Galerie

Live *Artfully*

Meet the Women Changing the Art World

An Inside Look at Seoul's Booming Cultural Scene

Giorgio Armani Reinvents the Kitchen

FALL 2022
ISSUE Nº 27

DISPLAY UNTIL DECEMBER 12, 2022
$12.95
24
0 73917 64675 3

MODERN *RENAISSANCE*

Visual Feast

For designers, creating a memorable dining room means mixing periods, playing with scale, and exploring bolder palettes

Alex Papachristidis installed a sculptural Eve Kaplan table and Nancy Lorenz panels made with mother-of-pearl and gold and silver leaf in an ornate Hamptons dining room.

WILLIAM ABRANOWICZ

Many predicted that the dining room would soon be a thing of the past. But now, with more families opting to eat in and entertain at home, there's been a resurgence of interest in inventive ways to decorate and use the space. "Dining is supposed to touch on all the senses," says Richard Mishaan, who features a variety of stylish spaces in his upcoming book, *Richard Mishaan Design: Art and Interiors* (Vendome Press). "Historically, designers would create these incredible themes for a dining room, so the minute you walked in, you were already seduced by the beauty."

From an amuse-bouche level of decorating to a seven-course bounty, there are myriad ways designers can cultivate a scenic setting. "There's so much room for creativity," says Alex Papachristidis, who selected an opulent Hamptons dining room for the cover of his latest tome, *The Elegant Life: Rooms That Welcome and Inspire* (Rizzoli). "Everybody lives in a slightly different way, and their dining room should be reflective of that."

Stephen Sills enveloped a Roxbury, Connecticut, dining room in an ikat fabric that complements the rich wood tones.

Furniture

A dining table naturally takes a starring role, with more conversational round shapes popular for smaller spaces. While the options for materials and colors are endless, many designers are finding clients returning to customary brown woods. "Every ten years, the pendulum swings back," states Stephen Sills, who recently installed an antique English mahogany table in an art collector's Fifth Avenue apartment.

Tables that can be expanded with leaves give flexibility for party sizes; however, fashion-forward styles with sculptural bases require more creative seating and serving solutions. Designer Stewart Manger custom-made a foldable overlay for a client's circular table, while Ghislaine Viñas added a lazy Susan to a bespoke terrazzo piece. Others, such as Mishaan and Sills, will insert a secondary banquette for four. "Unless they're the Addams Family, people don't like eating in their dining rooms without guests when the table is set for 14," observes Mishaan.

When it comes to seating, comfort is key, but designers have an open field for mixing and matching. "I tend to go more classic with my chairs and then more modern or more experimental with the dining table, artwork,

Macao dinner plate by JOHANNA ORTIZ; *collectoworld.com*

Alvaro dining chair by ALFREDO PAREDES for EJ VICTOR; *ejvictor.com*

Cadence photophore by SAINT-LOUIS; *saint-louis.com*

Brittingham silver centerpiece bowl by RALPH LAUREN; *ralphlauren.com*

Maquette dining table by NATASHA BARADARAN from DE SOUSA HUGHES; *desousahughes.com*

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: WILLIAM WALDRON; COURTESY OF SAINT-LOUIS; COURTESY OF NATASHA BARADARAN COLLECTION; COURTESY OF RALPH LAUREN; COURTESY OF COLLECTO; COURTESY OF EJ VICTOR

Blush-toned paneling enhances A. Rudin chairs, which are situated around a custom terrazzo table in a California dining room by Ghislaine Viñas.

and lighting," says Ryan Korban, a designer based in New York. "I find myself bringing in a mix of antique and contemporary—this is a space where I am a little bit freer."

And placing dining room chairs throughout the entire home can help keep seating for 20 from overwhelming one area. For another client, Manger created a Jean Royère–inspired chair for around the table, then made additional pieces with a different fabric for the entry hall. "They're all the same shape, so if you have more people for dinner, you can bring them in," advises the designer, whose book, *Romancing the Home* (Rizzoli), is out in September.

Butler's pantries and catering kitchens mitigate the need for dining room storage, but some designers see the benefit of implementing case goods, particularly as a serving or bar area. "I love to have a place to store all the things that life requires that we don't need to see," says Mishaan, "and there's room on the top to display the things we love to see."

Others, like Korban, say less is more. "If you're doing a dining table and it needs to sit 20, it starts to feel like a lot of furniture very quickly," he says. "I incorporate storage in the millwork—clients love taking a closet and turning that into a bar; it's more of an exciting design process."

