

"I WON'T QUIT"  
A DEDICATED SMOKER  
FUMES

FRENCH FRIES *of the* FUTURE  
*Missions of a Quantum Kitchen*

HOOF DREAMS!  
On the Run in Horse Country

# TOWN & COUNTRY

ART WORLD IT GIRL

THE NEW YEAR'S

## NEW FACE

You May Not  
Know Shala Monroe,  
But You Should

PLUS

WHERE NO  
ONE GETS OLD  
OR SICK

A JOURNEY TO  
INDIA'S GROVES *of*  
ETERNAL YOUTH

COCKTAILS  
& KISSES

THE  
*GREATEST*  
DRINK RECIPES  
TO RING IN  
2012

AND T&C'S  
STAFF-TESTED  
HANGOVER  
CURES

MEET THE  
MILLIONAIRES  
*of*  
OCCUPY  
WALL STREET

JANUARY 2012 \$4.50

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**DRIVE HOME**  
 Every boy dreams of a shiny red car of his own. On Jack: Velvet blazer (\$550) and pants (\$165), both by Peter Elliot Blue. Pedal Chrome race car (\$639) at Petit Tresor. Master bedroom rug by Mitchell Denburg.



**EYE OPENER**  
 Colorful furniture and intriguing prints make a space feel immediately inviting. The Urban Electric Co. wall sconces and ceiling fixture; Ferrick Mason from Studio Four NYC curtain fabric; Stephen Gerould table lamps from Summer Hill Ltd.; Rose Tarlow side tables; Asprey match striker; Dmitriy & Co. sofa and chair; pillow fabrics from Ferrick Mason from Studio Four NYC and Rogers & Goffigon; Hermès throw; George Smith stools; coffee table from Mecox Gardens; Asian temple dogs through Christie's; Liz O'Brien rock crystal votives; Treillage hurricanes; The New Traditionalists cabinet; Eames lounge chair and ottoman from ABC Carpet & Home; rug from Doris Leslie Blau. Painting by Leah Durner. The carpet is by Karastan and the paint is Ralph Lauren Paint Stucco white with Tuscan white glaze.



# SHOW TIME

An irreverent 2002 indie film was the unlikely inspiration for the 2012 *Town & Country* Designer Visions Showhouse. But for designers Jesse Carrier and Mara Miller, this is also a place they could call home.

By **WHITNEY ROBINSON**

Photographs by **FRANCESCO LAGNESE**

Fashion Editor: **SOPHIE PERA**



**ROOM TO GROW**

Entertaining a guest—or a toddler—is a breeze with a well-stocked kitchen. Philip Jeffries Ltd. wall coverings; Ironies from Jerry Pair & Associates table base; settee from Summer Hill Ltd.; all kitchen supplies from Williams-Sonoma; tableware from Treillage; rug by Karastan. On Miller: Michael Kors cashmere long-sleeved sweater (\$795), Marni silk pajama pants (\$535), Michael Kors mirror heels (\$645) and Marni earrings (\$340). On Natalie: Rachel dress by Baby CZ (\$228).



**OUT OF THE BLUE**

The Kohler-appointed bathroom features beautiful tiles from Ann Sacks. Thomas Libetti painting; Lladro porcelain parrot; Ralph Lauren towels; white fauteuil through Christie's.

“M

imi! Get off the maid!” says D.H. Banes, Jeff Goldblum’s character in the 2002 indie flick *Igby Goes Down*. Dressed in an impeccably tailored gray flannel pinstripe suit and a canary-yellow tie, Banes chides Mimi, a drug-addled absentee parent (played by Susan Sarandon) after he discovers her

smothering the housekeeper with a pillow for getting her breakfast order wrong. It’s a portrait of one kind of contemporary urban family you’ve read about—or possibly even know?

Jesse Carrier and Mara Miller represent a very different (not to mention sober) version of the modern family, but the worlds the pair create are as glamorous and sophisticated as the ones the characters inhabit in *Igby*. That is one reason the couple, who form the New York design firm Carrier and Company, used the movie, about the trials of a rebellious teenager in the wealthy underbelly of bohemian society on New York’s Upper East Side, as inspiration when designing the 2012 *Town & Country* Designer Visions Showhouse, at 1212 Fifth Avenue.

“Not the disturbed part of the film,” Carrier tells me in his twinkling, dry manner. “It’s more we were inspired by the smart, savvy, fashionable life.”

