

movement with its high vaulted ceilings and stained glass windows, Tudor decorating styles featuring wood beams, bright colours and tapestries and American country style with bright mix-and-match furnishings.

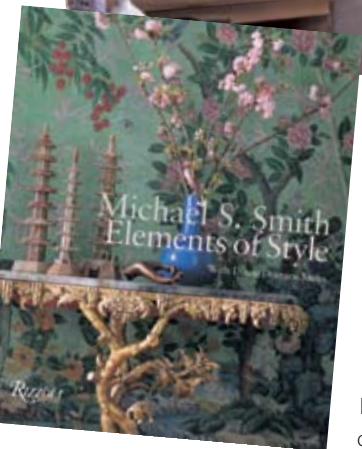
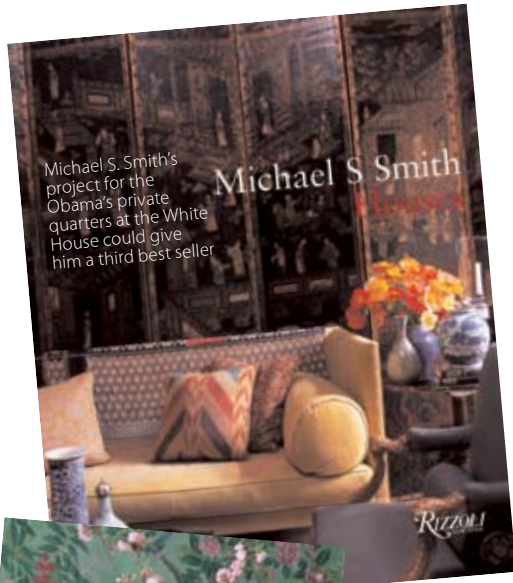
So who are the leading exponents shaping the interiors of America's homes and public buildings today? Far too many to mention, that's for sure. Condé Nast's *Architectural Digest*, one of America's leading interior design magazines, publishes an annual list of top designers – the AD 100. One name that crops up frequently is Barbara Barry.

Named by *Forbes* magazine as one of its Ten Best Interior Designers Of The West Coast, Californian Barry opened her business in 1986. Her style oozes contemporary Hollywood glamour. On her website she describes herself as an artist who "sees the world very much in terms of light, form, colour and texture" and strives to find "the fluid line, with forms that speak to the body and call us to use them". Her three top design tips are: "Purge. It's always good to pare down. I grew up valuing simplicity and appreciating small details. Also, think in colour blocks and remember that lighting is everything."

i www.barbarabarry.com



Jed Johnson Home's Avery 'Bird's-Eye' bronze panelled chest and ebonized 'porter chair' hold their own in this collector's bedroom, next to Andy Warhol's painting from the *Ladies and Gentlemen* series and white lacquered metal sculpture by Alexander Lieberman. Wall upholstery in Jed Johnson Home's silk and linen Nuage Jacquard. © Nick Johnson



Since he was selected to update the private quarters in the White House for Barack and Michelle Obama, 44-year-old Michael S. Smith has become the hottest designer in America. He has a big budget

to play with because, although they've been allotted \$100,000 to redecorate, the Obamas will also spend some of their own money.

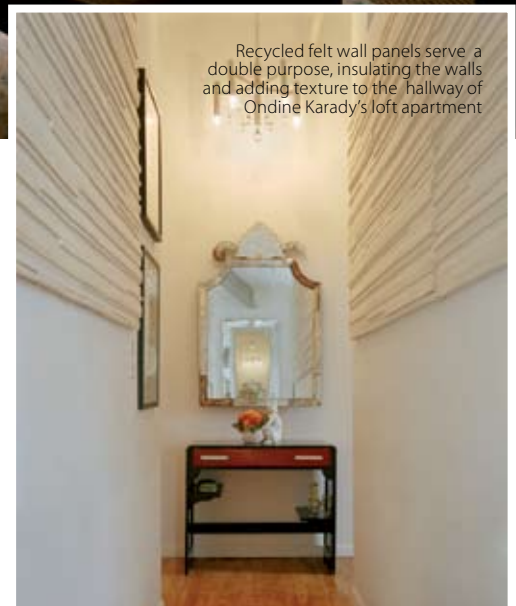
Smith studied decorative arts at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London and his style is steeped in European tradition. His interiors reflect a well-travelled look that includes the use of fine fabrics and rare antiques and a combination of different time periods, cultures and price points. His designs are known

for being comfortable yet sophisticated, classic yet modern, filled with priceless pieces yet inviting and livable.

Based in Santa Monica, Smith works on residential and commercial properties around the world. His long list of celebrity clients includes Cindy Crawford, Steven Spielberg, Rupert Murdoch, Dustin Hoffman and Michelle Pfeiffer. He was named one of *Architectural Digest's* top 100 designers in 2002 and 2004 and was *Elle Decor's* designer of the year in 2003. In addition to his interior design business, he is involved in a number of commercial ventures, including his Jasper furniture and fabric lines, as well as fabric, leather, bath and ceramics collections and licensing agreements for lighting, rugs and home fragrances.

