

VANITY FAIR

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Vanities

Esprit Décor

The Generation X equivalents of Mario Buatta, Peter Marino, Mark Hampton, and Jacques Grange possess twice the energy and half the ego of their role models. Standouts among the rising stars of thirtysomething interior designers include Jamie Drake, Stephen Miller Siegel, Emily Todhunter, and Parkin Saunders and Chris Walsh, of Saunders & Walsh. Also up-and-coming is 28-year-old Darren Henault.

"Young designers, besides having a fresh eye, are more willing to listen to what we the clients want and are more likely to devote themselves to the projects," says Cynthia Ford. She and her husband, Edsel B. Ford II, employed Saunders & Walsh to design their Grosse Pointe, Michigan, lakeside manse. S&W also furnished oil-services heir David Koch's 15,000-square-foot Southampton home in just four months. Jamie Drake's flexible approach has endeared him to clients such as media magnate Michael Bloomberg, literary agent Amanda Urban, and publishing executive Phyllis Grann. "There's a constant conversation that determines the how, what, when, and why," Drake explains. Peter Marino's protégé Stephen Miller Siegel is similarly sensitive to clients'

needs. "The starting point for all good design is architecture, which should reflect the client's taste," he says. The London-based decorator Emily Todhunter counts among her commissions Sissinghurst Castle, the home of Nigel Nicolson, and the Bel-Air villa of English industrialist Lord White of Hull. She neatly sums up the key to early success. "The first rule in decorating is to get the client as involved as possible. It guarantees that the final result is indeed a manifestation of the client's style." — KHOI NGUYEN

Decorators Stephen Miller Siegel, Darren Henault, Chris Walsh, Emily Todhunter, Parkin Saunders, and Jamie Drake.



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