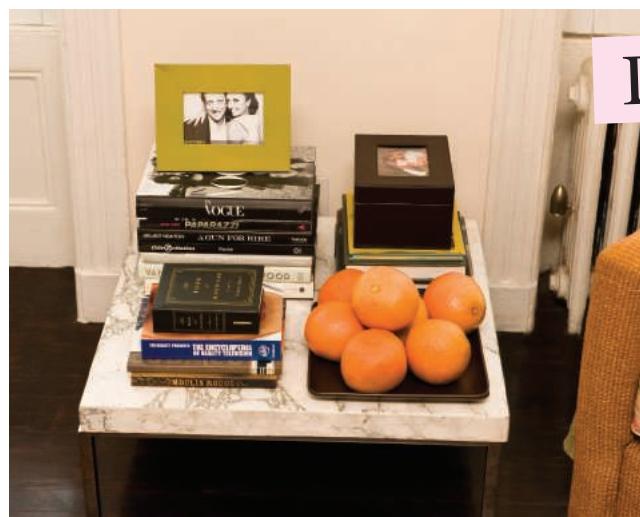


Meet... Jesse Carrier

The DECORATOR that's

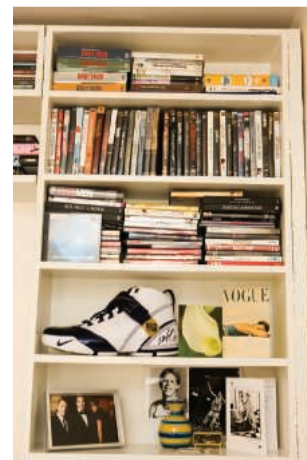


Clockwise, from left: Demling's bedroom, energized with John Robshaw bedding; Carrier with Demling on her couch from ABC Carpet & Home; a flawlessly garnished accent table; bookshelves filled with issues of *Vogue* and a signed sneaker from LeBron James; Demling's symmetrical living room; artwork by Thomas Libetti; framed Annie Leibovitz prints of Keira Knightley as Dorothy Gale in *The Wizard of Oz* from *Vogue*



Demling's Domain

Walking up the stairs to Demling's fourth-floor apartment in a Chelsea brownstone was a relatively dark affair, but *tout* changed upon entry. "I first worked with Jesse years ago, when I was living in my old studio," said Demling. "I needed a way to make a really small space feel large." Her new place clocks in around 500 square feet, but the clean, inviting design makes it feel downright loft-like. "We had to hide the air conditioners and the ugly view of rooftops next door," Carrier said. A neat collection of books and *Vogues*, along with artwork by Thomas Libetti, give it a designer touch. One of Demling's paintings, made in college, hangs in the kitchen. In the living room? Prints from *Vogue* shoots, *bien sûr*, including works by Annie Leibovitz and Irving Penn.



in Vogue

He'd never dish, but decorator Jessie Carrier's most loyal client is none other than Anna Wintour. When the chicest of all enlists you to design her country home, office, and scores of shoot locations, your taste must be flawless. So *The Daily* investigated, traipsing into the Carrier and Company-conceived homes of Annelise Peterson, director of PR for Alberta Ferretti, and Jillian Demling, *Vogue's* entertainment editor. BY ASHLEY BAKER



Peterson's Place

Even though Peterson renovated her West Village one-bedroom herself when she moved in circa 2004, the space never felt quite...her. "It was the perfect example of good taste and a credit card gone wrong!" Said Carrier, "Out of all her belongings, Annelise handed me a tiny Quadrille change purse, and said 'This is what I want my apartment to look like.'" The bedroom, rendered in pink and brown, is de-sweetened with a 1930s Art Deco vanity to hold Peterson's oodles of jewels. The custom closet? Another story entirely, but it's safe to say that Mariah would be jealous of the shoe collection alone. Sketches by Francisco Costa and Valentino adorn the walls alongside a cover of *Harper's Bazaar* designed by Olivier Theyskens. She counts Aldo Luongo sketches—gifts from her mother—among her most precious possessions. "Now, when you walk through her door," Carrier says, "there is no question who lives here!"



