The FALL FASHION ISSUE

INSIDE THE HOUSE OF DIOR

GOYA'S MADRID

THE MAGIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

BAROQUE JEWELRY

Plus The Departures Guide to PATAGONIA
The Confidant
BENNETT LEIFER brings dramatic, gilded glamour to his highly customized projects.

Caleb's Design Inspiration

Saxophone chair, $20,000. Ziggurat.com

99-ST floor lamp, from $6,900 each. CalebKandisch.com

ON LIGHTING
Anderson calls lighting "jewelry that has functionality," and uses various styles of fixtures to layer and balance a room. He praises Jeff Zimmerman's sculptural pieces, found at B & Company, for their quality of "moving while frozen." (31 Franklin St, 212-369-8798; b-and-company.com.) Anderson is a fan of chandeliers and sources antique styles at Marvin Alexander (19 E. 60th St, 2nd fl; 212-839-2323; marvinalxander.com). For contemporary examples, the designer suggests Gabriel Scott for "statement pieces that are sculptural but a bit more serviceable." (372 Broome St, 212-637-2922; gabe@GabrielScott.com.

Things go my way," says Bennett Leifer. He was referring to an art competition he won as a child, for a poster he drew depicting a way of conserving water. (Turn off the faucet while brushing your teeth.) But it could just as well apply to his career. Leifer grew up on Long Island; his mother was an emergency room nurse, and his late father was a financial adviser who, Leifer says, "was an artist at heart." When Leifer wanted to major in art history at Skidmore College, his father insisted he add business as well. As a result, Leifer says, "I realised I like the idea of doing something creative on the business side or something more business-y for the creative world."

It seems the 35-year-old interior designer, who boasts residential as well as developer clients, has done both. He...
Dan Fink may be one of the busiest interior designers that few people outside the industry have heard of. The New Jersey native has a client list that reads like a Who's Who of Silicon Valley, although he'd loath to name names.

It all began with his first boss, Peter Thiel, who co-founded PayPal and who hired Fink straight out of Stanford as his assistant and ultimately let Fink try his hand at designing his home. Never mind that he had no real experience. Fink studied human biology at Stanford and is a perpetual student—he references both the Fibonacci sequence and the golden ratio and considers floor plans "fun puzzles to work out"—but admits that when Thiel employed him, he "didn't draw and didn't do CAD. It was all a big experiment." Albeit one that turned out exceedingly well.

Fink, now 33, started his firm at the age of 26 and has worked consistently ever since. He splits six time between California and New York, where he lives with his husband, interior designer Thomas O'Brien. "People dismiss design as being frivolous," says Fink, who is so discreet that few of his projects have ever been published. "But it really speaks a lot to our nature and how we live well, live happily." 212-498-9620; danfinkstudios.com.

**The Naturalist**

DAN FINK delivers to his clients American style and 20th-century sophistication.

**ON CUSTOM SURFACES**

Brand de Né废弃物 is a Leifer favorite for hand-painted wallpapers and fabrics. He recently customized the animal illustrations in this suite, a black-and-gold Deco design that graced the Duchess of Alba's bathroom at Palacio de Lina, with rare wildlife for clients who had recently been to Africa (212 E. 59th St., 212-584-9510, degnanmanor.com). For stone floors, Leifer taps French company EDM (640-937-7454, edmcarrara.com). The firm is known for sourcing and forming impeccable stones and marbles, as seen in the Four Seasons Hotel New York and the Hotel Hermitage in Monaco.

**ON ANTIQUITIES**

Fink believes that "ancient objects have a soul and bring good energy to those who protect them" and uses said objects in many of his Atlanta works. At ThreeMenston Fine Art, his sources for pre-Colombian and Chinese antiquities (436 E. 59th St., 312-322-3909, threemenston.com) and Hetzel Antiquarium, Ltd. (212-797-3300, antiquariumltd.com) as his source for classical Greek and Roman pieces, figurines, iborials, glass, and "absolutely stunning" jewelry (661 Madison Ave.; 212-734-8776 antiquariumltd.com).