



Megan Houston

A traditionalist at heart, designer Megan Houston says her favorite interiors are rooted in classic design with a little edge and surprise mixed in.

DESIGN PHILOSOPHY: I take cues from the architecture and the setting. My aim is to create inviting spaces that will stand the test of time by using textiles, antiques, and objects that have been created with quality craftsmanship.

INSPIRATION BOARD: This time of year, I find myself dreaming of sitting in a limed oak library surrounded by books and a roaring fire. The wood walls paired with a grass rug and wool, velvet, hide, and floral textiles are so cozy when it is frigid outside.

OLD & NEW: Incorporating antiques or heirlooms introduces authenticity and originality. Pairing classical pieces with modern lighting, art, and furniture makes them even more interesting. In my 1920's bungalow, the living room has an English rolled-arm sofa paired with a mid-century modern bamboo brass-and-glass coffee table next to a beat-up farm table and a pair of French Napoleon III chairs. It sounds a little scary, but I promise it works!

INFLUENCES: Travel, museums, and nature are always inspiring, but I tend to get the biggest spark from discovering other beautiful spaces. Among several design heroes, Ben Pentreath is currently at the top of my list. He is clearly rooted in classical design yet has so much freedom in mixing patterns, colors, collections, and styles. He has an eye for fine things, but nothing is ever fussy or contrived.

DESIGN MUST-HAVES:

1. Comfortable upholstery that invites you to put up your feet and linger for hours.
2. Living plants. They deliver health benefits, and introduce natural textures and colors.
3. People! Whenever I envision a space, I see it being lived in and enjoyed. Your home should be a backdrop that elevates the quality of your life and those who enter it.



RESOURCES: 1. Gaslight Hanging Lantern, Paul Ferrante 2. Cypress Beams, Architect Stan Dixon 3. White Oak Paneling: Paul Bates Architecture 4. Window Treatments: Classic Cloth 5. Art: Wellon Bridges, Gallery 1930 6. English rolled-arm sofa, Lee Industries, Circa Interiors & Antiques 7. Sofa Fabric: Linen Velvet, Nancy Corzine (Add Leather Cord, Samuel & Sons) 8. Hide for Bench / Footstool (Not Shown): Theo 9. Floor Lamp: Christopher Spitzmiller, Matthew Bees 10. Woven Abaca Matting Rug 11. Pillows on Sofa: Speckled Herringbone Wool Fabric, De le Cuona 12. Inspiration Image: Design by Beatrix Kleuver 13. 19th-Century French Walnut Armchairs, Henhouse Antiques, 1stdibs.com 14. Upholstery on Antique Chairs (#13): Pierre Frey 15. Coffee Table: Dennis & Leen / All items to the trade available through Megan Houston Design

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