

## WHY DO WE LOVE A LIST?

Is it because lists offer us the illusion that chaos can be organized? Because they simplify complexity? Give us something to check off—saw that movie, ate at that restaurant? Is it because they provide us with something to argue about?

Humans may be hunters and gatherers, but we are also counters and quantifiers, compilers and organizers. It seems to be a primal instinct to compare and contrast, to evaluate and rank. Plus, whatever the topic, we get the joy of applying our own criteria. If a list isn't selective, it isn't worth the paper it's printed on. And if it isn't subjective, what's the point? So ELLE DECOR's A-List may not be definitive, but it is opinionated, informed, and put together with passion.

There have been some changes this year. We have made several additions, and a few designers have been elevated to Grand Master status. (I can't see how anyone could argue with this, but I'm fully prepared that some people will.) And yes, there have been a few deletions, not because the designers in question are any less talented than they were last year, but only because we have been seeing and featuring less of their work of late. Whatever else you might say about it, I think our A-List is a pretty fair summation of how we see the world of interior design at ELLE DECOR.

And we have certainly looked at a lot of design over the past year—not just the many places submitted for our consideration, but also the interiors we see via websites and blogs, at showhouses, and on the pages of



the monographs and home-design books that have been published recently. We will be adding to that pile our own book, *The Height of Style*, which is being published in September by Abrams. And I would like to point out that while our book includes many interiors by A-List designers, not all the rooms we love are their handiwork—not by a long shot. They are a talented group for sure, but they hardly have a monopoly on style. What they do have is the ability to surprise, inspire, and delight us, time and time again. And that is no small thing.

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ABOVE: ELLE DECOR's third book, *The Height of Style*, which will be published in September. LEFT: The A-List award by Baccarat.



2014

GO AHEAD—BREAK THE SEAL.  
DISCOVER ELLE DECOR'S FIFTH ANNUAL  
LIST OF THE DESIGNERS AND  
ARCHITECTS WE ADMIRE MOST, AND A SPOTLIGHT ON  
THE SIX NEW MEMBERS. THESE ARE  
THE TALENTS WHO SHAPE OUR  
WORLD AND CONSISTENTLY INSPIRE  
OUR IMAGINATION

## THE ELLE DECOR A-LIST

*The Talents Who Inspire Us Most*

AMAN & MEEKS

B FIVE STUDIO

JEFFREY BILHUBER

ALESSANDRA BRANCA

MURIEL BRANDOLINI

SHEILA BRIDGES

BROCKSCHMIDT & COLEMAN

KRISTEN BUCKINGHAM

MARTYN LAWRENCE BULLARD

CARRIER AND COMPANY

DARRYL CARTER

CHAMPEAU & WILDE

ERIC COHLER

ROBERT COUTURIER

MARK CUNNINGHAM

ERNEST DE LA TORRE

JEAN-LOUIS DENIOT

JAMIE DRAKE

WALDO FERNANDEZ

THOM FILICIA

FISHER WEISMAN

PAUL FORTUNE

STEVEN GAMBREL

VICTORIA HAGAN

ALEXA HAMPTON

STEVEN HARRIS ARCHITECTS

HAYNES-ROBERTS

JAMES HUNIFORD

KATHRYN M. IRELAND

THOMAS JAYNE

JAY JEFFERS

SUZANNE KASLER

CELERIE KEMBLE

DAVID KLEINBERG

RICHARD KEITH LANGHAM

LARRY LASLO

JEFFREY ALAN MARKS

BRIAN J. McCARTHY

RICHARD MISHAAN

JOE NAHEM

THOMAS O'BRIEN

ALEX PAPACHRISTIDIS

STUDIO PEREGALLI

EMMA JANE PILKINGTON

J. RANDALL POWERS

MILES REDD

SUZANNE RHEINSTEIN

KATIE RIDDER

TODD ALEXANDER ROMANO

DANIEL ROMUALDEZ

TOM SCHEERER

STEPHEN SILLS

MICHAEL S. SMITH

MATTHEW PATRICK SMYTH

WILLIAM SOFIELD

ROBERT STILIN

MADELINE STUART

STEVEN VOLPE

ALAN WANZENBERG

KELLY WEARSTLER

TIMOTHY WHEALON

VICENTE WOLF

## GRAND MASTERS

*The Architects and Designers Who Define American Style*

THOMAS BRITT

MARIO BUATTA

DAVID EASTON

MICA ERTEGUN

MARIETTE HIMES GOMEZ

WILLIAM HODGINS

PETER MARINO

JUAN MONTOYA

CHARLOTTE MOSS

JOHN SALADINO

ROSE TARLOW

BUNNY WILLIAMS

## M. ELLE DESIGN

A sophisticated sense of style runs in the family at M. Elle Design, a Santa Monica-based firm headed by sisters Marie Turner Carson and Emily Turner, who founded the company with their interior designer mother, Mary Lynn Turner. Creating fresh, breezy residences layered with muted grays, blues, and off-whites, the Turners celebrate natural materials such as weathered wood, stone, and linen while putting a strong emphasis on comfort and livability. "Our work often has a subtle look and a calming palette," says Turner Carson. "But it also has a lot of interest when you look deeper, with textural changes and patinas. The rooms we design only really reveal themselves when you experience them." [melledesign.com](http://melledesign.com).



## PAOLO MOSCHINO

For a designer in London, the pedigree doesn't get much more aristocratic than the years Paolo Moschino spent working beside Nicky Haslam. Now helming the Nicholas Haslam Ltd. bespoke furniture, fabrics, and accessories showroom, Moschino has evolved a chicly eclectic decorating style perfectly suited to the savvy salons of Belgravia. A modernist working in the stately English tradition, Moschino, now partnered with Philip Vergeylen, is drawn to fabrics, patterns, and neoclassical architecture. "After all," he says, "I am Italian." Expect to be surprised by his color-rich, contemporary take on the big mix. "Why come to me if you want white and beige?" he asks rhetorically. "You can do that yourself." [nicholashaslam.com](http://nicholashaslam.com).



A London townhouse drawing room by Paolo Moschino.