

# BRIDGE FOR DESIGN



THE INTERNATIONAL RESOURCE FOR INTERIOR DESIGNERS

# ART SHOULD ENHANCE

Pay attention to the feeling that art will convey



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**F**rom a design perspective, we are often asked to incorporate art into the space we are creating for a client. As a starting point it is so important to understand the room's purpose. You can determine the type of art that will enhance the interior space. The scale and shape of the art is drastically important to a piece of furniture, especially if the art is sitting above a large credenza or a hall chair.

It is key to pay attention to the feelings the art will convey when entering a specific room as well as how the room affects the arts surroundings.

Today, I am seeing more and more three-dimensional art in spaces. Think mini sculptures.

My current obsession is with Jennifer Prichard who is doing ceramic and sculptures on walls and ceilings.

I love large scale sculptures as they are transformative and are done as part of the overall design process which makes it cohesive. And as most clients want to be unique the idea of having a wall sculpted by someone like a Peter Lane can serve two purposes: wallcovering and art. It is installation art in a home residence which is really cool.

There are as many trends in interiors as there are in fashion. We currently are seeing a lot more interest in ceilings, stairways, etc. so hanging art such as mobiles by Ariel Alasko are a way to incorporate art, color and texture at the same time.

Artists like Jose Esteves who was inspired by

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### About Christina Roughan

For more than two decades, Christina S. Roughan has been practicing the craft of interior design first in NYC and now running her firm in Fairfield County, CT with an office in New York as well. Over that period, she started the business Sullivan Interiors, expanded it got married then created Roughan Interiors which she runs today. Prior to that she held senior level design positions at Ralph Lauren and Tommy Hilfiger enabling her to hone her design and management skills. Roughan's work is marked by its timeless sophistication, its mixing of mid-century, antique furnishings and select objects and art, and its deft combinations of texture and subtle colour. "I always say that my favourite part of the job is the installation, when everything comes together and we bring a home to life," she says. "But then my other favourite part is seeing the big smile on the client's face when they see it for the first time. That is one of the happiest moments."

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‘Invest in a photograph that is truly thought-provoking’

Calder creates sculptural lighting that is a balance between art and function.

Photography is another way to bring art into home. I am a big believer in purchasing photography that moves you as an individual. My first photograph was an original Slim Aarons *Kings of Hollywood* image at the Stanley Wise Galleries in the mid 90's.

Though I have purchased many more pieces since then, it still remains my favourite piece. I would invest in a photograph that truly is thought provoking and you will talk about years later.

This piece has the ability to transcend the test of time and match virtually any interior space – a good selling point to clients, too.

In creating an aesthetically pleasing interior, I like the eye to move horizontally across a space.

This is where layering of art can be effective. Artists like Marie Beckman create vases that are sculptures in and of themselves and when placed on a coffee table in front of a painting, they add depth and dimension to the surroundings. Hallways used to be dead space, now they can be used as a uber-chic gallery. Think low bench, books under, sculpture on top, a painting above the bench, all on a hand dyed rug. A simple art filled space.

Lighting is almost as important at the art itself. Think of Lobmeyer at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. It in itself creates a conversation. I first take into account any of the natural light in the room and then go from there.

Picture lights used to be so traditional and boring now brands like Urban Electric and Hector Finch are creating cool lights that work in more modern settings. Also, I like to underlight pieces, especially sculptures. If we have museum quality art, we then have a lighting designer to really make sure the piece gets its due.

As each client is unique from taste, style and budget we approach the art in the same manner. And if a client has current art that you both agree upon then you should work with what you have as a starting point and move on from there.

One should examine the space where art is being used. Art is no longer just a canvas, it's a sculpted wall, a bronze light fixture, or an antique mirror. A piece that is special and inherently moving. An object that speaks with all objects in a room and enhances its beauty.



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