

ABOUTFACE

Winter 2012
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Portland's Interview Magazine

Interior Design Issue 9 Local Designers

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ABOUT PORTLAND &
DESTINATIONS
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nine stars of interior design

written and styled by Becki J. Singer

It's no secret that Portland is a hot spot for design. We have art, craft, and innovation in spades. So it should come as no surprise that Portland's interior design world is every bit as cutting-edge as the rest of the city's creative scene. From beach hide-aways to urban hangouts, we've scoured the Rose City to find the best interior design work of the year.

As you'd expect, Portland attracts the best of the best when it comes to hip, irreverent designers. But there is also a fair crop of traditionalists creating calm, luxe spaces with all the sophistication you'd expect from your favorite Architectural Digest regular. Narrowing our list was the only tricky part; talent just seems to be in the water here. These nine designers run the gamut from alternative to tailored, from neon to neutral. But the spaces they've created are anything but ordinary.

In our first annual Interior Design Issue—perfectly timed for the season when all you want to do is cuddle up indoors—you'll find our favorite projects of the year from nine of our [many] favorites in Portland's interior design community. You'll also find their best tips and tricks for beginning a project with a designer or starting one on your own. Whether you find the perfect designer to use for your next remodel, or spy a few ideas to recreate on your own, these pages are packed with inspiration.



Kricken Yaker vanillawood



Photo Erica Ann Photography

Kricken Yaker is the interior design expert behind design/build firm Vanillawood. Partnered with husband James Yaker, the pair has quickly become one of the hottest design duos in town. In addition to her considerable residential portfolio, Yaker recently completed stunning commercial interiors for Trader Vic's return to Portland, and the hip, modern vibe at Blowout in the Pearl District.

Yaker's sustainability-focused style typically blends open-plan urban living with functional comfort and luxury. Living, organic elements are key details in all of her projects—whether it's adding a row of aspen trunks to breathe life into a living space or brightening a clean, white room with touches of live, green moss, Yaker looks for every opportunity to bring organic outdoor elements to even the chicest indoor spaces.

Please give us some details on the project we're featuring. This is a classic colonial home in Portland Heights that was built in 1920. From the outside, it's traditional old Portland, but the family is anything but. Stephanie Kjar and Adam Roth are a young, active family with three kids and a killer art collection. Our job with this project was to bring the family's warmth, personality and style to life.

Photos this page by Josh Partee

Where do you begin when starting a new project? What's the first step?

I listen to the client to understand their needs and wishes. I think about their lifestyle and how we can create a space that will capture and reflect what's most essential about the owners.

What are some of your favorite ways to transform a room on a budget?

Don't be afraid of change. Pops of color, a fun piece of art [there is great affordable art out there to be had], and wallpaper can really breathe new life into a space.

What trends in design are you most excited about now?

Sustainability. Function and design are critical, but it's also

important to feel good about how things are built.

What is feeling passé/overdone to you?

Formal rooms that only get used a few times a year. Design needs to be approachable and inviting, not forbidding and admired from afar.

What is your favorite unexpected color palette?

I'm currently having a love affair with neon, taking cues from street graffiti. And I will never get tired of metallics. A little bling is good for the soul.

