

LUXURY HOME

quarterly

FRESH & CLEAN

Bright, crisp designs for spring

HOME OFFICES THAT WORK:
Craig Steely, Shane Inman & *Esquire*

+ A PEEK INSIDE *John Finton's
Contemporary Bel Air Masterpiece*

SAVAGE PROJECT

Paula + Martha custom designed several pieces in this room. The L-shaped sofa, inspired by Damien Hirst and fabricated by Houston Upholstery, features a silk-screened fabric by Izquierdo Studio (izquierdostudio.com). The two-way mirrored box, which serves as a full-length mirror and also allows viewing of multiple TVs at once, was fabricated by Softline International, Inc. (softline.com).



Paula + Martha, LLC

Art made accessible. Controlled explosions of color. Luxury spun from rudimentary materials. Interiors designed by Paula + Martha, LLC are simple and elegant with a touch of the unexpected. “Both Martha and I are painters at heart and bring a fine-arts approach to our design by combining contemporary art with a tailored and eclectic mix of furniture,” says Paula Caravelli, principal partner of Paula + Martha.

TEXT BY RUTH E. DÁVILA
PHOTOS BY PHILLIP ENNIS

The Flaum Residence

In this space, classic, elegant design meets durability with a personalized touch. These Louis XIV chairs (habitatltd.com), upholstered in chic and durable Knoll vinyl (knolltextiles.com), feature custom-embroidered images of the owner's Yorkie (penandfletcher.com). The lacquered waterfall table, which functions as both a desk and dining table, was custom-designed by Paula + Martha and fabricated by Park Avenue Interiors (parkavenueinteriors.net). The custom silver-metallic and fuchsia-silk paisley carpet (edwardfields.com) fills the space with vivid color and pattern.

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PRECIOUS POOCH
This Jeff Koons sculpture (jeffkoons.com) stands proudly upon a custom pedestal of reclaimed oak flooring.

The 2009 Kips Bay Show House Office

Angled, elegant antiques energize this home office while encouraging a thoughtful meandering through the small space. This 1940s power desk stands in front of a striking photo collage. A beautifully worn antique settee graces the corner, juxtaposed by a Warhol-inspired flower sculpture and vintage orange floor lamp. Burlap is treated as a fine fabric, trimmed and lined with orange Knoll wool felt (knolltextiles.com) and pinned with a decorative rosette from John Norwood Antiques (norwoodantiques.com).

Paula Caravelli met her design colleague, Martha Angus, decades ago when the two were working for The Walker Group, a New York agency specializing in cutting-edge store design. Later, at Naomi Leff and Associates, Caravelli and Angus collaborated on retail concepts for Ralph Lauren, Giorgio Armani, and the Lauder family.

When Caravelli and Angus branched out independently to do residential design, they were frequently involved in each other's projects. The two friends became known as a dual force, which is why Caravelli, who is based in New York, chose the name Paula + Martha for her venture in 2005. Angus, who lives in San Francisco and runs her own eponymous firm, contributes to Paula + Martha's designs. Their bicoastal setup facilitates projects across the country.

No challenge is too big—or too small—for Paula + Martha. Actress and country singer Dorothy Savage's chic Manhattan apartment presented the consummate New York predicament: a compact space, at 500 square feet, for living, working, and entertaining.

Caravelli started with sharp editing, rooted in the idea that every piece of furniture would serve multiple uses. "A corner sofa would become a bed, the desk would second as a dining table, and a mirrored wall sculpture would conceal three TVs that also function as video art."

Marking the entry is a "floating art wall," which cleverly conceals a storage closet while eliminating the need for a closet door. Opposite, in a small niche, a floor-to-ceiling mirrored wall reflects photography by Jeong Mee Yoon.

The overall effect opened up Savage's *pied-à-terre* immensely. Caravelli fought clutter with hidden storage compartments. An antique Belgian bookcase at one end of the space holds white lacquer and fuchsia fabric-wrapped boxes to store Savage's home/office supplies.

"We refused to sacrifice glamour and good design for the sake of function," Caravelli says. She covered the floor with a fuchsia-silk and silver-metallic thread carpet, what she calls "the most striking element in the space, with its oversize paisley pattern."

Caravelli designed an L-shaped sofa that seats up to six people. A few standout pieces—like custom taffeta drapes, the fuchsia silk carpet, a cashmere throw, and scented candles—add softness and beauty without overpowering the space.

For the Kips Bay Boys & Girls Club in 2009, Paula + Martha created a dynamic yet intimate executive office. "In keeping with the child-friendly message of the space and to create the element of surprise, there are fun accessories throughout the room including a Warhol Brillo box and a Jeff Koons puppy dog juxtaposed against the antique furniture," Caravelli says.

Using contact paper, she clad the walls with a collage of Kips Bay kids. Positive slogans from the teens such as "Success is an attitude" served as the room's foundation. Every design choice hummed with an underlying meaning. "Simple materials like burlap represent humble beginnings, but the beautiful applications and detailing illustrate opportunity and possibility," Caravelli says.

It was a green room as well, using eco-friendly elements such as reclaimed oak flooring, low-VOC paint, Sisal carpet, and (borrowed) vintage and antique furniture. "My favorite part of the project was the feeling of being part of



something bigger," she says. "It was the opportunity to illustrate this mission to the public through interior design."


In San Francisco, Paula's sister company, Martha Angus, Inc., put a fresh green spin on a teenage boy's room. "We really tried to not purchase any new items and use pieces that we already had—or that we borrowed," Angus says. Local vendors, such as coup d'état, Epoca, Jonathan Adler, Ralph Lauren, and Frankel Gallery, contributed key pieces to the design.

Angus set out to instill a mood of having the impossible at one's fingertips. "The concept behind the room was to create a fun, vibrant space that would really offer a sense of creativity and inspiration for a growing, adventurous mind."

Drawing on abstract shapes and bold colors for energy, Angus hung black-and-white-striped wallpaper horizontally, set off by a pop of red from the painted bathroom walls. The outcome was young and zestful yet not attached to a specific place and time. Still, it was the little quirks that made the room come together. "The custom cartoon 'thought bubble' mirror made out of plexiglass in the bathroom has to be the part that we love the most," Angus says. It's the little things, such as Paula + Martha's use of unconventional materials and quirky design details, that sets the company apart. "The bottom line is that good design does not necessarily require pedigree," Caravelli says. But it does require ingenuity—and that's Paula + Martha's forte. ■

The 'Modern by Design' Show Home

The 2010 *Metropolitan Home's* show home is a historic, 7,700-square-foot house in the heart of the exclusive Pacific Heights neighborhood in San Francisco. The classic Campaign daybed (charlesprogers.com) used in the boys' bedroom is adorned with throw pillows and bed linens from Ralph Lauren (ralphlauren.com) and Jonathan Adler (jonathanadler.com). The silver Parson's desk from West Elm (westelm.com) features accessories from Jonathan Adler and a classic Knoll chair. The vibrant red bathroom shows off a custom-made "thought bubble" mirror.



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FIT FOR A QUEEN
Pink stripes and a vintage
chandelier accent Sav-
age’s modern bathroom,
creating a sophisticated,
regal experience.