

NEAR & FAR AID

MAY 2, 2014

2014 *Designer*

SOUTHPORT • GREENFIELD HILL • WESTPORT

House Tour



CELEBRATING THE ART OF LIVING

C'est Si Bon



C'est Si Bon



Take a contemporized barn designed by Donald William Fairbanks, give it a high-octane blast of Parisian citrus and edgy metallics, and you've got a fashion-forward residence that's runway ready.

Move over Christian Liaigre. Make way for French-American designer Gilles Clement, who makes bold choices with a couturier's deft touch. Clement's right-hand man, making it all happen, is his wife Aida. The son of artists Serge Clément and Maria Kamena, Gilles' iconoclasm was inculcated in the salons of his childhood, where the likes of St. Laurent, Milos Foreman and Grace Jones held court.

Talk about making an entrance...Clement has lacquered the entry's wainscoting high-gloss gray, laid a patchwork cowhide rug in grays



and whites on the herringbone floor, added a faux shagreen chest and gleaming Klismos chairs in polished nickel, then hung a large Chanel poster in vibrant orange, plum, black and white. In a twist on lantern fixtures, the ones shining in the hallway are fabricated in Lucite and chrome.

Meanwhile, the haute courant living room would be right at home in the 7th *arrondissement*. Although the color scheme is uncomplicated - dove white, taupe and lime - it belies the sophisticated mélange of pattern, texture and shape. The color story begins with Clément-Kamena limited editions: re-interpretations of Robert Indiana's LOVE and HOPE in jars (olive jars?).

A handsome white marble fireplace with a surround of high gloss white is topped with a gilded starburst mirror but framed by sumptuous silk drapery in pale chartreuse and silver with delicate passementerie edging. Seductive cut silk velvet sofas in dove are accessorized with pillows in a chartreuse-and-ivory, woven geometric, Milanese fabric with metallic welt.

White Murano glass lamps sit on white lacquer waterfall tables while overhead a cascade of white blown-glass tubes illuminates the room. What takes the room from merely sophisticated to *très amusant* is the Lucite tray on the coffee table with a lime tube of light running its perimeter, paired with illuminated "frames" on the mantel.

The paneled walls in the dining room are again lacquered in storm cloud gray. A white Murano glass chandelier, like an inverted



bouquet of calla lilies, is suspended from a ceiling of tiny silver chains. Drapery in an ivory and dove gray geometric has a demure gray ribbon trim accented with tiny crystals.

Glossy ebonized side chairs, impeccably dressed in dove chenille with flecks of metallic, and armchairs in a chevron-patterned silk velvet rest on a pure white art velvet rug. But it's the crocodile-stamped buffet with black lacquered fronts and in-your-face metal hardware that steals the show.

Throughout the house, Clement has created a heady interplay of edgy gloss, shiny metals, opulent colors, sexy shapes and soft, seductive fabrics. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the glamorous family room and kitchen, where





one expects any second for Donatella Versace or the Sultan of Brunei to walk through the door. Only the colorful and interesting are allowed.

There are inserts of platinum grasscloth around the mantel; molding on the taupe walls and ceiling has a Hollywood Regency motif; a sea of deep-veined white marble sweeps across the kitchen island; tiny raspberry stripes run through a thick amethyst rug; a row of mother-of-pearl buttons line the grosgrain ribbon on the metallic gray drapery. Heady stuff.

Until it became so trendy, orange was the designer's favorite accent color. He's used it to great effect in the family room: gloss gray bookcases have ripe tangerine splashed across their backs. Silver and



orange-on-orange accessories co-mingle like an exotic, but skillfully-curated Turkish bazaar. Clear, Lucite chairs, upholstered in persimmon velvet damask, are pulled up to a shiny, hammered metal breakfast table on driftwood legs. Drapery with opulent stripes in orange, white, royal purple and deep gray bring fantasies of dining in Ali Baba's tent.

Leavened by swathes of neutral seating, the orange spills over into a cantilevered side table of opaque glass (next to chrome armchairs with white metallic upholstery). Even the interlocking coffee table can be

In the master bedroom, aqua has been used, not as the ground for bold color, but as a serene retreat. Maybe not that serene: there are Lucite armchairs in a gray and white giraffe pattern velvet! A custom headboard in ivory damask, white lacquer night stands with square metal pulls and fabulous drapery rods with a Greek key design have Old Hollywood glam. The bed's silver metallic legs just show above the gray-and-white, geometric art velvet rug. A mother-of-pearl cylinder pendant shines down.



taupe, when viewed as one piece, or sports blasts of blood orange and hot pink when pulled apart.

The office, on the other hand, is fifty shades of gray: a rich gray marble fireplace; wood paneling which has been stained driftwood gray, like old wood bleached by the sun; shagreen nest tables in dark gray and white; a taupe and ivory patchwork cowhide rug; and gray, black and cream wool drapery trimmed in bittersweet grosgrain. On narrow gray shelves is housed a collection of miniature racecar models.

Put some dramatic marble mosaics and geometric wallpaper in silver glitter in the master bath, and you, too, will be humming "C'est si bon" because it's so giddy and it's so good!

Credits

Interior Designer: *Gilles Clement*,
House of Clement

Floral Designer: Carrie Wilcox, Floral Design
House Captains: Katie Dresch & Mindi Smith
Photographer: Jane Beiles Photography



A dramatic marble mosaics and geometric wallpaper in silver glitter in the master bath, and you, too, will be humming

"C'est si bon".

Meet the Designer

GILLES CLEMENT

HOUSE OF CLEMENT



Gilles Clement, owner of House of Clement LLC, credits much of his inherent design aptitude to the influence of his Parisian artist familial background. Founded in 2008, House of Clement creates interiors that inspire, giving homeowners the unique opportunity to experience pride and appreciation for their home. With a flagship design firm and furniture showroom located in Westport, Connecticut, a satellite office in Paris and another boutique location on the way, House of Clement offers authentic European design innovation and a transitional style focused on elegance, comfort and an aesthetic that pushes artistic boundaries. “I create bold, original designs through the use of geometric patterns, rich complementary color palettes, funky European lighting, handmade contemporary rugs and the most

distinctive materials,” states Clement. Based on a philosophy of refinement while also breaking the rules of expectation. House of Clement garners a true understanding of its clients’ visions in order to better guide them through careful consideration of each design element. “The only way to build a constructive and successful relationship is through honest and insightful communication,” continues Clement. “Many clients are unsure of what they envision, which is why I must listen intently to deliver a cohesive final product inclusive of their inner desires.” From hip cosmopolitan environments to a farmer’s loft in an industrial setting to an Art Deco building or contemporary Colonial home, House of Clement delivers the unexpected through tactful transgression of the rules of design.

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