Clockwise from top left: Peterson in her reading spot; a 1930s Art Deco vanity found for \$400 at Tepper Galleries; the kitchen, which Carrier opened up by removing a dividing wall; the living room, complete with an eco-friendly table; an artful arrangement of Peterson's fragrances; required fashion reading





The proof's in the *Vogue*!

Carrier's designs within reach...

Not only has Jesse Carrier created private spaces for Wintour, his aesthetic has informed several *Vogue* features (and covers!) as well. What could be next except...*Men's Vogue*? Editor in Chief Jay Fielden and Carrier get along swimmingly, and soon enough, the two were dining at Sfoglia.



So Jesse...

Why is it worth it to pony up for a professional decorator?

Mistakes cost money! Lots of people have good taste, but it takes more than a sense of style and a credit card to transform a space successfully. The amount of detail and coordination involved in a design project is staggering.

How did you create the look for *Vogue's* offices? Were you given much direction?

Similarly, the work we've done for *Vogue* has been about making a connection between the publication's identity and place. When we were asked to create a new lobby for *Vogue*, it was dressed in the 'standard issue,' corporate lobby furniture that could be found on every other floor in the building. If not for the sign that hangs beyond the glass doors, you might not have known where you were! We needed to create a lobby that was unmistakably *Vogue*, that had a visible equation to the magazine, and made visitors and staff know exactly where they'd arrived.

How do you assess a client's personality and taste?

Rorschach tests! Through a process of interviews and meetings, we get a general sense of our client's personality and what their goals are for the project.

Who is your dream client?

I already have her!

What's the cardinal sin of a poorly-designed space?

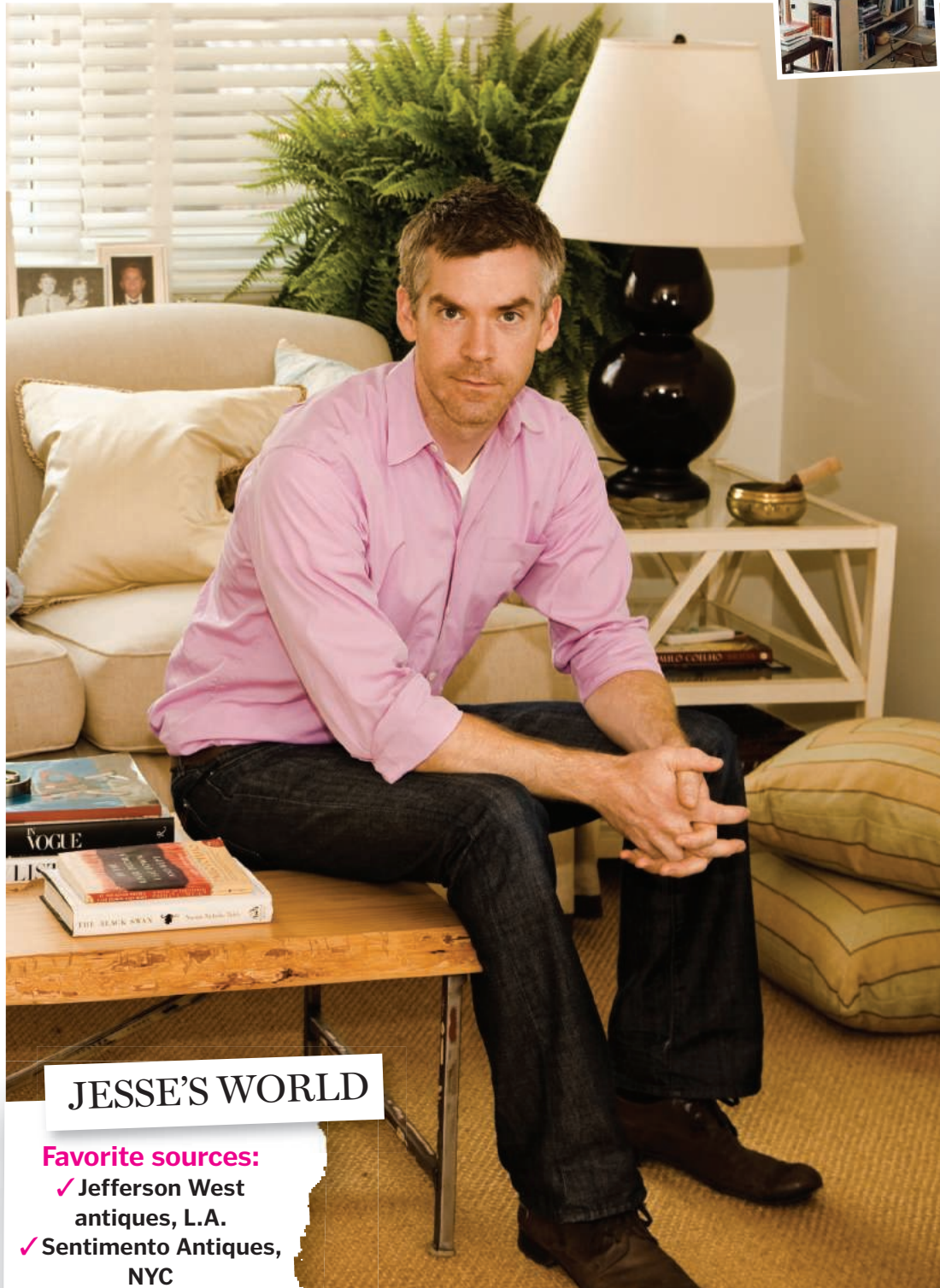
A client once told me that too many cooks spoil the soup—I couldn't agree with her more, nor coin the phrase any better! The worst thing you can do (besides trying to do it yourself) is to involve too many people in the design process. It's a recipe for disaster!