“And the locations,” Miller, whose reserved manner belies a frenetic energy, adds. “Whether it was D.H. Banes’s contemporary house in Southampton or his funky Soho loft, or Sookie’s apartment on the Upper West Side, they all had elements of people and projects we had worked on before.” Do tell.

The New York state natives (Miller hails from Westchester County, Carrier from Syracuse), both in their late thirties, have become known as chameleons in the industry for their wide-ranging decorating styles. This versatility can probably be traced to their equally eclectic backgrounds. After studying interior design at FIT (a perhaps unconventional choice for interior studies), they spent the next decade working for a pantheon of modern American design masters—Miller at the likes of Ike Kligerman architects and Sills Huniford, Carrier with Jeffrey Bilhuber for an eight-year stint and before that with Thomas O’Brien.

The decision to work together was a practical one. “The impetus was really family,” Carrier says. Their son Jack is 6 and daughter Natalie is 1. “At least we have the same downtime,” Miller says with the sigh of a sleep-deprived mother who does it all, though it’s hard to believe there’s much downtime.

Since starting Carrier and Company in 2005, the couple have become the go-to for high-profile clients in the entertainment, publishing, and fashion industries, designing interiors in an array of styles for *Vogue*’s Anna Wintour (English Country), first-lady favorite designer Jason Wu (Minimalist), and MTV founder Bob Pittman (Urban Art Collector).

How come? “Osmosis,” Carrier says. “We are comfortable in the fashion world and have been around it long [CONTINUED ON PAGE 109]

“We like things that are long-lived. Superpractical and superchic.”



**A WELL-LIVED LIFE**

Fresh flowers, personal trinkets, and rare collectibles are cozy touches in a spacious apartment. Above left:

Closet custom-designed by Clos-ette. Right: Matthews & Parker desk; ABC Carpet & Home lamp; George Smith chair and ottoman; Dominique Picquier from Studio Four NYC shades fabric; artwork by Dorothy Heller. On Carrier:

Wool suit (\$2,060) and shirt (\$460), both by Prada. Below left: Antique clock through Christie’s; Asprey books and notepad; Hermès notebook. Right: Edwin Lutyns mirror from George Smith; vintage console table from Flair.



**PAJAMA PARTY**

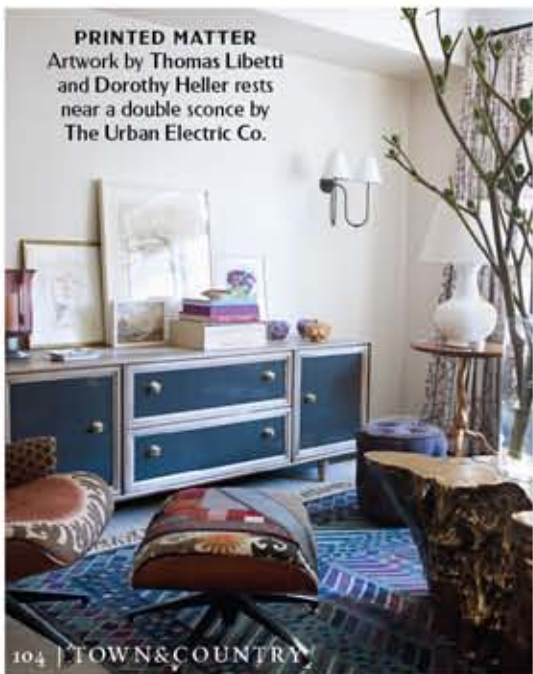
There's nothing like waking up in a comforting space. Madison & Grow from Studio Four NYC curtain fabric; all window shades in the apartment are from Hunter Douglas; Stephen Gerould lamps from Summer Hill Ltd.; antique bedside tables and clocks through Christie's; Oly Studio bed; Sferra bed linens and duvet; pillow fabric from Prints Etc. from Studio Four NYC. *On Miller:* Salvatore Ferragamo silk pajama top (\$1,280) and pajama pants (\$890). *On Jack:* Bonpoint pajamas (from \$145).



An unpretentious attitude—and the use of luxurious and beautiful materials—makes this apartment feel lived-in, real, comfortable.

