

NEW YORK HOME

YLISH LIVING & DESIGN | SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2006

50
DESIGNERS
WHO MAKE A
DIFFERENCE

A CLEVER
CATSKILLS
REVIVAL

DECORATING
WITH ART



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DESIGNER PROFILE

A BARRY GOOD YEAR

BARBARA BARRY'S NEWEST PRODUCT LINES
EXEMPLIFY A REVERENCE FOR THE PAST WITH
AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE PRESENT

Photographs by PETER MARGONELLI • Text by BOBBIE DELL'AQUILIO



OPPOSITE PAGE: From the Barbara Barry Realized Collection for Henredon, white-glazed ceramics feature delicate striated banding. THIS PAGE, LEFT: The Circle server, Circle in Square mirror, Carousel lamp, and nesting tray are also Realized pieces. ABOVE: The designer, taking a rare break, holds a Barbara Barry Wedgwood Curtain Call teacup.



OPPOSITE PAGE: The walnut Ascot china cabinet, Octagon floor lamp, and Biscuit leather armchair are accessorized with other pieces in the Realized collection, including ceramic vases, lacquer boxes, and a wool tweed rug with mink-leather border. THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: All Barbara Barry Realized for Henredon (BBRH) unless indicated. The Ascot dining chair; Lotus table and floor lamps; Opera slipper chair; Tuxedo highboy, London Pendant Grand II light fixture Barry designed for Boyd, and Wedgwood Curtain Call tableware and silver teapot, Poodle table with terrazzo top; Reeded chest holding Wedgwood Pearl Strand teacups and saucers; Charlotte sofa with pillows and throws from the Realized collection and Simple Scallop adjustable floor lamp.



"Pearls"—part of the Barbara Barry Dream Bedding line available exclusively from Bloomingdale's—features luxuriously comfortable duvets, shams, sheets, decorative pillows and coverlets. Barry's Realized for Henredon items—including the Bodice table lamp, Through the Looking Glass mirror, Repartee ottoman, and Dream bed—complete the look.



THIS PAGE: A sophisticated dining room set for a celebration features a clever mix of the Barbara Barry for Henredon collection: the Starlight mirror, Graceful buffet, Facet dining table, Elegance sidechair, and Mercury pendant fixture. OPPOSITE PAGE, FROM TOP: Melody, from Tufenkian Carpets' Variations by Barbara Barry line; Script armchair by Barbara Barry for McGuire; Barry-designed products, including Tuxedo levers and lavatory spouts for Kallista, tiles for Ann Sacks, and fabrics, vases, and paperweights from the Realized collection for Henredon.

THERE IS NO MISTAKING signature Barbara Barry style—the distinctive lines and curves of a chair back, the rich walnut woods of her 1940s French-inspired tables, the remarkably soft textures and tones of the sophisticated bedding, fabrics, and rugs she designs. In the past year alone, the award-winning designer has introduced an awe-inspiring number of products including the Realized collection of fabrics, furnishings, rugs, tableware, and accessories for Henredon; Barbara Barry for Wedgwood porcelain, crystal, and silver; and the Barbara Barry Dream bed and bath collection, available exclusively at Bloomingdale's. The glamour of her designs is undeniable, the appeal of her products is international, and the impact she has had on the world of interior design unarguable. *New York Home* recently spoke with Barry about her interior design career and her new product lines:

You've designed interiors for Hollywood celebrities and blue-chip corporations. How is designing products different? I used to believe product design came out of interior design. Now I realize interior design is a vehicle for product. From the start of my career 20 years ago, I designed custom pieces for clients no matter how small the job. I started buying old chairs at sidewalk shops in Los Angeles, long before there were any hip stores or retro outlets. I took them to my upholsterer, who is from Mexico, and took them apart. I didn't speak Spanish, but I learned there's a way to communicate if you draw and understand the craft. I would change an arm or a leg, add a skirt. I loved that I could completely transform a piece. Soon, I was drawing what I wanted and working with the woodworker and the upholsterer.

Are you inspired by a certain time period? I fell in love with design years ago when I came across the work of Jean Michel Frank...the simple forms, textures, and sophistication. To this day I resonate with the inherent qualities of his work—proportion, clarity of line, and purity of form. I would say the French movement of the 1930s and 1940s is the most inspirational period for me, but the present and my personal life is the impetus for much of what I do and have yet to do.

How does nature influence your interior and product designs? The natural world is an endless source of inspiration for me—a bleached piece of driftwood, the wet sand, red berries, and always, the light. Being from California, light is a given and my fascination with green is not arbitrary. It's based on a childhood of soft blue-greens of agaves, the ocean, and palm trees.

How would you describe your color palette? It revolves around the concept of warm with cool—soft greens and celadons, 18th-century off-white porcelain, and burnished and polished silvers. It's not saturated or bright, but soft and muted, restful and restorative, and always neutral. It's a backdrop for living. Life brings lots of color and pattern with it. I don't want to compete with that, I want to support it.

You've worked on many projects here, including the Avon Spa and the flagship Brooks Brothers store on Madison Avenue. Do you have a favorite? I love New York. It's where I did my first commercial work, which

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