

Sweet Peas Design



Susan Brunstrum, founder and principal designer of Sweet Peas Design, is inspired by the ideas that inspire her clients. She believes there is no single style that fits everyone; each person has a unique personality that should be reflected in their home. Susan and her team sculpt a project from start to finish, providing everything from floorplans and architectural drawings to remodeling the favorite room of the house. The goal is always the perfect blending of design and function. Everything needs to make sense in order for homeowners and their guests to be comfortable. Utilizing different shades of the same color for a calming effect, Susan always interjects something vibrant into the palette to keep it interesting. She approaches each project with a Zen-like attitude: the process should be stress-free, designs must flow, and home should be a place for renewal.

Above: The tailored, sophisticated style I call “rough-luxe” is at play in the living room—a mingling of masculine and feminine elements in a GQ guy-meets-Cosmo girl way. The rough texture of the fireplace, which was specially painted to look like flagstone, and edginess of the glass and chrome table play off the softness of the sofas and the colorful fashion-themed painting above the fireplace. The anchor of the room is the ivory square-in-square hide rug made by Edelman, which I designed. It pulls the pair of sofas together for an intimate conversation area.

Facing Page: For a small house it was important to keep the design simple, so I repeated colors, materials, and shapes which create continuity from room to room. In the dining room I indulged my love of circles. They repeat in the painting, the chair backs, and the crowning element in the room, the glass bead chandelier from Zia Priven. It's very glamorous and quite large—a 40-inch fixture hung over a 60-inch table—and was chosen because it fills the room.

Photographs by Jerry Kalyniuk Photography





“It’s important to limit the number of ‘wow’ elements in a room so they don’t compete for attention.”
Susan Brunstrum





Above: From the silk and wool zebra rug and the sleek, blue glass accessories to the custom hand-fringed burlap fabric walls, texture is the key component in the den. The pair of chaises is critical to the room because a sofa would have consumed the space. They're perfect for watching TV, reading, and for working on a laptop.

Right: A McLaughlin acrylic perching chair with long-haired goat seat makes the clear statement that the room is a woman's boudoir. Other elements are sophisticated and understated, allowing the whimsical chair to bask in the spotlight.

Facing Page Top: I try to always use creativity in seating arrangements. To make the most of a small space, I chose armless, small banquettes to flank the table, and a pair of chairs. The second chair is easily pulled up from the corner for extra seating space—not all of the chairs have to be at the table at the same time.

Facing Page Bottom: The color palette for the entire house was determined by the charcoal grey cabinets and the countertop's Lumix quartzite slabs; it's a dynamite combination. The grey is tailored and soothing, while the quartzite is luxurious and exciting, like looking into a deep, clear lake. Sparkly knobs on the drawers that look like big engagement rings, glass pendants over the island, and stainless steel stools provide touches of shine against the cabinets' soothing backdrop.

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