Ghost champagne flutes by MAX ID NY; *maxidnystore.com*

Ruban chair by ESTUDIO PERSONA for PIERRE FREY; *pierrefrey.com*

Contour fixed stem ceiling light by NINA MAGON for STUDIO M; *studiomlighting.com*

Tremouille dining table by ALFONSO MARINA; *alfonsomarina.com*

Evergreens pitcher by MATTHIEU COSSÉ for DIPTYQUE; *diptyqueparis.com*

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: GARRETT ROWLAND; COURTESY OF STUDIO M LIGHTING; COURTESY OF DIPTYQUE PARIS; COURTESY OF ALFONSO MARINA; BJÖRN WALLANDER; COURTESY OF PIERRE FREY

For a client's Park Avenue apartment in New York, Stewart Manger opted for a round table, Jean Royère–inspired chairs, and a vintage French Macassar ebony sideboard.

Janet dining chair by VINCENT VAN DUYSEN for MOLTENI&C; *molteni.it*

Erbaluce upholstery by DEDAR; *dedar.com*

Kent bar cart by DE LA VEGA DESIGNS; *dlvdesigns.com*

Rêves du Nil dessert plate by HAVILAND; *us.haviland.fr*

Details low credenza by CENTURY; *centuryfurniture.com*

Lighting

After the table, perhaps no element defines a dining room more so than the chandelier. "Lighting over a dining table can be an incredible way to bring a unique look to a room; it's a chance to do something unexpected and dramatic," states Viñas. "Tall ceilings can be great for large pieces, often in pairs, but lower ceilings may call for something more linear that hovers over the table."

With a bold installation drawing the eye up, designers will also use the opportunity to turn the ceiling into a major moment with lacquer, wallpaper, Venetian plaster, or coffering. "Ceilings have been undertreated for years," says Papachristidis. "It's just another place to detail, and it creates interest."

And while it is customary to center a chandelier over a table, it's far from the rule of law. "I'd rather have it hanging in the center of the room, so the table position can be flexible," suggests Sills, whose monograph *A Vision for Design* (Rizzoli) is out this fall.

No matter the style, it's essential that everything is on dimmers, points out Manger, who is also a huge fan of old-fashioned candlelight. "To create drama, I've used a beautiful silver-leaf glaze on the wall," he says. "At night, with candlelight, it's beautiful."

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: WILLIAM WALDRON; COURTESY OF DE LA VEGA DESIGNS; COURTESY OF CENTURY; COURTESY OF HAVILAND; COURTESY OF MOLTENI&C; COURTESY OF DEDAR

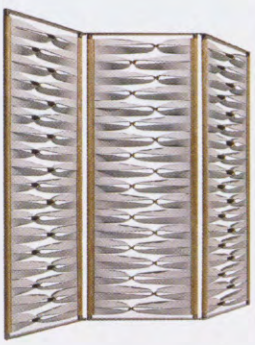
In his own Palm Beach residence, Richard Mishaan anchored a minimalist dining room with a vibrant Jose Alvarez artwork.

Finishing Touches

The transitory nature of a dining room makes it a welcoming place for more experimental pieces. "The dining room is always about drama, because it's about entertaining," says Manger. "Guests are intended to be in the room only for a short amount of time—that's why a lot of people use scenic papers or something that's very eye-catching."

Changing the tableware can completely transform the atmosphere. A robust selection of accessories, including china, crystal, and linens, is that final accent that can set the right tone for the meal. "The dining room should have a strong presence and an essence and elegance, but, in the end, it's all about the conversation," declares Papachristidis. "It's nice that there's something beautiful to look at, but the most important thing is the guests." —JILL SIERACKI

Benino table by COSTANTINI DESIGN; *costantinidesign.com*



Borealis screen by GIORGETTI; *giorgettimeda.com*

Pilule pendant by JMW STUDIO from HOLLY HUNT; *hollyhunt.com*

Specco tumblers from CASA BRANCA; *casabranca.com*

Abbey velvet dining chair by OKA; *oka.com*

Doppio napkins by SFERRA; *sferra.com*

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: THOMAS LOOF; COURTESY OF HOLLY HUNT; COURTESY OF SFERRA; COURTESY OF OKA; COURTESY OF CASA BRANCA; COURTESY OF COSTANTINI DESIGN; COURTESY OF GIORGETTI