

EAST COAST HOME+DESIGN

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The Design



gn Society

OUR ANNUAL INTERIOR DESIGN ISSUE



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House Of Clement

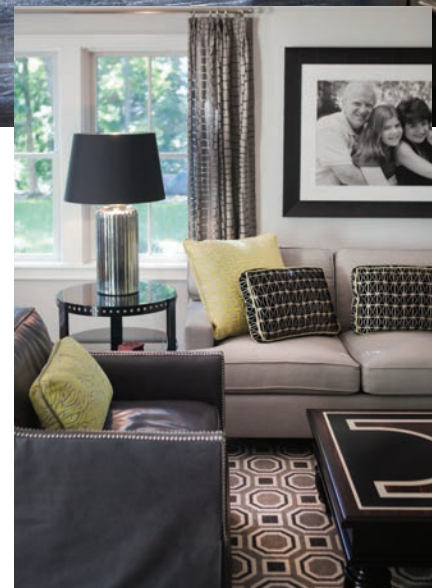
The secret to a successful design project has its roots in the initial conversations a designer has with their client. A first “interview” between parties who will inevitably be connected long term by the spaces they ultimately create. At the House of Clement, designer Gilles Clement says that “he and his clients choose each other”. “While they see through my style and in my work, reflections of what they want their home to look like, I see in them, the potential to help guide them to the completion of a sanctuary for them and their families.”

What inspired Mr. Clement in designing these spaces was the opportunity to create rooms that were elegantly sophisticated and cosmopolitan yet comfortable and casual at the same time. Working from the bottom up, floors were refinished in rich dark stains. Chair rails were added along

with custom designed geometric moldings, custom built doors and mercury mirrored wall panels.

Mr. Clement believes too, that the color palette chosen springs from the bottom up beginning with carpets. He favors using wonderful Tibetan carpets, wool or a wool based silk pile with geometric designs or textured sisals. Upholstery creates the next level of color along with throw pillows, draperies, wood finishes and accessories. In addition, a well-designed lighting plan frames each room “creating a final touch of drama,” added Mr. Clement.

Pops of orange and black stand bold against the neutral background. The clever mix of mirrored and metal finishes, add depth and texture amongst the finely upholstered pieces. Geometric patterns play off each other. Natural light streams



through the well dressed windows reflecting softly off the metallic accents.

Hip and fresh, these rooms are a “true mix of neo-classic design, infused with a healthy dose of Hollywood Regency and the glamour of the chic Parisian art deco style”.

HOUSE OF CLEMENT
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Agent Provocateur

*G*illes Clement has that *je ne sais quoi* which is unmistakably French and effortlessly chic. As all things Parisian tend to be, Clement is sleek, handsome and undeniably cool. While credibility can not be established on peripheral observations, alone, one step into House of Clement confirms all assertions that Gilles Clement is very good at what he does. A self proclaimed Parisian transitionalist, Clement transcends his love for Hollywood Regency, Art Deco, and neo classicism into interiors that make one want to linger.

STORY BY ELIZABETH ERVIN

PHOTOS BY NEIL LANDINO



In a recent Weston renovation, Clement embarked upon the task of developing a design concept that married the home's "new" colonial architecture and transitional cosmopolitan interiors. Home to a large family of six, the homeowners wanted the house to feel warm, but not abandon their sophisticated sensibilities. "As I often state to my clients, sophistication and comfort can work perfectly together." Clement emphasizes that this is a given European sentiment and sometimes this notion is a harder sell in the United

States. In this instance the client did not need any coercion, "The wife has always included style in her way of life. We were immediately on the same page."

Clement characterizes his clients as being metropolitan, as opposed to suburban; therefore it was his intention to create an environment that complimented their identity, as opposed to being confined by the pretenses of what a typical colonial home would look like. "If anything, you should always challenge the expectations and think outside of the box." Clement

muses on his family's eighteen century home in Burgundy which has waxed concrete floors and lit glass kitchen countertops. "Anyone can match a style, but it takes talent to know how to eclectically mix styles together."

