

*I love the living room in my home above all others. When I do the interiors for a client it is always my favorite room to design. It is a room that ultimately should be inviting, soothing and comforting. I like to create a living room that is intimate but has an air of mystery and romance.*

My favorite living rooms also have a casual, feel-right-at-home quality in the manner of the English Country house tradition where I was raised. Favorite textiles for my favorite room are silks, Fortuny and English Bennison fabrics that endure and age well.

— *Sheila Palmer, Allied Member ASID  
Sheila Palmer Design Associates*

*My favorite room was in a chateau in Aix en Provence. I was on my first antique-buying trip in Europe 15 years ago. We were invited to a behind-the-scenes look into the conservatory/music room owned by antique dealers. It had a huge walk-in stone fireplace on one end. A collection of diverse and unique objects was seemingly thrown together in a careless fashion, but I realized later it was an intentional style.*

African stone and fertility statues stood on a Swedish Gustavian painted table; Baroque gilt chairs were upholstered in ostrich red leather; industrial machinist carts were filled with 18th-century French charcoal sketches. In the center of the room was a monastery table with benches, stacked high with old books and *objets d'art*. We sat at the table sipping champagne and eating olives and nuts. The room was lit by old metal and wood sconces, an Italian chandelier and Turkish candelabra. I felt completely inspired in this room and didn't want to leave.

This is the emotion I try to evoke for my clients when designing their homes.

— *Jennifer V.G. Clark, owner/designer  
Maudlin*

*Prior to having a baby, I would have said my favorite room was in a boutique hotel or some remote resort. These days my favorite room is our bedroom. It's on a canyon with eucalyptus trees and feels like it's at the top of a tree house. Windows face south and east, and a sliding door opens to the north, so we get great cross breezes any time of year. There is a small deck where we can watch sunsets and even sleep outside on warm summer nights.*

We painted the room a soothing color, *Muslin* by Dunn Edwards, which works well with the eucalyptus. Due to the angled ceiling and unusual floor plan, we had custom walnut nightstands and dresser built into the space. I love that they are not the same width and have a modern flair. It works with our traditional dresser from the late 1800s.

Light bounces off the high-pitched ceiling from our pendant light and makes patterns on the walls that my 3-year-old loves. It is a knock-off of a Moooi design that's a big globe of translucent resin with random yarn coiled in it like a giant bird's nest. Art on the walls has sentimental value and gives this room a warm, modern and traditional feeling all in one.

— *Dawn Harrison, Allied Member ASID  
Digs Design*



*One of my all-time favorite spaces is the main dining area I recently designed at Casa de Bandini Mexican restaurant in Carlsbad. I used a warm color palette with brilliant hand-rubbed golden yellow and orange accent walls combined with antiqued leaf-green wainscot and intricate hand-painted border design reminiscent of the chapels of our California missions.*

I love to use authentic materials from Mexico like the hand-painted Talavera tile in the tortilla area. I have a passion for beautiful textiles and several of the chairs and banquettes are upholstered in custom hand-woven wool, dyed with natural vegetable dyes and woven on looms in the traditional Zapotec style.

Another favorite feature is the sparkling cascade of 20 handmade Mexican brass and jewel-toned glass lanterns in a variety of designs and sizes hung over the long bar. More warm glow comes from the hammered-copper bar front and tortilla kitchen hood.

Throughout, special antiques I have chosen capture the spirit of an old hacienda and contribute to the rich and authentic feeling of the décor.

— *Diane Powers  
Design Center Inc.  
Bazaar del Mundo*

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