

# DEPARTURES

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## *The* FALL FASHION ISSUE

INSIDE  
THE HOUSE  
OF DIOR

GOYA'S  
MADRID

THE  
MAGIC OF  
MOZAMBIQUE

BAROQUE  
JEWELRY

*Plus*  
The Departures  
Guide to  
PATAGONIA





and if I had an install, she'd fly up from Austin," he says, adding, "I didn't pay her very much." Joking aside, Anderson has been focused and strategic about his career. Before going out on his own he too worked with David Mann. On his own, he produced three show houses in a little over two years, which some might question as a massive expense for a young firm. But, he insists, "it was the most intelligent thing I did. I got a lot of press and a lot of attention very quickly. And I got Jamie's attention." The pair is working on high-end residential projects around the globe, and Anderson describes his role as "a validation. I never imagined this would happen with Jamie, that we'd have a partnership and I'd have ownership of an office like this." 212-754-3099; [drakeanderson.com](http://drakeanderson.com).

### Caleb's Design Inspiration



Limited-edition Homune table, \$21,000; [lasvit.com](http://lasvit.com)

Solaris chair, \$12,000; [21stgallery.com](http://21stgallery.com)

91-ST floor lamps, from \$6,500 each; [cedrichartman.com](http://cedrichartman.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 **R & Company**, for their quality of "moving while frozen" (82 Franklin St.; 212-343-7979; [r-and-company.com](http://r-and-company.com)). Anderson is a fan of chandeliers and sources antique styles at **Marvin Alexander** (315 E. 62nd St., 2nd fl.; 212-838-2320; [marvinalexanderinc.com](http://marvinalexanderinc.com)). For contemporary examples, the designer suggests **Gabriel Scott** for "statement pieces that are sculptural but a bit more severe" (372 Broome St.; 212-837-2923; [gabriel-scott.com](http://gabriel-scott.com)).

## The Confidant

BENNETT LEIFER brings dramatic, gilded glamour to his highly customized projects.



Leifer inside an apartment he designed at 18 Gramercy Park South

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 realized 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



## HOME + DESIGN

may have just 13 years' experience, but he chose wisely: Ralph Lauren (in the same role as Greene), Juan Pablo Molyneux, and Robert A.M. Stern are all names on his résumé, as well as private clients he jokingly refers to as "Forbes celebrities." Over the years, some have become personal friends as well—Leifer is the godfather to one client's three children, and he vacationed in Positano, Italy, this summer with another. "I like to get super personal with my clients and make their homes a reflection of who they are," he says. "It's not one-sided. I get to know them really well, and they get to know me really well." 212-683-2523; [bennettleifer.com](http://bennettleifer.com).



### Bennett's Design Inspiration

La Briance chair, \$2,600; [bobo interiors.com](http://bobointeriors.com)

Feuilles de Vigne bronze lantern, from \$18,500; [maisongerd.com](http://maisongerd.com)

Glimmering Dawn rug, from \$450 per square foot; [fortstreetstudio.com](http://fortstreetstudio.com)

### ON CUSTOM SURFACES

Brand **de Gournay** is a Leifer favorite for hand-painted wallpapers and fabrics. He recently customized the animal illustrations in Rateau, a black-and-gold Deco design that graced the Duchess of Alba's bathroom at Palacio de Liria, with safari wildlife for clients who had recently been to Africa (243 E. 59th St.; 212-564-9750; [degournay.com](http://degournay.com)). For stone floors, Leifer taps French company **EDM** often (646-237-7158; [edm-paris.com](http://edm-paris.com)). The firm is known for sourcing and forming impeccable stones and marbles, as seen in the Four Seasons Hotel New York and the Hôtel Hermitage in Monaco.



Fink in his Midtown West apartment

## The Naturalist

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

### Dan's Design Inspiration

Leopard Velvet, \$2,990 per yard; [brunschwig.com](http://brunschwig.com)

Lucrezia vase; [formationsusa.com](http://formationsusa.com)

Small and Medium African tables; [sutherlandfurniture.com](http://sutherlandfurniture.com)

**D**an 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's loath to name names.

It all began with his first boss, Peter Thiel, who cofounded 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 his 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; [danfinkstudio.com](http://danfinkstudio.com).

### 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 interiors. At **Throckmorton Fine Art** he sources/shops for pre-Columbian and Chinese antiquities (145 E. 57th St., 3rd fl.; 212-223-1059; [throckmorton-nyc.com](http://throckmorton-nyc.com)). He cites **Antiquarium, Ltd.** as his source for classical Greek and Roman pieces: figurines, bowls, glass, and "absolutely stunning" jewelry (948 Madison Ave.; 212-734-9776; [antiquariumltd.com](http://antiquariumltd.com)).