

TRADITIONAL HOME

October 2011

NOT-TO-MISS
COLOR TIPS,
KITCHENS,
GARDENS,
& LOVELY
IDEAS FOR
AUTUMN
ENTERTAINING

Designer *Secrets*

HOW TO BRING DIVINE
DECORATING HOME



Southern Comforts
HOUSES WITH ELEGANT, EASYGOING STYLE

New+Next / LITTLE LUXURIES

BY JENNY BRADLEY
PHOTOGRAPHY BY VICENTE WOLF



Classically Modern

Vicente Wolf puts his spin on traditional

When it comes to interior design, the most engaging and thought-provoking spaces are generally those that feel as though they've evolved naturally over

time—unconventional rooms that throw a few surprises our way and reinterpret (or altogether disregard) those tried-and-true design rules. ▶



Interior designer Vicente Wolf infused this paneled library with his signature streamlined elegance. Furnishings are from VW Home.



New York-based designer Vicente Wolf's library in the 2010 Kips Bay Decorator Showhouse is just such a space. Here, where formidable proportions and traditional architecture jockey with more contemporary elements, luxury prevails. Eighteenth-century antiques tussle with midcentury modern—classic forms taking on their younger comrades. A David Weeks light fixture/mobile and a Damien Hirst painting hung above the mantel counter the classic carved ceiling and dark paneled walls. Little luxuries are layered in throughout the space—gilded details ornament an Italian chair, silk pillows grace a curvaceous sofa, a cashmere throw softens a leather daybed.

"I wanted this space to be full of ideas—blending them to create a harmonious environment," explains Wolf. ➤

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OUR designer says

I used a contemporary sensibility in a very traditional space. —Vicente Wolf



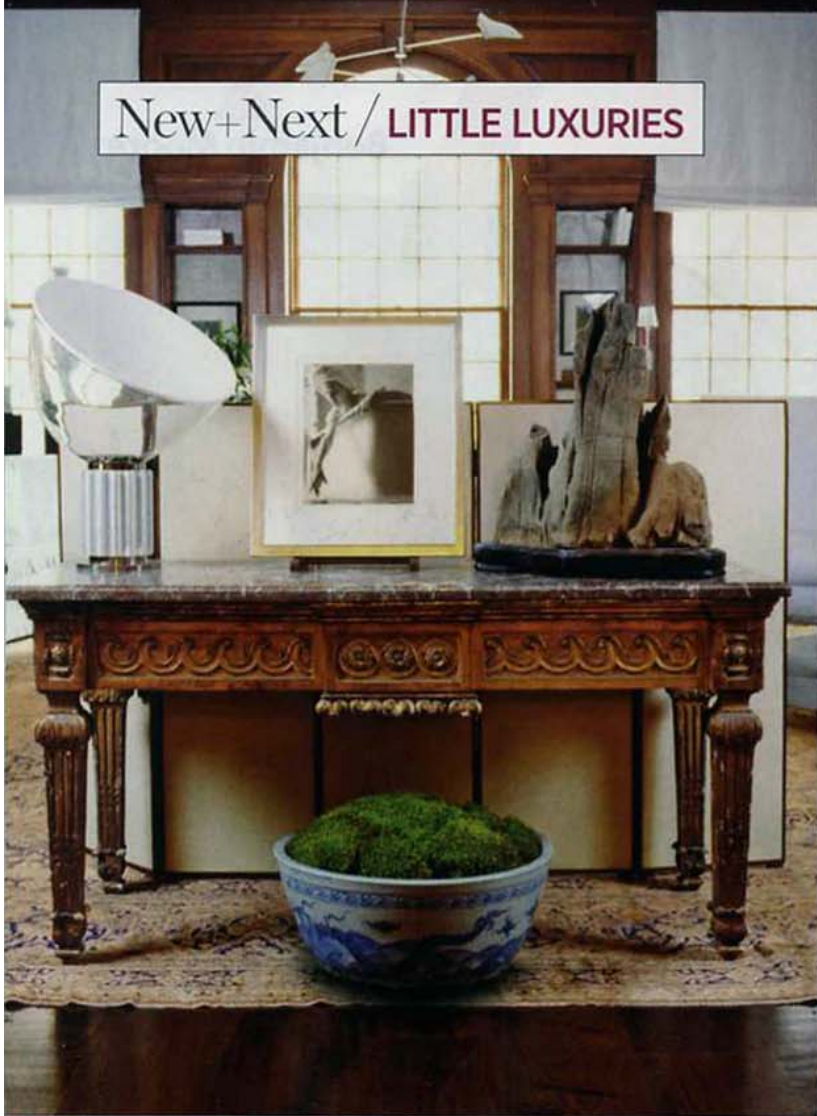
Gild It Up Gilded details on an Italian armchair add "something you discover because of the sheen it brings to the space," Wolf notes.



Play With Texture "Something as simple as a beautiful cashmere throw on leather gives you a play of textures," says the designer.



Embrace the Curves "The room was already very symmetrical and sharp," explains Wolf, "so I kept square forms to a minimum."



An antique Italian console with a marble top is paired with a Jean-Michel Frank screen and a 17th-century Chinese scholar's rock. "The arrangement creates a barrier as you walk in," says Wolf. "It forces people to pace themselves as they visually move through the space—to be romanced."



Twin wing chairs from VW Home flank the fireplace. The painting is by Damien Hirst. **Preceding page:** A Mies van der Rohe Barcelona daybed from Design Within Reach and a David Weeks mobile add contemporary flair to this traditional space. Rug is from Doris Leslie Blau.

question & answer

Q: As a contemporary designer, what elements are important when taking on a traditional space?

A: You can absolutely use a contemporary sensibility in a very traditional space. Typically, this space would have a traditional chandelier, two sofas facing each other in front of the fireplace, and dark colorations. I went in the other direction—balancing the dark walls with elements that ended up making the room seem as if it were full of light.

Q: What design tips can you offer for creating a classic-meets-modern interior?

A: It's imperative that your eye moves through a space. When you look at a Caravaggio painting, your eye travels around the canvas. That's important in interiors as well. In any space, there needs to be a high, a medium, and a low. Here, your eye is drawn to the carved ceiling, then moves down to the white Roman shades, the wing chairs, and finally the chaise.

Q: You're a voracious traveler. How do your world travels inspire your interiors?

A: This room is a wonderful example of that—a true mix of periods and styles. There are pieces from around the world—Chinese, Italian, 1940s French, African, Indian. There are so many different elements, but it's not just about putting foreign things in a space. It's about blending them to create a harmonious environment so that no one thing jumps out at you.

Q: Can you talk a bit about the importance of mixing elements from different periods?

A: In a traditional environment, it's important to bring it to the present without in any way compromising the integrity of the space and what it stood for. In this space, for example, we honored the architecture while mixing a Jean-Michel Frank screen with an 18th-century Italian console and a David Weeks fixture. ■

