



GLENN GISSLER

New York

"My first real job was a 10,000-square-foot project for fashion designer Michael Kors, including showroom, design studio, offices, sample production, and shipping. When he asked me to do the project, I quit my job at Rafael Viñoly, and the rest is history," muses Glenn Gissler, who has also worked for interior designer Juan Montoya.

Gissler seems most excited when he gets to apply what he calls his "half-full/half-empty" design approach to projects that involve art. "The half full is comfort, visual stimulation, objects, and history, and the half empty is keeping the spaces modern with room for thinking and for change," he explains.

Married to Susan Harris, associate curator at the Whitney Museum, Gissler was recently working on two apartments just two blocks apart for two very different art dealers. "I was designing a large pre-War space for the director of Gagosian Gallery in Soho with a collection of contemporary paintings, sculpture, and photography, while the other was a complete makeover of a post-War high-rise for a second generation dealer with a collection of early-20th-century Viennese paintings, drawings, and prints, including incredible works by Egon Schiele."

"As important as furniture is, it's in the background compared to art," says Gissler. "Art is one of the most important things in a room. It's what people walk away remembering. No one sits on a couch and then thinks back, 'Wow, that Jack Lenor Larsen fabric was amazing.'"

—N.M.

10 DESIGNERS TO WATCH





This page: "A bold use of color activates the entire house," says Glenn Gissler of this home where the clients' modern art commands mostly neutral shades. "Bauhaus Red" paint from Donald Kaufman Color sets off this Dubuffet in the dining room.

Left: To help his Manhattan clients relax, Gissler, along with Schwartz-Silver Architects, created this Martha's Vineyard dining room/porch. Dining chairs from British Khaki Furniture.



1 "THE GARBO MIRROR"

Chosen by Lourdes Fernandez, Iggy Olson-Cuba, and Robert Zennickis
"This piece is made by hand out of small, carved pieces of wood that are put together to look solid. We do a lot of work to achieve a finished product that looks effortless," says Fernandez.
Available through NuHouse in Miami.

4 "BOLECTION MIRROR"

Chosen by Marcello Luzi
Luzi fancies this mirror's classical lines derived from architectural moldings of the past. "It reminds you of a bygone era, but has an up-to-date style that will work well with any contemporary interior."
Available through Sirmos.

7 "DUTCH EBONIZED MAHOGANY MIRROR"

Chosen by Dennis Duffy
"The simple geometry of this rectangular mirror is subtly detailed in the edge's undulating profile. It is strong and refined at once," says Duffy, who envisions the piece "on a fine hemp wallcovering or over a limestone vanity with burnished nickel fittings."
From Antiques on Five in Boston.

2 ANTIQUE CHINESE SHAVING MIRROR

Chosen by Connie LeFevre
LeFevre's selection dates back to the late 19th century and "could be an interesting accessory to contrast with a contemporary setting or to compliment a traditional one."
Available from Carl Moore Antiques in Houston.

5 "SUNBURST MIRROR"

Chosen by Bea Pila-Gonzalez
"This mirror is not only a stunning piece in its own right, but also represents a glowing illumination of ideas stretching out in all directions. Its symbolic influence reminds me to look to nature and the divine for inspiration, which is always my source of style."
Part of the Parish-Hadley Collection by Baker.

8 "BUTLER'S BALL"

Chosen by Glenn Gisler
"I like that Mercury glass is antique, yet exemplifies the most technologically advanced products of its day. It has a simplicity and cleanliness of shape that's pared down when compared to most 19th-century decorative arts, so the ball seems modern. It's even better if it's survived the test of time and has come through with a little patina." From J. Garvin Mecking in New York.

3 KALEIDOSCOPES

Chosen by Mary Kay Kieler
"Toy chests, children's rooms, museums, and libraries are all ideal settings to display a kaleidoscope. It was invented in 1816 to measure color, and throughout the 19th century was popular as a parlor toy for the whole family. I love that it still intrigues all ages and offers every viewer entry into a world of beautiful vision."
Designer's own collection.

6 "CHOSER MIRROR"

Chosen by Lisa Slayman
"I was attracted to this mirror's unique Art Deco-influenced styling. The most interesting feature is the frame detail. This mirror is contemporary and sophisticated, two words that represent my design philosophy." Available through J. Robert Scott.

9 "DUCK-FOOT MIRROR"

Chosen by Julie O'Brien
"This mirror represents the wink in a room that makes an interior fun to be in and fun to discover. It makes for a bit of whimsy that reminds us of how human we are. A bit of tongue in cheek can do wonders in design, brightening the mood and allowing people to feel unjudged and comfortable in an environment."
From Turandot Decorative Arts in Indianapolis.