

New England HOME

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Celebrating Fine Design, Architecture, and Building

Fearless Chic

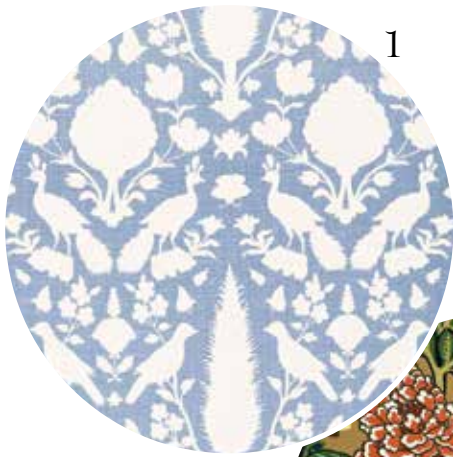
Designers add spice to
Connecticut's spaces

PERSPECTIVES

Connecticut Design Considered From Every Angle

Enduring Classics

These designer go-to fabrics have withstood the test of time. Choose one with confidence, knowing that they will look as chic ten years from now as they do today.



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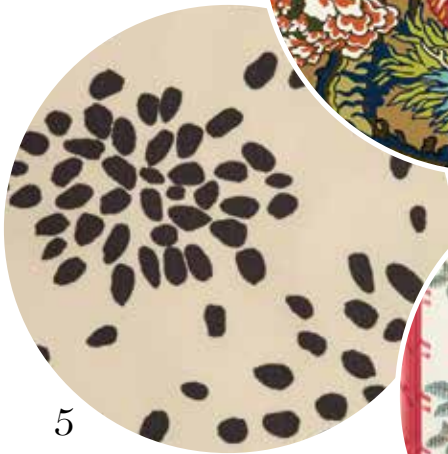
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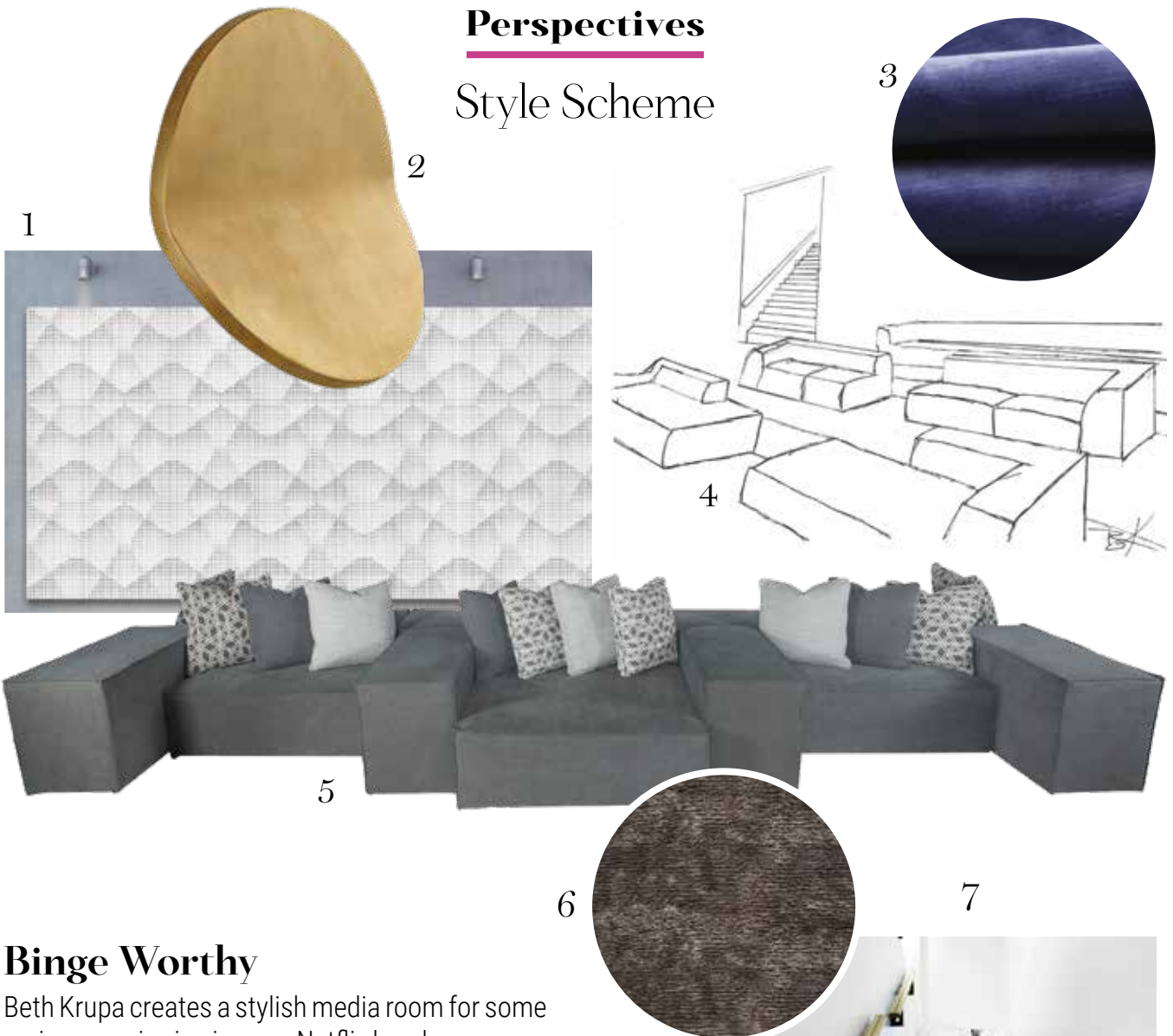
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1. **Chenonceau** | Schumacher, fshumacher.com
2. **Bowood** | Cowtan & Tout, Wakefield Design Center, wakefelddesigncenter.com
3. **Chiang Mai Dragon** | Schumacher, DesignSourceCT, designsourcect.com
4. **Talavera** | Kravet, Stamford Waterside Design District, kravet.com
5. **Fireworks by Albert Hadley** | Hinson, Donghia, New York City, donghia.com
6. **Josselin** | Brunswick & Fils, Kravet, Stamford Waterside Design District, brunswick.com
7. **Hollyhock** | Lee Jofa, Kravet, Stamford Waterside Design District, leejofa.com
8. **Lotus** | Galbraith & Paul, Holland & Sherry, New York City, hollandandsherry.com
9. **Zebra** | Scalamandr , Stamford Waterside Design District, scalamandre.com

