

CHANDOS DODSON

PRINCIPAL DESIGNER, CHANDOS INTERIORS

Your personal aesthetic? And professional? My personal aesthetic is classic-traditional and modern. While my design pedigree is in traditional work, I design far more contemporary and modern residences. I live in a mid-century Preston Bolton home and love its exposed brick and floor-to-ceiling windows.

If you could inhabit the space of any designer past or present, which would you make your own? Mark Cunningham's New York apartment. The furnishings and art are super chic and modern, while the architectural details are pared down and classic. If it were painted differently, someone with traditional tastes could move right in. The art is amazing.

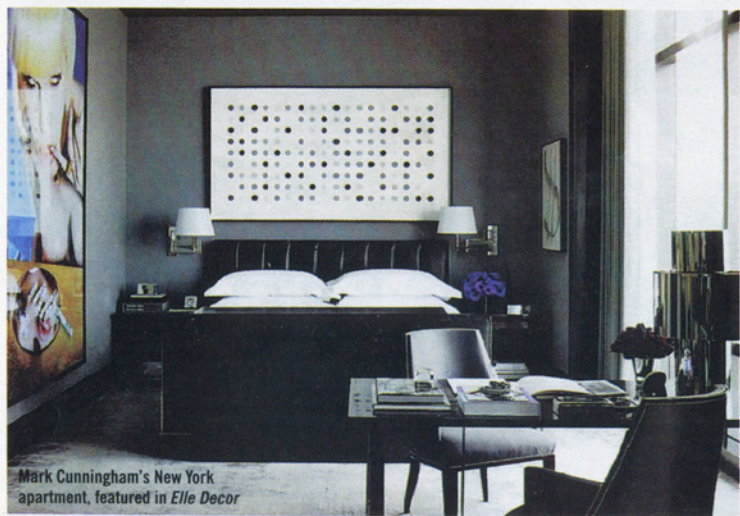
Sage design advice you live by. In the words of Billy Baldwin: "Indecision cuts all arteries; the heart will not beat. A room will be dead before it is born." Be decisive.

Your favorite ways to corral a collection or cull clutter.

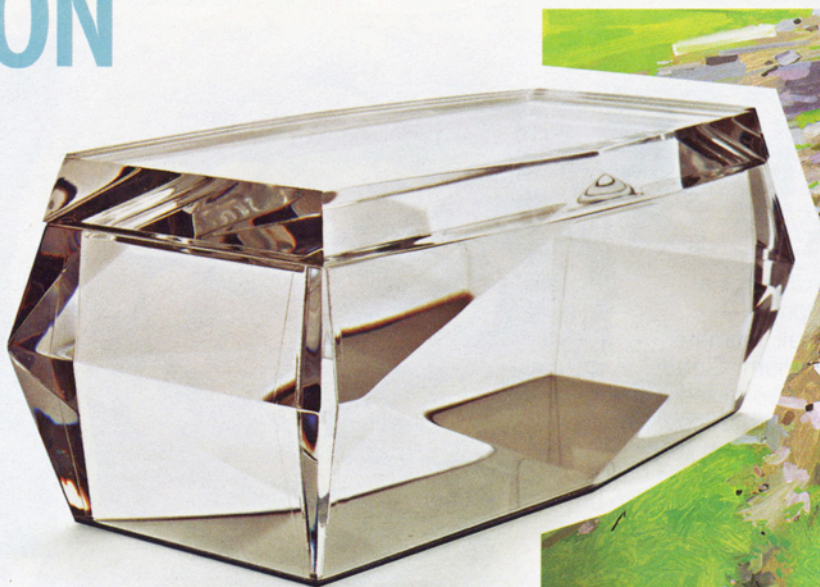
I renovated my pantry to accommodate an overflow of kitchen appliances cluttering my countertop. I added a base cabinet and several plugs to the pantry and stored everything at waist height, allowing me to easily move them into the kitchen when needed. I also installed narrow four-inch-deep shelves so I can quickly grab any spice, oil and vinegar.

The challenge: You have a clean-lined, two-tiered glass and polished-nickel coffee table. Accessorize it!

Start with gorgeous books, add a wood and shell-inlay tray (Moroccan in feel), a gray shagreen box for height and concealed storage, a small bronze sculpture (something Henry Moore-like) and white Casablanca lilies.



Mark Cunningham's New York apartment, featured in *Elle Decor*



Alexandra von Furstenberg's heavy Lucite box



Claire Sherman's *Moss* inspires Dodson



A Dodson-curated tabletop

The artist you'd design a room around. I love Claire Sherman's *Moss* (2010). I'd use it in a navy-lacquered study with navy velvet upholstery and an Ikat rug.

Best furniture investment that withstands the test of time. Unless you plan to use your furniture only briefly, invest in a quality set of dining chairs. Because dining rooms typically don't have a lot of furnishings, every piece counts. The Klismos chair is an all-time favorite — a classic silhouette that goes in any interior.

Top design books, vintage or new. *Rooms to Remember: The Classic Interiors of Suzanne Tucker* • Michael S. Smith: *Elements of Style* • Naomi Leff: *Interior Design* • Alberto Pinto: *Classics* • Jean-Michel Frank.



Dodson envisions a bronze sculpture on a tabletop like Jack Zajac's *Mandoria Piccola*, at Gremillion Gallery.