

CHRISTIN ENGH

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Interior Images by Jane Beiles and Headshot of
Christin Engh by Andrea Carson





Christin Engh of Mare Design loves the beauty of simplicity. While for some people, the word “simplicity” brings a host of negative connotations such as “cheap” and “stark,” Christin’s design world evokes attractive and serene images filled with sophistication, luxuriousness, elegance and coziness.

“I design spaces that are calming and create the sense of a sanctuary, with neutral color palettes and pops of color set off by a curated collection that adds interest but never clutter to a room,” she says. “The final layer of art and accessories is so important to creating beautiful spaces, and I am very mindful of the placement of every design element—from the coffee-table book to the quince branch on the console. Just as accessories are important, so are the negative spaces. I always give space for the eye to relax; this is what makes a room feel serene and calming. A clean white backdrop, along with mirrors, plants and beautifully soft fabrics, creates a sanctuary experience.”

Pulling together an elevated look with a clean aesthetic allows the various neutrals to pop using myriad textures, finishes and fabrics instead of patterns. Indeed, Christin confesses to not using patterns often in her designs, because she believes live and organic textures offer a more timeless element to a space. Still, textures and fabrics bring multiple layers of fun, comfort and freshness. Furniture, rug pillows and carefully placed accessories stand out against the whites and add dramatic elements without competing for attention. A stunning and unique curved coffee table with a snake-skin print, and a fun, crocodile-type finish on a side table can add enjoyment and a touch of drama that is pleasing to the eye.

“My secret to pulling together a space that is luxurious and elegant, yet also totally comfortable and inviting, is texture and styling,” Christin explains. “Texture adds a subtle dimension and quality to furnishings, especially when the color palette is predominantly neutral. I love how this curvaceous cocktail table is that much more fabulous because of its snakeskin texture.”

Christin says her ability to offer simplicity within efficiency, be it a “restrained room design” or project management, is a client-pleasing aspect of her business. Tracking orders and communicating with vendors and artisans is a large part of interior design. “I take project management very seriously,” she says. “My clients tell me they appreciate how I keep projects moving along with timely updates. Communication is so important in ensuring that a project not only results in a beautiful space, but is also an enjoyable experience. With so many issues with supply chains these days, these organizational and communication skills are even more valuable to the success of a project.”