| EDITED BY LYNDA SIMONTON |

Perspectives

Style Scheme



Binge Worthy

Beth Krupa creates a stylish media room for some serious movie viewing or a Netflix bender.



The scene is set for this beautiful and highly functional media lounge when you descend dramatic marble stairs by Antolini. Krupa makes sure everyone is comfortable on an expansive modular sofa with three-level seating. The perch is particularly luxe swathed in lush velvet from Holly Hunt. Underfoot, the Stark carpet complements both the color and sumptuousness of the upholstery. The importance of acoustical treatments in a residential media room can't be overstated, says Krupa. Any audio system, regardless of quality and cost, can be rendered boomy and unintelligible without proper treatment. Artnovion's Sahara W Absorber panels are a good-looking, functional enhancement. Now all you need to add is the popcorn!

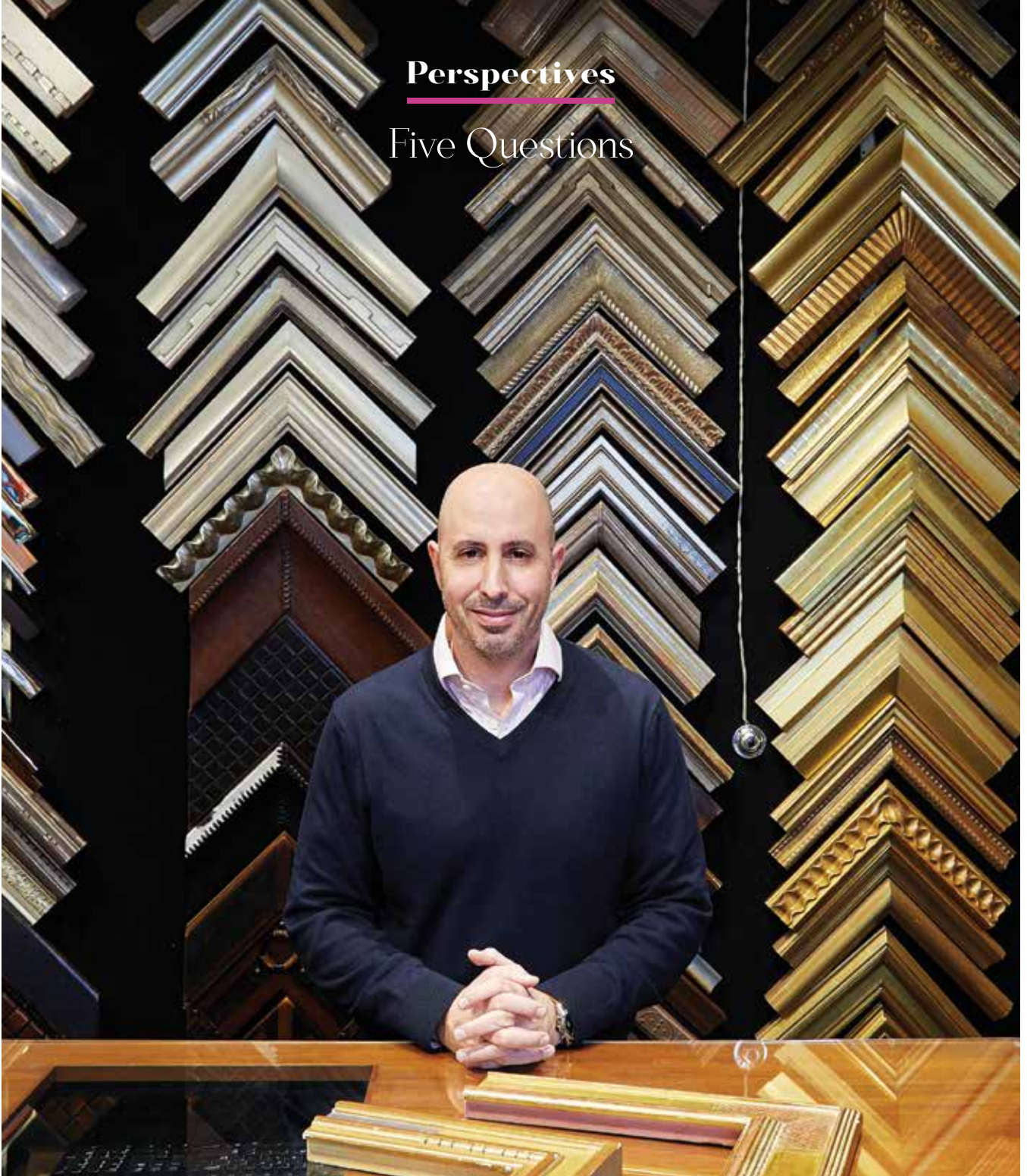
| Beth Krupa Interiors, Old Greenwich, 203-890-9292, bethkrupainteriors.com

| 1. Sahara W Absorber panels by Artnovion, Realm, Norwalk, realmcontrol.com | 2. Bend Large Round Light by Peter Bristol, Visual Comfort, Circa Lighting, Greenwich, circalighting.com | 3. Cotton velvet sofa fabric in Prussian Blue, Holly Hunt New York, hollyhunt.com | 4. Concept sketch from Beth Krupa | 5. Format modular sectional seating, Bernhardt, Wakefield Design Center, Stamford, wakefelddesigncenter.com | 6. Prosperity carpet in Graphite, Stark Home, Stamford Waterside Design District, starkcarpet.com | 7. Italian marble by Antolini, Ferrazoli Imports, Middletown, galleriastone.com, and Stone Source, New York City, stonesource.com

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Perspectives

Five Questions



