

# Décor

118 ROOMS  
THAT TURN  
HEADS

Elegant Color Schemes for Everyday Living  
GIVE CLASSIC STYLE A PERSONAL TWIST

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# Andrew Brown



*writer and producer* Cathy Still McGowin *photographer* Jean Allsopp



Global chic and Southern soul converge in Andrew Brown's



Designer Andrew Brown likes to weave references to his clients' interests into his designs. In this bedroom, horse portraits reflect that the owner is a dressage equestrian, while elements from around the world allude to a well-traveled life.



projects, producing rooms that feel classic and collected.





Andrew Brown caught the travel bug early. He grew up overseas, spending a lot of time in Africa and France, where he was exposed to a diverse range of styles. But with familial ties to the small town of Eufaula, Alabama, Brown knows what it means to have roots—no matter where his wanderlust takes him. The Birmingham-based designer calls on all of his experiences to inform his designs. “One of the common threads in my work is a very eclectic and collected mix of furnishings and elements from all around the world,” Brown says. “I think this helps a home feel timeless and less apt to be trapped in trends.”

Approaching interiors as he would a travel journal, Brown seeks pieces capable of telling personal stories. Along with interviews that reveal his clients’ hobbies and how they live, Brown likes to do design research before he starts a project. This might involve immersing himself in art books, old issues of *Vogue*, or vintage films. “I’ll also visit museums and take trips to get inspiration,” he says. “For a room to tell a good story, it has to have a lot of thought behind it—just like a great novel.”

Brown’s designs freely combine styles and periods, but clean lines—both antique and modern—shine. “Things don’t have to have any particular provenance to make it into a project—they just have to catch my eye and serve my clients,” he says. Flea markets

and antiques stores in cities such as Paris, Buenos Aires, Bangkok, Hong Kong, and San Francisco yield one-of-a-kind pieces, but Brown admits there’s a certain DNA to his work. “I study flow and foot traffic before creating seating areas,” he says. Although he uses traditional seating formations to serve large groups, he always includes several smaller, intimate groupings to foster comfort. He also defines rooms as introverts or extroverts and colors them accordingly. “I like designing very dark and cozy rooms for quiet and contemplation—perhaps with lacquered walls in a rich, fluid color,” Brown says. “Larger rooms are the extroverts; they should be energizing spaces for parties and entertaining.”

No matter the scale, Brown loves to play with texture and color in symbolic ways. Airy linen layered with metallic accents might represent wispy fields of wheat from a client’s childhood, while bold red accents and grandly scaled geometric patterns recall the energetic buzz of a client’s favorite city. Similarly, dark green walls and brown stripes might suggest the woods outside a client’s hunting property.

“My great-grandmother used to say that she loved a place with atmosphere,” Brown says. “I feel the same way. I always aim for my interiors to be places that slowly reveal their story—I want them to be spaces that you will notice something new in every day.”





**This photo:** Under Brown's hand, furniture is not only utilitarian but also sculptural. In this living room, a barrel-back chair and a Klismos chair pull up to an upholstered settee. **Opposite left:** Brown prefers round tables in dining rooms. "They bring the dinner party together—creating the atmosphere for one conversation instead of breaking guests into groups," he says. **Opposite right:** Brown fostered interest within this bath's white palette with variations in texture.