

DELAMAR

MAGAZINE



Design Synergy

Integrating Art & Interiors

Photos by Amy Vischio





These Greenwich, CT homeowners have a beautiful collection of objects from all over the world. Jeanne Collins of JerMar Designs was inspired by these unique pieces and sought to integrate them into the design with space planning and a color scheme that would put this collection front and center. In this case, the homeowners already had an art collection to work with. Not everyone has an art collection as a starting point and Collins also enjoys the process of working with her clients to source art and take the mystery out of that process. Art and design are seen in connection with each other and it's the conversation between the furnishings and the art that brings depth and beauty to a space.

Collins approached this project with the key design principal of the integration of art and design. Together they can be greater than their individual parts. The photograph of the Afghan woman is a well-known National Geographic image by Steve McCurry that the homeowners purchased from Cavalier Galleries in Greenwich. This striking work anchors the central vignette in the living room. The photograph is framed by soft window treatments and the curved settee beneath it. Collins heightened the power of the dark cranberry colors in the photograph with velvet throw pillows that carry these deep pigments into the décor. Upon entering the living space is an antique statue purchased from Sotheby's that Collins designed a custom stand for that elevates this

female statue both figuratively and literally.

Great design is all about contrast and layering materials, textures and design elements together. For art to pop it helps to have a neutral backdrop. In this living room there are a lot of neutral tones, from the rug to the upholstery, but dramatic pops of color in the cranberry throw pillows, deep green velvet chair bring interest and engage with the art without overpowering it. A more restrained color scheme also allows the eye to focus on other design elements. In this case the sexy silhouette of the sofa arms are pronounced, since the neutral tones are not fighting for attention. It's all about balance.

Collins appreciates the value of a quality art collection and this project was especially gratifying because the art is so interesting. Often times a painting will be the jumping off point that inspires her design. It is also very helpful in illuminating a client's style and taste. The bold artwork allowed Collins to compliment it with incredible textures in the furniture, such as pink mohair and rich green velvets. The addition of a Holly Hunt Lens coffee table was one of Collins's favorite pieces, as it functions as a piece of artwork. A luxurious rug from Stark grounds the space and brings in a textural warmth to soften the metals. In addition, the bespoke round lacquered ombre side tables fabricated locally by GS Woodworking create interest, with their curves and high gloss finish – much in the same way that art engages with us.

