

# house beautiful

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## America's **10 BEST** Showhouse Rooms

Decorating  
Tips from a  
Trio of Quirky,  
Cozy Houses

Shopper's  
Guide to New  
Furniture





To honor the great designer Billy Baldwin who once lived on Nantucket island in Massachusetts, Matthew Patrick Smyth decorated a small living room at the Nantucket Designer Showhouse with an update of Baldwin's own clean, simple style. The sofa, chairs, and coffee table are licensed reproductions of Baldwin designs; they are covered in the woven raffia and Nantucket cotton that the late designer himself often used. The black-framed mirror actually came from Baldwin's former apartment, but the floor lamp and side table are Smyth's own sympathetic designs. Yankee seaport details include the simple, almost saillike window treatment, an Oriental carpet (like the ones New England trade ships brought home), and a painted dinghy model on the coffee table.



## In the creamy, streamlined living room of a Beaux Arts house in Washington, D.C., David Mitchell proves that “modern design definitely works with classical architecture”



Foreseeing the imminent return of “just a little luxury—a touch of thirties and forties style,” David Mitchell promoted his idea with a room for the National Symphony Orchestra Showhouse in Washington, D.C. In it he used strong, graphic furniture in sandblasted oak and maple; black-bordered, sewn-stripe curtains; pillows with mossy trims; and walls and woodwork in a rich magnolia shade. Equally sophisticated is a group of graphic paintings and a Philip Trager photo. The new glamour also tolerates a little junk, such as found finials and barbells. African masks are mounted on stands, then neatly stacked on wood wall brackets. One last playful touch is a garden for city-dwellers—a box of Kentucky bluegrass.

