

EASY ELEGANT STYLE

CATCHING UP WITH GREENWICH DESIGNER CINDY RINFRET

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Images courtesy of Rinfret, Ltd. Interior Design & Decoration.

Photography Neil Landino

For thirty plus years designer Cindy Rinfret has been defining true “Classic Greenwich Style” with her iconic interior design. We had the pleasure of speaking with Cindy on her design phi-losophy and the beautiful Greenwich home here.

This home is a “classic” Georgian but when our client purchased the house it looked dated, as the decor was left over from the 1980’s. The house was

wall-to-wall chintz. I felt like it was a beautiful girl who had put on too much make up! I could see the great bones behind all the decoration that hid the gorgeous classic architecture. My job was to incorporate the client’s fabulous art and favor-ite pieces into an updated home with a Neo Classical style. The client wanted timeless design with glamour, yet tailored and livable.





WHAT IS YOUR DESIGN PHILOSOPHY?

My design motto is that your home should feel like “jeans with a silk shirt and a cashmere sweat-er.” To me, that means a casualness yet luxurious design that feels comfortable and inviting, with a glamour and aesthetic that is special and inspiring.

This home has all that. There is no room that is off limits. As beautiful as all these spaces are they are very livable and stylish at the same time. Our designs always reflect the client and I encourage them to share my philosophy to enjoy every room in the house.

WHAT IS THE BEST PIECE OF ADVICE THAT HAS IMPACTED YOUR LIFE AS A DESIGNER?

You only go around once, so live your best life. Life is not a dress rehearsal.

DESIGNING SO MANY HOMES IN GREENWICH, MANHATTAN AND PALM BEACH, WHAT IS THE BIGGEST DIFFERENCE IN DESIGN FOR EACH AND OR WHAT IS THE COMMON THREAD?

The common thread in all my homes is quality and comfort. The colors and textures vary in projects based on location and light. I always have emphasized “inside/outside homes.” I integrate a project’s location and views into the home’s interiors. Each Rinfret, Ltd. project has its own uniquely curated mix of color, art and accessories that is influenced by the client’s personality and the location. The architecture of the home and each client’s lifestyle speaks to me and directly in-forms the direction and design of the project.

IS THERE A CURRENT TREND ARE YOU OVER? WHAT CURRENT TREND CAN YOU NOT GET ENOUGH OF?

I don’t follow trends and my designs tend to be more tailored and less fussy. At Rinfret, Ltd. we are dedicated to quality and an aesthetic of timeless comfort is the priority.

WHAT DESIGN ELEMENTS ARE IMPORTANT TO KEEP IN MIND WHEN CREATING A SPACE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY TO ENJOY TOGETHER?

I personally want my clients to enjoy every room in their home. I embrace all that our homes offer, from the lifestyle of the family pet to creating destination spots for entertaining. Anything too precious is avoided so clients never feel afraid to use a space. Rinfret, Ltd. designs always have something to discover and we give lots of reasons to enjoy each area of your home.

My rooms touch all the senses -- sight, smell, touch! I love great throws to cuddle up, as well as scented candles in every room and always a bar or drinks table. I am a golden retriever lover and even that informs my designs! Pets are family and a way of life for many of our clients. We embrace that and build pets beds into our projects.







WHO OR WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR GREATEST INFLUENCE?

My greatest influence of my entire life and career has been travel. It's so important to see new in-fluences, history and inspiration. Travel is my drug of choice. Always finding somewhere new to discover keeps you curious and inspired.

WHAT IS YOUR MOST MEMORABLE DESIGN PROJECT?

I must say creating the duplex at The Plaza was very special. This is an iconic building. I had the pleasure of working for a month on a mural in the turret overlooking Central Park with Hillary Knight, the illustrator of Eloise at The Plaza! He was so wonderful and even signed an "Eloise" book for my daughter.

HOW HAS YOUR STYLE CHANGED OVER THE YEARS?

My style has not changed but "developed." The more you travel and see the more inspired you become. I think my work is a bit more tailored but definitely more interesting in its details. "The devil is in the detail." People say what they love about my work is that my rooms don't scream out and you see everything at first glance. The more you are in my rooms, the more you see the subtle beautiful details. Our rooms always feel collected like life -- your interiors should reflect the collected influences in your life.

WHAT MAKES GREENWICH STYLE UNIQUE?

Greenwich Style is elegant and classic and collected. My clients in Greenwich and elsewhere all have lived very fortunate lives, been generally well educated and exposed to the best. My book "Greenwich Style" reflects these privileges. I like to say our designs are similar to Hermes or Lora Piana, always understatedly stylish and always appropriate, comfortable and interesting.

WHAT IS THE SECRET TO BLENDING ANTIQUES AND TRANSITIONAL PIECES?

The secret to blending antiques and new pieces is scale, accessorizing and the mix of art. Pure any-thing is boring. It's the mix of history and beautiful fabrics blended with clean lines that create a unique and confident interior. Antiques infuse a room with history and style -- this is what sets great design apart and creates a bespoke experience.