"He really stands out as being one of the top designers of our time," says Margaret Russell, editor of *Elle Decor*. "He's an extremely versatile designer, and he's someone who doesn't inflict his personal style on his clients. He's a good fit... I think he'll help the Obamas make a lovely statement about what change is, while respecting the history of the White House and bringing a fresh look to it."

i www.michaelsmithinc.com



Recycled felt wall panels serve a double purpose, insulating the walls and adding texture to the hallway of Ondine Karady's loft apartment

Ondine Karady came to the world of interior design by way of the entertainments industry and has worked with top directors such as Spike Lee on his film, *25th Hour*. Most famously, she was part of the team that decorated the sets for *Sex and the City*, which set new standards in high end interiors. Since then, her career has taken off and she left set design to open boutique design studios in New York and Washington D.C., where she also designs a line of custom-made furniture, wallpaper and ceramics.

Wherever Karady focuses her eye, she brings a

The Braziliance Commode is a two-drawer cabinet designed by Dorothy Draper in 1939 for The Quitandinha, a resort in Brazil. Available today from the Kindel Furniture Company



modern, high-impact look infused with an offbeat energy. She was a finalist on *Bravo's Top Design* show, when the judges praised her sophisticated style and can-do attitude. "She did a great job on the show, making her spaces look really lived-in and layered," said *Elle Decor* Editor Margaret Russell, one of the judges. "The fact that she has been a set decorator means she knows how to conjure a place and channel someone's personality."

i www.ondinekarady.com

When Jed Johnson started his interior decorating business in a fourth-floor bedroom of Andy Warhol's Manhattan townhouse, he could never have dreamed that he was creating a company that has become one of the premier design houses in America. It has been said that he became a decorator in self-defense, beginning with his attempt to organize the possessions of the famous artist (and legendary shopper) with whom he lived for 12 years. "Jed's design education began by sorting Andy's things," says Jay Johnson, his twin brother, who has been President of the company since

Jed's death in the 1996 TWA airline crash. That same year, he was awarded the Interior Design Hall of Fame Award in recognition of his remarkable contribution to the profession.

With quiet determination, a perfectionist's curiosity and the natural eye of an authentic connoisseur, Jed Johnson rose to the highest echelon of the international design world, collecting a roster of celebrity clients including Mick Jagger and Jerry Hall, Richard Gere, and Barbara Streisand. As his company and reputation grew, many talented designers who shared his ideals

Grand scale and sculptural form define this New York penthouse loft by Jed Johnson Associates. The sensuous luster of the custom macassar ebony 'sun' bed provides the perfect contrast for the white-on-white handmade rag paper collage panels that envelop the walls and ceiling coffers. © Durston Saylor



Ondine Karady's loft apartment, converted from a Brooklyn sweater factory, makes unusual use of reclaimed 1940s hospital cabinets in the lounge

of products that bear his mark, ranging from furniture, lamps, dinner-ware, crystal, and linen designs. In his interior designs and fabrics – Carleton Varney by the Yard – his design philosophy stresses the use of bright colours and the rejection of all that is impractical, uncomfortable and drab, embracing all that Dorothy Draper stood for, ensuring that her pioneering spirit endures in private residences worldwide.

i www.dorothydraper.com
www.kindelfurniture.com

of design integrity, superb quality, and restrained luxury joined the firm. Today, the company also comprises Jed Johnson Home, offering luxury textiles, furniture and decorative accessories once obtainable as couture creations for private clients but now available to the public through architects and interior design professionals. Says the company's design director, Arthur Dunnam: "Though we are thoroughly grounded in history, we relish the challenges of the 21st century and intend to remain at the leading edge of innovative interior design."

i www.jedjohnson.com

An article on America's top designers wouldn't be complete without further mention of Dorothy Draper and Company, Inc., still going strong and now the oldest established interior design firm in the United States. Dorothy died in 1969 but her protégé Carleton Varney, the current President as well as a designer in his own right, continues to emulate her timeless style in the Dorothy Draper Collection, which features reproductions adaptations and inspirations from Draper's corporate design work. Kindel Furniture of Michigan has the license with Carleton Varney to reproduce Dorothy Draper designs. The 100-year-old company is the last remaining manufacturer in Grand Rapids, at one time known as 'Furniture City'. Said PR Nellie Xinos: "Some of the collection features products from Draper's original design notebooks. Some are line for line copies, others are adaptations as Dorothy had a penchant for overscaled work! We love her look, and it is extremely popular today in the US."

In his own right, Varney is associated with the restoration and decoration of countless hotels and resorts, among them Dromoland and Ashford Castles in Ireland, The Waldorf Towers and Plaza Hotel in New York and The Breakers in Palm Beach. In years past, he was the design consultant to the Carter Presidential Library and for numerous functions at the White House. His versatility in design can be seen in the wide range

Kindel reproduction of a Dorothy Draper sofa and birdcage chandelier, first designed for use in the café at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, named The Dorotheum in her honour