Eric Mauskopf, president of J. Pocker, explains the vital role custom framing can play in displaying artwork.

1 Many of your designers have a background in history and art? Why is that important?

We are always trying to match the right frame with a client's artwork. So it is valuable that our designers are knowledgeable about various styles, eras, and regions. Say you bring in a painting that was done in the 1700s

in England. Our designers will recognize its origins and suggest a frame that represents that region and era. This is important for historic preservation reasons as well as aesthetics. We've worked with pieces by artists as varied as Matisse to Rembrandt to Picasso. The last thing you want is a frame that is totally out of

| INTERVIEW BY ROBERT KIENER | PHOTOGRAPHY BY LAURA MOSS |

Perspectives:

Five Questions

whack with the artwork. While we don't want you staring at the frame instead of the art, it should be complementary.

2 How can a quality frame enhance the value of a painting or other artwork?

I don't think it can increase the monetary value per se, but the aesthetic value of an image can be increased when you put a really beautiful frame around it. A custom frame means you're showing off your work with something made by hand by an artisan who is taking the time to ensure that it is perfect and one of a kind. Framing is often an afterthought, especially in larger interior design projects. Unfortunately, framing is put off until a significant part of the interior design budget has been exhausted. When a designer is working on a room or whole home, it's important that they consider how the art will be presented as part of the plan from the beginning, not just something to throw on the walls to

complete the project.