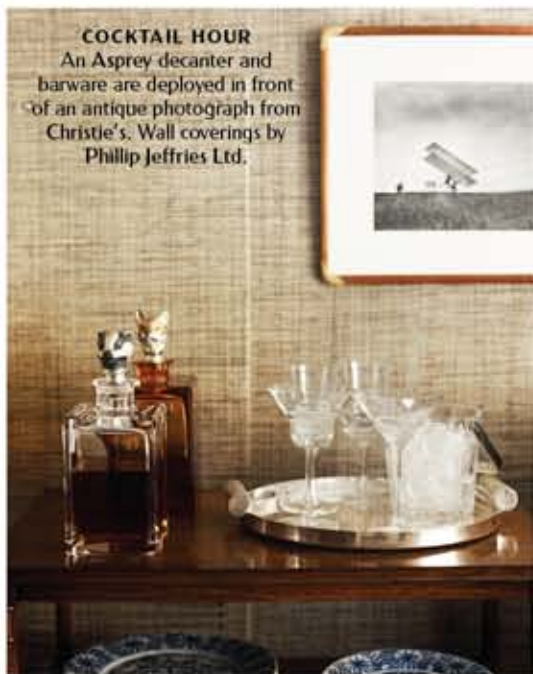
**PRINTED MATTER**

Artwork by Thomas Libetti and Dorothy Heller rests near a double sconce by The Urban Electric Co.



**COCKTAIL HOUR**

An Asprey decanter and barware are deployed in front of an antique photograph from Christie's. Wall coverings by Phillip Jeffries Ltd.



**A SERENE SPACE**

A Julian Chichester floor lamp peers over a Dmitriy & Co. armchair. Painting by Leah Durner; throw and pillow by Ralph Lauren; rug by Doris Leslie Blau.



**A POP OF POPPY**

Leah Durner's abstract paintings are the perfect, unfussy complement for brightly painted walls. Dmitriy & Co. daybed; Oly Studio side tables; Prints Etc. from Studio Four NYC orange pillow fabrics; Dominique Picquier from Studio Four NYC beige pillow fabric; Ralph Lauren black and white sequined pillows and throws; intaglios through Christie's. Ralph Lauren paint in Plateau with Poppy glaze. Production Associate: Stephanie Wu. For details see page 109.



## Quantum Kitchen

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 93] about cooking been exposed. Only recently has our relationship to the art and science of it been spun out—like peas in Myhrvold's centrifuge—into its component parts, reconceived, distilled.

As for Myhrvold's interest in running a restaurant, it is exactly nil. The leading revolutionary in modernist cuisine, Ferran Adrià, closed his renowned El Bulli last summer to concentrate on culinary research. "What Ferran is doing is like what we're doing," Myhrvold says with a confidence that implies that Adrià went at it the wrong way, only now liberating himself from the pesky demands of paying customers. Meanwhile, the Cooking Lab hosts a 30-course dinner every few months, in the warehouse, for food writers, chefs, and other special guests—Thomas Keller, Jacques Pépin, Harold McGee. "We're not quite a pop-up," Myhrvold says, smiling as always. It's invitation-only, and it's only to further his cause. Because engaging intellectually with books, with ideas, is one thing. "Once people taste the food," he says, "they truly understand." ●

## Show Time

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 102] enough. The two of us are levelheaded—a rarity in this industry. We like things that are long-lived and classic. Superpractical and superchic." Veronique Pittman, Bob's wife, describes the couple as "meticulous." She adds, "They have children, so they understand that our kids have the run of the house. We like to be comfortable and flexible and showcase our works of art. It's a tough combination that is not always easy to pull off."

This, the ability to create a grown-up space that can withstand the effects of Elmer's and Play-Doh, defines Carrier and Company's aesthetic and also the showhouse they have created for *Town & Country*.

The location, 1212 Fifth Avenue, was designed by noted architects George and Edward Blum in 1925, but it languished in the hands of nearby Mount Sinai Hospital for the last several decades. The update, sponsored by new owners Durst Fetner, is a complete overhaul. Exterior limestone panels have been powerwashed and repointed. Windows have been replaced and double-glazed. Penthouse terraces half a block long have been restored.

Inside the apartment, the two Kohler-

appointed bathrooms, designed by S. Russell Groves, are outfitted with gleaming Ann Sacks tiles in the colors ocean and goldenrod. DTV digital showers with iPod-like remote controls, and mirrored Robern medicine cabinets that open to reveal refrigerated compartments for keeping Crème de la Mer fresh...or bottles of Krug and flutes chilled. The eat-in kitchen is stocked with high-octane Miele ovens and a Bertazzoni stove that help rationalize hiring a personal chef.

