

# INTERIOR DESIGN®

best of residential

ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN



An abstract graphic featuring a dense, chaotic web of thin red lines that crisscross the upper two-thirds of the page. A thick, solid orange vertical bar runs along the left edge. The text 'best of residential' is positioned in the lower right quadrant. The entire composition is framed by a light gray border with small black circular accents at the corners and midpoints.

best of residential

## foreword by Cindy Allen

There's no place like home. There is no place like home. There's no place. You get the drift.

Never has that wily saying rung more true, when you consider the chaos of our hustle-and-bustle, tech-driven lives.

Home has become the ultimate sanctuary. It's our refuge, our getaway to escape the world—or engage in it full-on. And we're definitely not in Kansas anymore. We traveled the world from Minnesota to Monte Carlo, from Hawaii to Kuwait, and back again.

I'm delighted to present *Interior Design Best of Residential*, the newest book in our growing series (*Best of Year*, *Best of Hospitality*, and *Best of Office* preceded). You'll see in the following pages what boundless imagination and enormous commitment can accomplish.

Who stands behind all this vision and talent? According to our 2010 Universe study, there are more than 25,000 design firms in the United States, and 52 percent of them handle residential projects. That translates

to a whopping 26,000 individual designers potentially working on your home! The scale of the firms—from small studios with fewer than five designers to businesses employing 20 or more—may vary, but the results in this book are uniformly s-t-e-l-l-a-r.

The money involved is nothing to sneeze at, either. Consider this: Among residential design firms, the average home is valued at \$2.3 million, and designers specify nearly \$1.8 million in products a year. And we can't talk about the home without celebrating its heart, the kitchen, and everyone's favorite private oasis, the bath. Clients clearly agree, putting their money where their mouth is. The average kitchen renovation costs \$86,000 and a bathroom, \$47,000.

If you're interested in today's trends, we've made it easy for you. The book is divided into eight chapters we think defines them: Inside/Outside, Vintage Modern, City Living, Modern Family, Getaways, Green, New Tradition, and Global Inspiration. Prepare to be dazzled...and inspired. Just tap your heels three times and you'll be there.



# Robert Kaner Interior Design

## FOREST HILLS RESIDENCE, QUEENS, NEW YORK

Shortly after inaugurating the Russell Sage Foundation in 1907 to improve living conditions in the United States, Margaret Olivia Slocum Sage decided to perform her own experiment in the field. She commissioned society architect Grosvenor Atterbury and landscape scion Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. to develop 142 acres of outer-borough New York according to *City Beautiful* principles. This alternative to industrial-era housing yielded spacious revivalist manses overlooking lush streetscapes, and today a private review board protects those original design standards.

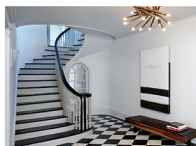
A real-estate developer and a photojournalist presented Robert Kaner with an analogous task in renovating a neighborhood home for them and their twin daughters: to give the formal interior a more contemporary sensibility and livable configuration—while respecting the Georgian-style house's extant features. Working within the historic building envelope, Kaner enhanced the sense of openness by replacing the downstairs eating nook, powder room, mudroom, and foyer with a more simple, bifurcated kitchen and serving area. And on the second floor, he consolidated a half bath and closet to make a new master bathroom.

With a few stunning exceptions—such as the dining room that pulsates in deep red and the bathrooms completed in bold monochromes like cobalt and celadon—neutral colors stress continuity between spaces. The soft palette also draws the eye to moldings and other 1930s ornamentation. Very apropos.

**Clockwise from right:** In the living room, a serpentine sofa by Vladimir Kagan faces a sleek hand-limestone fireplace that replaced the original faux Chippendale design. Pratt & Lambert Velvet Red envelops the dining room, which is illuminated by a Glow chandelier. A bench by Brendon Farrell provides a modernist counterpoint to the traditional foyer. The client, a family of four, moved from a Manhattan loft to this Georgian Revival house. ➤









**Clockwise from opposite:** In the living room, contemporary art cohabitates with period paneling.

Because the antiquated kitchen was not suitable for modern family living, the client gave Kaner free rein in renovating it; he installed cherry cabinetry by Effet, stainless-steel appliances, and a multicolor glass-tile backsplash. In the entry hall, a combination of neutral wall colors and dark-stained flooring effects a cozy atmosphere and puts the focus on 1930s-era architectural details. Kaner regularly designs furniture for his projects, such as the master bedroom's storage units.



