

10 DESIGNERS TO WATCH



COURTESY BRUCE BIERMAN

BRUCE BIERMAN

New York

"We have a motto in our office," says Bruce Bierman of his eponymous design firm. "'There is no such thing as a decorating emergency.' If after telling this to a prospective client they laugh, we know it will be a great collaboration."

Bierman began his career as an interior designer after receiving his bachelor of fine arts and bachelor of architecture at the Rhode Island School of Design. "While studying architecture, I found myself drawn to the interiors rather than the design of the buildings themselves. It seemed a logical step to pursue interior design. My own loft was published almost immediately after finishing school, and the first client hired me after seeing the article. I was off and running."

Bierman, who would otherwise be an investment banker ("taking advantage of my obsessive attention to detail"), sees himself as "essentially a modernist, creating functional interiors with historic references."

Modernist architects Carlo Scarpa and Richard Neutra, along with the work of Jules and André Leleu, Jacques-Emile Ruhlmann, and André Arbus, have been the inspiration behind Bierman's projects, which include turning a pentagonal apartment with mostly glass walls into a clean, functional living space and designing an 80-year-old, French Normandy-style mansion on Long Island. "One of my most interesting projects to date has been for an artist with an extraordinary collection of furniture and art and a deep understanding of design," he says.

Bierman would love to have unlimited time and budget to build and design his own home, but his firm has been keeping him busy. "My biggest problem has been time management. My solution so far? Less sleep."

—N.M.



RIGHT AND OPPOSITE: MICHAEL DUNNE

This page: J. Robert Scott and Rogers and Goffigan club chairs provide posh perches for viewing Manhattan's Upper West Side.

Right: By building a wall of sliding glass-and-wood doors, Bruce Bierman allowed his client to divide or combine the kitchen and dining room. Dining table and arm chairs from Dakota Jackson.

