

THE EXPERTS

Decorating Wisdom Straight From the Pros

NEXT WAVE

Game Changer

Katie Sutton, a native New Yorker and senior designer at Cullman & Kravis, likes to re-energize traditional style by exploring ideas outside the classical decorator's handbook.

Sutton at ALT Box, a coffee shop-cum-design store on Manhattan's Upper East Side.





A bedroom at the 2014 Kips Bay Show House designed by Sutton and the Cullman & Kravis team. A 1950s Murano chandelier hangs above a reproduction of a Givenchy rug by Beauvais Carpets.

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"A LOT OF PEOPLE in this industry had the same double major: art history and psychology," says 35-year-old Katie Sutton, who also turned the combo into a calling with a five-year stint at Victoria Hagan that led to her current role at Cullman & Kravis. "It speaks to having a love of art and being a people person. Ellie Cullman says working with clients is a lot like dating—you really have to get to know them!" Once she learns what makes them tick, though, Sutton is not against having fun: mixing metallics or even painting the walls of a bedroom in fiery copper. "It's exciting to do new things and push boundaries a bit!"

HER FAVORITE THINGS

1. CASABLANCA LILIES "For those of us with tiny flower budgets, even one stem in a bud vase looks lovely."

2. MADAME X BY JOHN SINGER SARGENT "I have a special attachment to Sargent—his portraits are so dramatic in their scale and lighting."

3. BABINDA WALLCOVERING "The metallic embroidery catches the light subtly, so it won't overpower artwork or furniture. We just used this in a client's Miami powder room." fromental.co.uk

4. LAMP BY ROBERTO RIDA "His work is sculptural, from the geometric metalwork to the stunning natural stones." 1stdibs.com

5. STUDIO LINE KNOB "It feels substantial in your hand, yet it's as beautiful as a piece of jewelry. And I love that it's made locally in Brooklyn." nanz.com

6. WOOL SATIN "This fabric has the perfect weight for embroidery. We use it for curtains, pillows, and upholstery." dedar.com

7. BOSTON'S ISABELLA STEWART GARDNER MUSEUM "I interned there in college and was intrigued by the lack of labels on the artwork. Gardner wanted viewers to come up with their own interpretations."

8. HORIZON COLLECTION BY MARIE DAÂGE "You can mix and match dozens of colors of these Parisian plates to dress up even the plainest of mahogany tables—no tablecloth needed." kneenandco.com

