

MORGAN LEHMAN

535 West 22nd Street, New York, New York 10011



ANIMAL KINGDOM CRUSADERS  
**TOWN & COUNTRY**

OCTOBER 2015

**RHINO  
RESCUE  
MIRACLE**

UMA THURMAN  
AND T&C  
WITNESS  
ONE OF  
AFRICA'S  
GREAT  
STORIES  
OF  
HOPE

BY KLARA GLOWCZEWSKA

With a team of wildlife experts, Uma Thurman saves a white rhino threatened by poachers to safety.





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## OUT & ABOUT ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN



**MADE TO ORDER**  
From left: Smith, and his lofty, zinc-ceilinged gallery room, which blends vintage and antique furniture with works by contemporary artisans. The print on the wall is by Shannon Ebner.



## SHOW & TELL

INTERIOR DECORATOR MICHAEL SMITH INTRODUCES HIS FAVORITE BESPOKE DESIGNERS VIA HIS L.A. HOME.

By Pilar Viladas



### CALEB SIEMON

Smith commissioned these glass vessels, layered with gold and silver, from Siemon, whose Southern California studio, Siemon & Salazar, creates lights and objects for Smith's projects.  
SIEMONANDSALAZAR.COM

In our instant-gratification, one-click culture, there's a lot to be said for slow design. Why buy what everyone has when you can have what only 10 people have or, better yet, what no one else has? "That's one of the things that decorators at the top level are great at," Michael Smith says, and he would know. Smith's projects range from movie mogul mansions to the Obama White House (the Oval Office and family quarters) to the interiors of the American embassy in Madrid, where Smith's partner James Costos is currently the U.S. ambassador. True, the world of limited edition and bespoke design is

a rarefied one, but Smith—whose new book, *The Curated House* (Rizzoli, \$65), comes out this month—also believes it's one in which A-list decorators can distinguish themselves in crucial ways. "There's a sort of alchemy in the ability to commission specialty objects."

And for a decorator, a good place to tinker with that alchemy is at home. In Smith's case that's a sprawling contemporary structure in the ultrastylish neighborhood of Holmby Hills, in Los Angeles. The previous owner of the house, which was built in the 1990s, asked her architects to create a grandly scaled room for displaying art. For Smith

PHOTOGRAPHS (SMITH); GREY CRAWFORD (INTERIORS); ISA SALAZAR (SIEMON)



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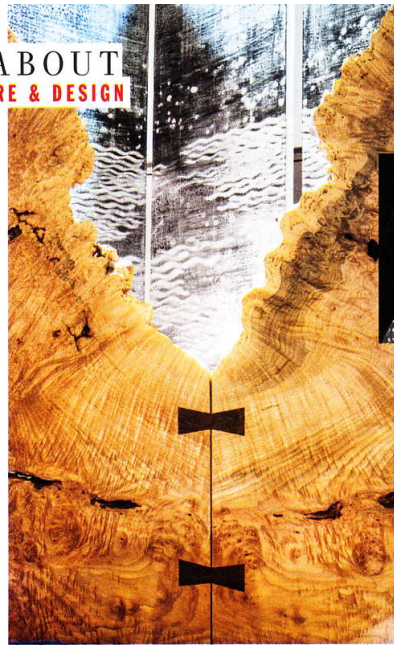
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## NANCY LORENZ

The New York-based artist has a talent, Smith says, “for mixing materials with a Japanese aesthetic,” like the folding screen here. No surprise: Lorenz studied painting in Japan. [NANCY-LORENZ.COM](http://NANCY-LORENZ.COM)

## OUT & ABOUT ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN



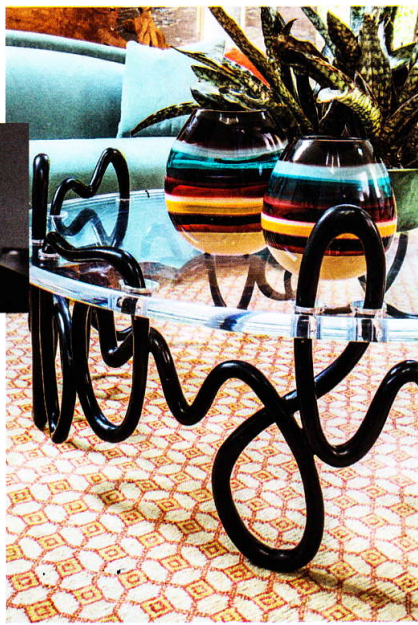
## MIRA NAKASHIMA

Using the legacy of her father George Nakashima as a jumping-off point, Mira creates pieces, like this maple burl butterfly gate, that Smith says “transcend furniture in the functional sense.” [NAKASHIMAWOODWORKER.COM](http://NAKASHIMAWOODWORKER.COM)



## MATTIA BONETTI

The coffee table blends old (bronze) and new (airplane window acrylic) with an arresting shape, which gives it, according to Smith, “a sense of humor and an organic quality.” [PAULKASMINGALLERY.COM](http://PAULKASMINGALLERY.COM)



## ANNE CORBIÈRE

For Smith’s Paul Dupré-Lafon armchairs, textile designer Corbière created a fabric that includes silk and metallic threads, producing what Smith calls “real subtlety and dimension.” [AV-CORBIERE.COM](http://AV-CORBIERE.COM)



→ and Costos the space—which Smith says has the feel of an interior courtyard—is used for gatherings like musical performances or political dinners for 60; in 2011 they held a reception for Michelle Obama in it. It’s also a laboratory for his design experiments, which he conducts in the service of a quest to recapture the more sublime moments of such great 20th-century decorators as Elsie de Wolfe, the House

of Jansen, Tony Duquette, and Dorothy Draper. Smith designed an ottoman for the room that channels Draper’s whimsical lines and a sofa with small gilt legs that plays with the idea of a banquette by Charles James or Cecil Beaton. Similarly, Smith’s interest in weaving—and pioneering weavers like Anni Albers and Dorothy Liebes—has become, he says, something of an obsession.

But it’s not only the icons of the past who inspire Smith. The “gallery” is filled with the evidence of partnerships with contemporary artists, such as the painter Nancy Lorenz, whose sumptuous creations bear the stamp of her studies in Japan; Anne Corbière, who designs subtly luxurious textiles; Caleb Siemon, with his shimmering blown-glass vases; and Mira Nakashima, whose wood furniture evokes

the elegantly organic aesthetic of her father, the great George Nakashima. Even when the item in question isn’t custom-made, such as a limited edition sculptural bronze and acrylic coffee table by Mattia Bonetti, it must be just as meticulously executed. And it must capture Smith’s imagination—only then will his heart beat a little faster. “What these people do,” Smith says, “is the last magic act of decorating.” ◀

GREY CRAWFORD (INTERIORS); KEITH BARACKLOUGH (LORENZ); ADAM MARRELL (NAKASHIMA); BRUNO SUEI (CORBIÈRE)