilkinson. I don't know her, but she sure has style."
 —Phillip Silver

"Melanie Coddington. She knows how to throw them back, but she's always a lady."
 —Matthew Leverone

"Jay Jeffers. He's got that twinkle in his eye."
 —Karen Villanueva, Villanueva Design

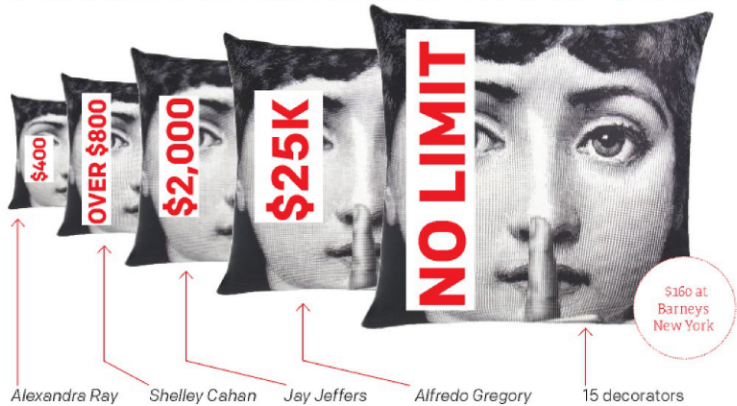


EYESORE YOU CAN'T BRING YOURSELF TO PART WITH:

"My mother's toilet tissue cover that's a crocheted doll's dress. Her legs—the doll's, not my mother's—go through the toilet paper roll center."
 —Phillip Silver

"Grandmom's porcelain figurine of a white poodle sitting on a pink pillow with 24-karat-gold tassels."
 —Alfredo Gregory, Alfredo Gregory Design

How much is too much to spend on a throw pillow?



Alexandra Ray Shelley Cahan Jay Jeffers Alfredo Gregory 15 decorators

"Depends on if it's my money."

—Julianna Marinho, Villanueva Design

⇒ **Best off-the-beaten-path source**



"The Perish Trust has the best industrial lamps and an amazing collection of vintage typewriters."
 —Catherine Kwong

"Loved to Death on Haight Street. I'm dying to propose one of those little kitten skeletons to a client—can you imagine?"
 —Phillip Silver

DIY home decorating project most often gone wrong:

"Spray-painting butt-ugly furniture."
 —Martha Angus

"Anything requiring a glue gun should be reconsidered."
 —Emilie Munroe

Best source for decorators on a budget:

★ **TOP PICK:** Alameda flea market

RUNNERS-UP: CB2, H.D. Buttercup

\$299.99 at CB2

BE HONEST: DO YOU OWN ANYTHING FROM IKEA?

"I have the Tobias clear acrylic chair with steel tubular legs."
 —Jaimie Belew

"I had a bed from Ikea for years. It finally fell apart about five years ago."
 —Jay Jeffers

"Yes, yes, yes. Where should I start? I often tell clients that it's a signed piece from a famous designer in Sweden, and they believe it."
 —Antonio Martins, Antonio Martins Interior Design

"Raskog, my bathroom supply cart. It's functional, economical, and a great color."
 —Emilie Munroe

"That place scares me."
 —Shelley Cahan

\$79.99 at Ikea



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: LEFT: COURTESY OF COUP D'ETAT; COURTESY OF BARNEYS NEW YORK; COURTESY OF CB2; COURTESY OF IKEA; JEFFERS: MATTHEW WILLMAN; CODDINGTON: DREW ALTZER; COURTESY OF KENDALL WILKINSON; KELLY ISHIKAWA