What's your apartment like?

A work in progress.

Who are your favorite icons?

Frances Elkins, Billy Baldwin, Alberto Pinto, Jacques Grange...



JESSE'S WORLD

Favorite sources:

- ✓ Jefferson West antiques, L.A.
- ✓ Sentimento Antiques, NYC
- ✓ Tepper Galleries, NYC
- ✓ Elephant's Trunk Country Flea Market, CT
- ✓ Dek Tillet textiles, MA

Most loyal clients:

Anna Wintour
Bob Pittman
Jane Rosenthal
Thomas & Liz Laffont

General budget:
\$250K and up



Wildest request?

To renovate a studio apartment for a bunny named Tickle.

How do you source artwork?

Artwork is extremely personal, and I recommend our clients build their own collections if they don't already have one. We can

incorporate and decorate around almost any art work, and have no problem letting a client know if something simply doesn't work. When we do source artwork, we like to work with professional art consultants who truly understand the contemporary art market. We've also had very good luck at auction houses, like Christie's, Sotheby's & Philips.

So, Jay Fielden...

How were you introduced to Jesse?

A close friend.

Why do you respond to his work?

He has great taste, he's fast, he's fun to be around, and he gives you great confidence that all that money is being spent in the smartest way possible.

Does your office aesthetic reflect the look of your home?

We—my wife, two kids, and I—live in a mid-century modern house in Connecticut. My office is my domain—a modern take on an old British general's headquarters in a remote corner of the Empire, with a tiny bit of Texas woven in, and papers all over the place.

Home—which Jesse helped us renovate—is influenced more by my wife, though I did manage to hang a rather gruesome Walton Ford print in the TV room! It's a bright, graphic place in many shades of beige. In both, Jesse was a real mix master, finding a way for old, classic things to hang out beside sleek and new things as if they were always meant to be together. Now I shuttle between the two every day, it's a great privilege.

What's your favorite piece he sourced?

Metal side tables with legs made out of interlocking swords—and a cool wooden bowl that holds my paperclips.