Uncommon to many family centric projects, there were not any requests for boundaries or specific children's spaces. Clement was given full reign over space planning and design. A firm believer that there is generally one optimal floor plan to a room, he explains that it is a profes-



ABOVE

All furnishings double as high design and comfortably functional pieces for the family.

ABOVE AND RIGHT

Lucite, polished nickel, and mirrored accents layer glamour into this home's living and dining room.



sional's role to establish that for their client.

"When you take into consideration functionality, walking areas, windows, symmetry, and the intended focal points of the room a designer will identify the best option immediately." Clement goes on to explain that this does not mean clients should not be given options, or that one does not have to make adjustments based on functional needs, i.e. a comfortable place to watch television, but rather

it is important to take all elements into consideration and deal with these issues accordingly.

Feathered throughout this home, Clement has infused his signature style by utilizing custom designed furniture, geometric prints, accents of silver leaf, polished nickel, and metallic fabrics and wall covering. "I think these elements create a real sense of glamour in one's home." Clement's known design influences such as David Hicks and Mary Mc Donald, among others, have instilled the belief



This master bedroom sanctuary features a customized bed that one can expect from Clement's furniture line.

Geometric detailing is threaded through architectural elements, physical form, and upholstery.

that, "Glamour is the key for successful design. It is the sex appeal of a home. Beautiful is good, but sexy with a hint of provocation is a must."

Following David Hick's acclaimed notoriety for introducing geometric designs to interiors, Clement states, "I am definitely one of his children. It is true that geometric patterns are a trait that defines my style. You will never see one of my rooms without it."

Clement continues to transcend expectations with his use of subtle pops of color spotted in accessories, accent walls, and threads of upholstery. Citing orange as his favorite color, Clement draws upon childhood nostalgia and reaffirms Jonathan Adler's point that it is "the color of life." While the designer has always associated this color with "bold beauty" he does extend his palette to frequently include other colors such as yellow, gray, and aqua.

In the master bedroom, Clement wielded all elements of his signature style and created a respite that is impeccably detailed, but does not distract its inhabitants from relaxation. Every house has a jewel of a room, and this one is it. Taking advantage of the spacious square footage, there is a seating area perfect for a quiet breakfast or reading, a committed space for yoga, and plenty of room for the custom furnishings.

The master bedroom is Clement's favorite room in the house as it is aesthetically beautiful, fully functional and sophisti-





Outdoor fabrics carry the home's metropolitan aire into nature.

cated. “The detailing is all part of the common puzzle that defines the room: from the high gloss lacquer to the hand-hammered nail heads on the rug border- I could go on, but the truth is that the accomplishment resonates through all these details- which truly defines the identity of the room.”

While the culmination of all of those details is a harmonic vision, the process is always the most challenging part. Made-to-order is not an uncommon expression in luxury interiors and it is a turn of phrase that Clement is intimately acquainted with. Several pieces in the home were commissioned or customized by Clement, including the master bedroom bed. Clement sought to create a feeling of height, but with an opening and symmetrical balance. Therefore he needed to create a piece that felt light, despite its king size. “I try not to let my artistic inspiration get compromised by questions such as, “Which vendor delivers faster than the other.” Of course deadlines are a

vital component to many design projects, yet in the end, Clement’s experience has led him to the conclusion that the finished product systematically makes up for the anxiety before the deadline.

House of Clement is hoping to abate all anxiety at the beginning of 2013, with the launch of their own furniture line. Clement adamantly leaves trendy styles at the door and his premiere collection will embrace timeless design. “The styles that inspire me have long proven that they have all surpassed the notion of what is deemed trendy. I use formulas that have passed the test of time and in doing so I amuse myself by inventing them under a new light.”

While not looking to reinvent the wheel, consumers can expect pieces that harkens what is classically Clement, a timeless line with new shapes and contemporary use of materials. Think Lucite, lacquer, solid wood frames, and polished nickel, and all pieces will be locally produced.

While Clement used this quote as a

RESOURCES

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correlation to his Weston renovation, it seems to connect his professional design philosophies to his personal design experience. In the words of Christopher Guy, “Elegance, sophistication, and grace have always transcended cultural boundaries and my aim has been to transfer these attributes into distinct decorative design . . .”

Well, Monsieur Clement, you seem to have done exactly that. ■

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