



Shiree Segerstrom

Shiree Segerstrom talks to Period Art & Design about mixing eras in her design



"Vases are one of my very favorite accessories and these red enameled vases are just so gorgeous. They would look very fresh and new as a focal point, perhaps on a mantel or buffet, in a stylized setting without a lot of pattern. The color red is compatible with so many colors but I'd love to see them with Kelly green, white, and a few touches of darkest charcoal gray. Classic."

Shiree Segerstrom admits she has been fascinated with the way people live in their homes since the age of 4. Her start in interior design began by decorating her own rooms in various childhood houses as well her homes as a wife and mother. Her natural talent was widely recognized by her friends and family who encouraged her to formally study interior design. She enrolled in school for two years, completed a years residency, and began her own firm in 1999.

Shiree loves the romantic notion of homes and furnishings passing from generation to generation. She says that even though the look of a home can evolve generationally over time, "it can take an unerring eye to put together disparate objects into something that is beautiful and meaningful all at once". She avoids spaces that are full of things all from one era or style as she feels that it's "too static". She does embrace however, the tension that occurs when blending antiques and modern pieces. "A home furnished with a mix of eras ages so splendidly" says Shiree.

"Artwork is such a personal thing and yet everyone needs the guidance of the curator. I adore this painting because it is expressive and modern and would lend itself well to a variety of rooms and interior styles. As a designer I never attempt to build a room around art unless the client specifies it but this painting is a perfect work of art anywhere, anytime."



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"What represents pedigree more than a world class mantel clock! This is best in a traditional setting but traditional can take on many guises and my vision for this dear piece is in an estate master bedroom with muted tone floral, plaid, and matelassé fabrics and a deeply polished four poster mahogany bed."

Shiree incorporates antiques and vintage pieces often into her designs. "I'm all about the mix" she says. She likes to balance antiques in a room by juxtaposing them with window treatments, upholstery, slipcovers, and feather pillows in current fabrics.

When asked about current design trends, Shiree responds "we'll be seeing more homes with the appeal of designers like Charlotte Moss and Suzanne Rheinstein: the antiques, the art, the timeless elegance, and the wonderful custom fabric treatments that decorators all adore." She also says "Downton Abbey is having its effect on designer types - the Bennington florals and the Ralph Lauren plaids. I think the 'British Cozy' style (a term coined by Shiree) is heading west!"

As for inspiration, she says she is personally energized and inspired by English landscapes and gardens such as the late Rosemary Verey's Barnsley House, Prince Charles' High Grove and Chatsworth. At work, she finds inspiration in the architecture of the project, the clients and the geography.

Shiree has worked on many projects over the years. Her favorite and most special was a large project she did for a Carmel land heiress. She says "the home was not a stand out in any way but the art and antiques I worked with were extremely spectacular." She completely reworked the entire home from top to bottom incorporating new window treatments, custom furniture and upholstery while overseeing all art placement and antique restoration.

Currently, she is working on a mansion in the Balboa Heights district of San Francisco, a venerable old neighborhood with architectural relics dating from the 1920's and 30's. She says "the color scheme is quite fresh right now with upholstered pieces in light turquoise and an oxblood red." She is also working on a fabulous custom home on a private lake east of Yosemite, as well as a modest home for a retired couple filled with British art, antiques and porcelain. She enjoys the friendships that have been created over the course of her projects, several friends with whom she has remained very close with for many years.

Shiree has been recently talked about in C Magazine, the Wall Street Journal online, the San Francisco Chronicle, the Sacramento Bee, featured in various design columns and other online media. When

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asked what her dream project would be, she responds that she is already working on her dream projects. "I love working with antiques and special things that clients have inherited or accumulated over the years, things they really love." As a testament to her enjoyment, she says "my dream is to keep doing what I'm doing into my 80's."

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