

Watch the fabric swatches and paint chips fly as Bravo's Top Design returns with more stylish drama

As the first season's winner, Matt Lorenz, can attest, besting 11 competitors on Bravo's Top Design has its benefits: In Lorenz's case it enabled him to launch his own fast-growing Chicago interior-design firm. Now 13 new contestants are vying for a shot at the reality program's crown. Expect more nail-biting challenges before one of them rises to the top. Nathan Thomas This Colorado native studied at Pratt Institute and FIT before joining a cutting-edge Manhattan design company, Natalie Williams At 24, she's the youngest of the bunch, but the guick study with a knack for mixing contemporary and traditional pieces is already head designer at an Atlanta firm. Ondine Karady She developed an eagle eye decorating sets for Sex and the City. Now the determined New Yorker hopes to take center stage with her sophisticated international style. Andrea Schroder A real-estate developer and wife of actor Ricky Schroder, she has built and remodeled everything from lofts to movie theaters, but always strives for functional decor. Robert Reid From the time he was a teen sketching buildings late into the night, this tenacious Houstonian has been obsessed with making his mark-typically with

offbeat interiors. Wisit Prapong A trained countertenor, he takes his cues from couture and art and aims for classical elegance in his design work. Eddie Ross Not only does this magazine editor produce stylish interiors for photo shoots, he has a degree from the Culinary Institute of America. Good taste indeed. Shazia Kirmani An It girl of Dallas design, she has a budget-baroque aesthetic-and boundless ambition. Serge Van Lian This fearless free spirit worked as an artist before opening a New York design studio known for its experimental approach. Teresa Keegan Ready to roll the dice, the energetic Las Vegas designer is inspired more by nature than neon. Kerry Howard The small-town Southem boy known as Big Daddy successfully chased his dream of working in design, starting an Atlanta firm known for its eclectic style, Preston Lee A self-described smart-ass, he founded his interior-design company at age 21 and isn't afraid to challenge clients to think outside the box. Jennifer Newsom A Mensa member and Yale graduate, the six-foot-tall architect hopes to tower above the competition with her savvy ability to turn concepts into clean-lined spaces. HeLEN YUN