

INSIDE EDITION

LUXE ASKED FOUR TEXAS DESIGNERS ABOUT LUXURIOUSLY MEMORABLE CLIENT REQUESTS AND THEIR FAVORITE LAVISH MATERIALS.



“When I think about luxurious material choices, they have to be the very best of whatever I am using. So if it’s tile, then it has to be natural exotic stones. If it’s wallpaper, then it must be hand-woven with metallics or something handmade. And if it’s fabric, then it needs to be the finest silks accented with embroidery or hand-painted designs. If they could talk, all these materials would just say, ‘Find something better than me—if you can!’”

—CARL LOWERY

“One of our clients requested a show-stopping chandelier for their double-height living room that was surrounded by glass on two sides. We ended up installing a vintage 110-bulb chandelier that was the size of a Volkswagen Beetle. It drew so much power that it needed its own electrical box in the construction scheme. It had originally hung in an opera house in Berlin. Our client loved the statement it makes in the home.”

—DENISE MCGAHA

“Creating a design for a client’s 7,500-square-foot garage that would feature their personal collection of Porsches was one of the most unusual requests I can remember. Other than housing sports cars, the garage included two living areas and a bedroom as well as a bar and kitchen featuring Bulthaup cabinetry. One of my favorite details was finishing out the elevator in the materials of a Porsche interior.”

—LAURA LEE CLARK

“To me, the materials that say ‘opulence’ and create a true feeling of luxury include stunning hand-painted and hand-printed Porter Teleo and Gracie wallpaper, beautiful silks and mohair fabrics, exquisite Scalamandre trimmings and gorgeously crafted Ann Sacks tile, Waterworks sinks and vanities. For classic traditional furnishings, I turn to Dennis & Leen, and for more modern contemporary looks, Minotti and Holly Hunt furniture and fabrics, just to name a few.”

—LAURIE PEARSON



HEROIC FINISH

WRITTEN BY NINA KORMAN

Synonymous with acts of courtesy, the word “chivalry” can also apply to an ordinary person undertaking extraordinary tasks. Los Angeles- and Paris-based designer Timothy Corrigan is undaunted by seemingly insurmountable challenges. Specifically, home redesign—on a grand scale.

Currently finalizing the restoration and renovation of a sprawling 18th-century structure in France—aptly named Chateau de la Chevalerie, the last word meaning “chivalry”—Corrigan knows his valiant endeavor calls for rooms where comfort and elegance coexist. Another must that earned him the nickname “Trim-o-thy” in the industry: the finishing touch imparted by myriad tassels, borders, braid and fringe, also known as passementerie.

Samuel & Sons, premier purveyors of passementerie, logically tapped Corrigan to develop a new collection that would fuse his classicism with contemporary colors. Throughout his career, he’s created product lines for Royal Limoges Paris, Fromental and Schumacher, among others.

Visits to the Royal Limoges archives and a lace museum nearby as well as the chateau’s decorative elements fueled Corrigan’s imagination and led to the Chevalerie collection. Nearly all handmade, in materials like velvet and satin, its nine complex patterns in eight rich colorways are stocked at Samuel & Sons showrooms around the world.

Reanimating an old-world art and yielding something new and timeless: What greater example of chivalry could there be?

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