DESIGN PRINCIPAL: ROBERT KANER  
PHOTOGRAPHY: TOM POWELL (1, 3–8), ANNIE SCHLECHTER (2)  
[www.kanerid.com](http://www.kanerid.com)

4,700 sf  
6 bedrooms,  
5½ bathrooms



- 1 ENTRANCE HALL
- 2 DINING ROOM
- 3 PLAYROOM
- 4 CASUAL DINING AREA
- 5 DEN
- 6 KITCHEN
- 7 LIVING ROOM
- 8 LIBRARY



2,250 sf  
2 bedrooms, 2 1/2 bathrooms

## Robert Kaner Interior Design

### UNITED NATIONS PLAZA RESIDENCE, NEW YORK



**Clockwise from above:** The balcony levitates 23 stories above Midtown Manhattan. A Todd Hido photograph is mounted on the ceused-oak unit that disguises a structural column; reproduction George Nelson pendants hang from a recycled bamboo-composite canopy. The couple's commitment to artwork achieves fullest expression in the living room, where a photograph by Edward Burtyrsky complements a rug commissioned from the painter William Betts. ➤

The home of fashion and design entrepreneurs Tom Puls and Donna Ricco replays two of Midcentury modernism's greatest hits. Located halfway up a 51-story tower, the co-op enjoys south-facing views of the United Nations complex through full-height windows. And the couple asked interior designer Robert Kaner and architect Rafael Berkowitz to deliver a scheme that nodded to the classic glass-box Case Study Houses.

A core of bathrooms and closets divides the residence—once two apartments—into public and private zones. In the living-area half, unnecessary partitions were removed, giving the circulation a fluid California-mod quality and improving sight lines to the prow-like balcony, which directly gazes on Le Corbusier and Oscar Neimeyer's famed project. One structural column couldn't be removed, so the designers concealed it behind a ceused-oak storage wall. That addition separates a small den from the seamless living/dining area, both of which feature photographs from the couple's avant-garde collection.

Barriers of another sort were struck from the bedrooms. Forgoing distinct sleeping quarters for each of the couple's three sons, the designers devised a communal bunk room with an adjoining shared space for lounge and study. To date, peacekeeping has not been difficult, the clients report; global statesmen a few blocks away should take note.



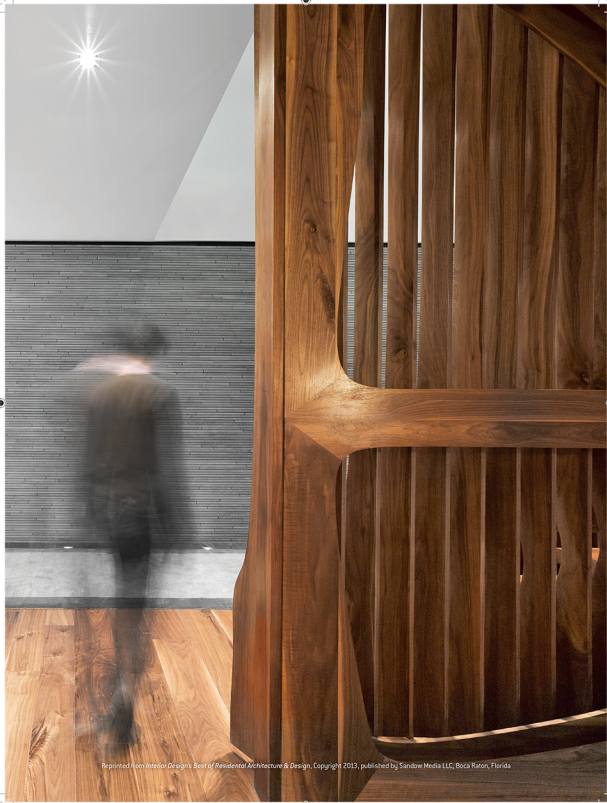


INTERIOR DESIGN PRINCIPAL ROBERT KANER  
ARCHITECT HJL ARCHITECT  
PHOTOGRAPHY ALBERT HEEDERWASTO  
[www.kanerid.com](http://www.kanerid.com)

*Clockwise from left:  
Replacing a wall of  
closets with a low  
built-in credenza  
transformed the  
master bedroom from  
a narrow chamber  
with bowling-alley-  
like proportions into a  
gracious haven. The  
three boys share a  
space for lounging  
and studying that  
abuts their bedroom,  
a configuration akin  
to the common rooms  
found in dorm suites.  
The brothers sleep on  
custom beds in the  
bunk room. The  
census-oak partition  
provides a break  
between the den and  
the main living area.  
In the dining area,  
Eero Saarinen Tulip  
chairs surround  
a custom resin-top  
dining table with a  
Herman Miller base.*







Reprinted from *Interior Design's Best of Residential Architecture & Design*, Copyright 2013, published by Sandow Media LLC, Boca Raton, Florida