The rest was up to Carrier and Company, who chose an eclectic palette of global textiles, oversize upholstery, and mirrored furniture to give the space a worldly, contemporary feel. An Eames chair in the living room is reupholstered in a traditional Uzbek suzani textile. "We like familiar forms, but our work is not stodgy or overly traditional," Miller says. I'll say. The Eames Lounge sits across from a huge tree-trunk coffee table dunked in bronze-gold metallic paint from Mecox. Texture and unique finishes abound, from the almost tribal Phillip Jeffries raffia that wraps the eat-in kitchen to the hand-combed Ralph Lauren Poppy-painted walls that complement a unique collection of Italian intaglios from Christie's and envelop the den in an autumnal glow—a room that begs for candlelight. The hallway is swathed in ridged black vinyl, a dramatic choice that takes you from the public spaces of the apartment to the private ones. Even the his-and-hers walk-in closets, custom-designed by Clos-ette, get the treatment, covered in pale blue grasscloth with subtle silver metallic threads running through the fabric. These are closets that look good whether or not they have clothes in them.

Taste in art is something else the couple share, and the apartment is filled with pieces culled from their own collection, both from established gallery painters like Leah Durner, whose huge canvases inspired by Prada fashion shows fill the living room and master bedroom, to a black-and-white photo of a snowstorm Carrier found on the street. "I feel as if we have no real interest in provenance," Miller says in the casually dismissive tone of the high-low generation.

This unpretentious attitude—and the use of luxurious and beautiful materials—makes this apartment feel lived-in, real, comfortable. But also glamorous—you could imagine it as the domain of a well-heeled and well-traveled young New York City family, characters in *Igby Goes Down*. Or, even, the Carriers.

When I ask whether there was any part of the couple that was designing the space specifically for their family, Carrier looks at Miller

and smiles. "People always ask us, 'What's your personal style?'" he says. "You can't look through our portfolio and pick it out, because what we do always reflects our clients' taste, but I think in this instance we were able to reflect our own."

Miller adds, "This could be our next apartment."

Good news: It's for sale. ●

## SHOPPING & CREDIT INFORMATION

### TUXEDO PARK

**PAGE 62:** Tom Ford jacket and pants, 212-359-0300.

### LIFE OF A BUTTERFLY

**COVER:** Miu Miu skirt and top, [miumi.com](http://miumi.com). Prada flower shoes, [prada.com](http://prada.com). Valentino belt, 212-772-6969. Lydia Courteille ring, [lydia-courteille.com](http://lydia-courteille.com). **PAGE 69:** Valentino dress and belt, 212-772-6969. Delfina Delettrez earrings, [www.openingceremony.us](http://www.openingceremony.us). **PAGE 71:** Prada dress, [prada.com](http://prada.com). Ferragamo shoes, 800-628-8916. Hat from Marie Mercie hat, [mariemercie.com](http://mariemercie.com). **PAGE 72-73:** Valentino Haute Couture velvet dress and jacket, 212-772-6969. Delfina Delettrez ring, [www.openingceremony.us](http://www.openingceremony.us).

### SHOW TIME

**PAGE 100:** On Jack: Peter Elliot Blue velvet blazer and pants, 212-570-2301. Petal chrome race car at Petit Tresor, [petittresor.com](http://petittresor.com). **PAGE 102:** On Miller: Michael Kors sweater and shoes, 866-709-5677. Marni silk pajamas, [barneys.com](http://barneys.com). Marni earrings. Neiman Marcus, 800-365-7989. On Natalie: Baby CZ Rachel dress, [babycz.com](http://babycz.com). **PAGE 103:** On Carrier: Prada wool suit and shirt, [prada.com](http://prada.com). **PAGE 104:** On Miller: Salvatore Ferragamo pajama top and pants, 800-628-8916. On Jack: Bonpoint pajamas, [bonpoint.com](http://bonpoint.com).

*Town & Country* wishes to thank the manufacturers, retailers, and professionals who participated in this project. Interior design: Carrier and Company Interiors, Ltd.; S. Russell Groves, designer of the Kohler bathrooms. Special thanks to I. Grace contractors, the Nantz Company for custom hardware, RC Dolner, Clareo media integration, Par Plumbing, Collins Brothers Moving Corp., Jantife, Inc., and Phil Bland Decorative Painting. Additional vendors include Room & Board, New York Drapery Company, Jennie Bishop for Thievery, Elegant Custom Draperies; artists Megan Strecker, Peter Margonelli, and John Tipton; books from Abrams and Rizzoli; fabrics from Selvedge Handweavers for Studio Four NYC, G.P.R.J. Baker for Lee Jofa; ILevel art hanging and Skyframe. Project directed by Alana Frumkes, executive director of Designer Visions.