3 What is a typical process for choosing a frame?


It works several different ways. Clients can come to us on their own and discuss their wants and needs with our designers. Often an interior designer will pick a couple of frame styles they think would work and show them to the client. Or a designer can send us the color of the client's walls and other design details, such as what else is in the room, so we can get an overall sense of what the space looks like and match the frame to that look. We can customize any sample we have, too, so a frame can start off looking one way and end up including a number of other details we added during the design process.

4 What about trends and new developments?

Modern is very hot now, although, of course, we still see lot of traditional frames. Gold, for example, never goes out of style. Once you get into custom finishes, it's about what works with the artwork. We are also seeing a lot of oversized artwork

lately, such as pieces as large as eight feet by eight feet. Big pieces like this can be tricky to frame. If it's a canvas, it's easy to put a float frame around it, but once you start working with a frame and different types of glass, usually Plexiglas, it can get very expensive. TV mirrors are gaining in popularity. These are basically TVs mounted behind a framed two-way mirror. When the TV is off you only see the mirror, but when you turn it on, the mirror disappears and all you see is the TV.

5 What steps should people take to preserve their art?

Conservation of artwork is paramount. Something that hangs on a wall with a lot of exposure to sunlight will need a significantly higher-quality glass or Plexiglas to keep the UV rays out. We often see older pieces that were framed with regular glass as little as thirty years ago that have yellowed. You can often lose an artist's signature, especially if it is down by the corner, after years in direct sunlight with a low level of UV protection. We also have different levels of non-glare glass, so we can prevent most glare. | *J. Pocker, Greenwich and Westport, jpocker.com* 

Perspectives

Local Assets

Personal Touch

The furniture that architect **David D. Harlan** and interior designer **A. Defne Veral** design could not be more personal. Sometimes traditional, sometimes modern, the pieces are always created for a particular space and need. A friend wants a dining room table for her apartment? A client wants an AV-compatible conference table that seats sixteen? Harlan's sister wants a TV cabinet for the wall at the foot of her bed? Okay, then. And for a fun flourish, the results are often named after the children of the commissioning client.

Veral and Harlan's separate New Haven-based firms share an office, and they often collaborate, making the married couple, as Veral says, "partners in all crimes." In 2004, furniture design became an add-on to their services, with Harlan doing the initial design and Veral offering suggestions and hiring regional fabricators. The results can be seen at Houzz or on the couple's respective business websites.

The traditional and modern lines of **Veral Harlan Fine Home Furnishings** (VH) could not be more different. The former is often made of mahogany and frequently features urns, whether as base pedestal for a weighty dining table, finials for a bed frame, caps for table legs, or decorative flourish for a hand-painted cabinet. The modern line uses simpler forms like flared legs and flat-faced drawers for tables and desks, and a wider range of woods. A horsehair headboard is part of a master bedroom set that includes gray-stained oak chests with no visible hardware.

An example of just how custom VH designs are? When the owners of the bedroom set wondered how they would eat on their new library's expensive leather ottoman, Harlan said, "You need trays," so he designed some. Now, the ebonized-walnut trays with red-stained ash bases occupy the same room as the long, open rectangle of a VH Waverly console. The clients' daughter (Waverly) does her homework here on VH red-capped stools, even though she and her brother also share a study with two VH white-laminate and walnut desks. This furniture is as yet unnamed, because of a small problem—the clients commissioned so many VH pieces, they ran out of family members to name them after.

| Veral Harlan Fine Home Furnishings, New Haven, ddharlanarchitects.com and adveralinteriors.com

| BY DEBRA SPARK |



Perspectives

What Makes It Work

Formal, yet relaxed, this New Canaan living room also gracefully treads the line between warm and cool, traditional and contemporary.

1
Red walls within a classical architectural frame are a nod toward old-school decorating—but their particular tomato-soup hue points more in the direction of youth and élan.

2
Custom upholstery and drapes are executed in creamy neutral tones and, with the addition of pillows and a Julia Contacessi painting in cooler blue, serve to moderate the glow of the walls.

3
Old counterpoints new throughout, as in the matching of modern Theodore Alexander consoles with ornate wall mirrors by Lillian August for Hickory White. Sculptural lamps from Regina Andrew manage to bridge both worlds.

4
Adding just a touch of animal print is a classic design move—and contributes still another dash of fun.

5
The room's carpet, too, pairs a time-honored oriental design with present-day colors, thus lightening the rich oak floor.



PROJECT TEAM

Stephanie Rapp, Stephanie Rapp Interiors | Weston, 203-216-5835, stephanierappinteriors.com

| PHOTOGRAPH BY WILLIE COLE |