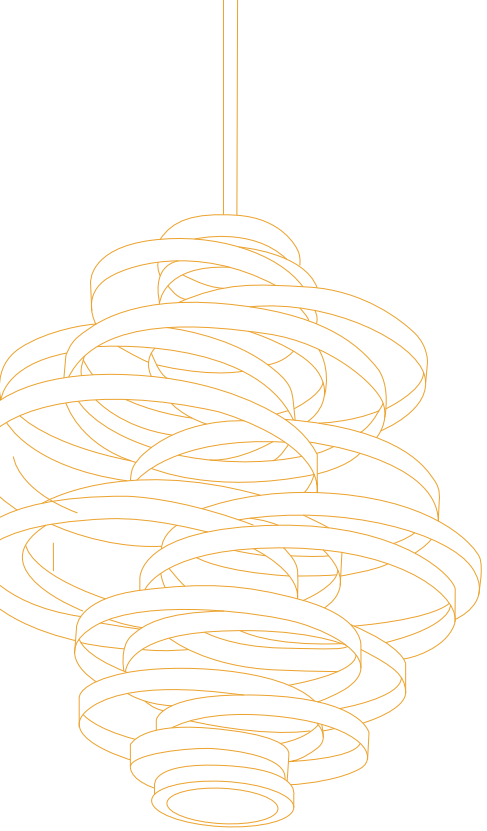


# INTERIOR DESIGN®

## best of residential

ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN



## 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 wizardly 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.



vintage modern

# Charles M. Rabinovitch Architects

ARCHITECT'S RESIDENCE, RIVERDALE, NEW YORK

A pergola is not something you expect to encounter at a residence within New York City limits. But this formerly plain redbrick facade in the verdant Bronx enclave of Riverdale indeed features one. A composition of ipe and stainless steel, the sleek latticework structure is as airy, modern, and welcoming as the house itself.

It wasn't always so. When architect Charles Rabinovitch set out to design a new home for his family—his artist wife



and the couple's three children—that also encompassed a work space for himself, the 1954 residence presented numerous challenges. In particular, the cramped and dark interior cried out for a major transformation. Rabinovitch started by replacing walls—and some floors—with glass, and installed skylights and overhead transoms. The architect also swapped multi-pane windows for larger bay-style "boxes" that project outward to catch light. These modifications allowed him to capitalize on one of the house's greatest assets: the wooded lot it stands on.

Now the home is an open, bright aerie, each window revealing a leafy view. The distinction between interior and exterior has been blurred; it's not always easy to tell where the house ends and the landscape begins. Which is precisely what Rabinovich had in mind.

**Clockwise from above:** Visitors approach the house from the pergola side; the former garage, tucked behind the etched-glass door, was reincarnated as a work and exercise room. The typeface of the house numbers hints at the home's vernacular. The owner's Midcentury-modern clock collection provides a whimsical focal point. Soothing neutrals prevail in a bedroom. Another collection, of pottery from the same era, fills an alcove above the entry gallery. ➔





**Clockwise from top left:** A perforated divider screens the staircase from the lower-level office.

Eaves, a skylight, and unobtrusive storage give a child's bedroom a cozy garret-like feel. Living room furnishings continue the Midcentury-modern vein. Niches housing more of the family's pottery collection flank the wide top-floor landing. The architect combined a series of small utility spaces to create the kitchen, featuring Jerusalem stone flooring, mosaic-clad walls, and color-washed white-oak cabinetry.

2,600 sf  
3 levels  
2-year renovation



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