

➤ **THE TASK AT HAND:**  
Thornton's iron pendant mixes industrial with classic.  
*arteriorshome.com.*



# A LIGHT TOUCH

Golden rays of sunshine become a key design element, making homeowners feel like it's spring all year round *By Tanya Zager Chisholm*

**A LIGHT-FILLED SPACE CAN VAPORIZE DISCONTENT LIKE A PASSING SPRING BREEZE.** Here, two studies in light tones — one tailored for the lady of the house and the other for a gentleman's retreat that doubles as a guestroom — warmly welcome after a long, dark winter. Using reflective surfaces, clean lines, and thoughtful accessories inspires contemplation. With a palette of colors evocative of fresh whipped creams and billowy clouds, these palettes invite relaxation.



➤ **PLEASE BE SEATED:**

A swivel Doyle barstool is upholstered in Nebo faux leather (in room photo) and also in fabric (shown at left). Michael Weiss for Vanguard Furniture, *arteriorshome.com.*

➤ **PAINT LOWDOWN:**

Unerring style defines this softly shaded white (White Dove, Benjamin Moore, #OC-17). "It's crisp and clean, yet looks warm," Mio says. *benjaminmoore.com for stores.*



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**MICHELLE MIO**

**WHO:** Mio, a California native who appreciates sunshine, has been featured on HGTV. She is partner/part owner at Birmingham-based Rariden Schumacher Mio & Co., 248-723-9160, *rsminteriors.com.*

**DON'T MISS:** Mio and her firm's work also graces the cover of this issue and the pages of the Detroit Home Design Awards section.



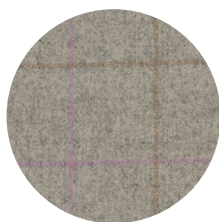
**LET THERE BE LIGHT:** Cut back overgrown landscaping to maximize the light that enters the room.

**MARVELOUS MARBLE:** Use reflective surfaces like Carrara marble from PMP Marble and Granite, Troy. The table was custom made.

**POPS OF COLOR:** "The wing chair and ottoman fabrics provide the punch of fun the room needed," Mio says.

**DO DOTS:** "We bounced around whether the sheers should have a pattern or be solid. The polka dot seemed to be our unanimous choice. The fabric has character and sophistication, and was feminine without going overboard."

**MATTE HARDWARE:** The matte iron cabinet hardware, White Chapel Ltd., makes it all "less modern and uninviting."



➤ **CHECK THIS CHAIR:**

The custom chair features intriguing fabric from Marvic Textiles. Note the muted windowpane check that artfully fuses pinks and browns. To the trade.



➤ **PATTERNED PERCH:**

A custom-made ottoman with colorful fabric by Lee Jofa Fabrics in Bengal Bazaar-magenta, is head-turning. Michigan Design Center, Troy. *michigandesign.com.*

## AN INSPIRED LADY'S STUDY

The inspiration is feminine and springy, using whites, light-gray tones, and splashes of dusty pinks. "The 'Mrs.' runs the household from here," designer Michelle Mio says. "The space was once dark mahogany and a home office for the husband. He never used it, so we re-purposed it." There are calendars for each child so everyone knows where they need to be. As well, there's storage for all household documents. See page 72 for more on this winning space.

"Due to the room's ease of function and calming nature, it sometimes becomes a family gathering space."

— Michelle Mio



**TEXTILE STYLE — CHAIR IN MOHAIR:** Pierre Frey's Duke mohair velvet in Ivoire is a "wise choice, — it's elegant and durable," Angell says. [pierrefrey.com](http://pierrefrey.com).



**STRIPED WALLS — ON THE HORIZON:** This Phillip Jeffries' Wide Stripe in Graphite wallpaper is very similar to the style below. [phillipjeffries.com](http://phillipjeffries.com).



**LUXE LEATHER — ALWAYS FITTING:** Leather here and there (in this case a sumptuous chair) adds timeless appeal, class, comfort, and durability.



**MIRROR, MIRROR:** Incorporate a mirror to reflect the space's natural light.

**LIGHTEN UP:** Decorative light fixtures will enhance existing light and highlight or draw attention to objects.

**SHEER BEAUTY:** Sheer drapery fabric provides privacy and allows outside light to filter into the interior.

**TAKE A RISK:** "Be daring," Angell says, "and hang the stripes on your wallpaper horizontally!"

**CUSTOM-CRAFTED:** "Use local artisans to fabricate the perfect piece for your interior," Angell says. (Cocktail table available for purchase through James Douglas Interiors.)

## AN AIRY, TIMELESS STUDY

The inspiration here is timeless masculinity. "I wanted the interior to have a collected, updated, and airy feeling," interior designer Jimmy Angell says, "and not the traditional dark-wood, tufted-leather look. My design philosophy is to keep it simple." Also important: a tailored look (note the custom settee skirt). "Through the use of textures, interesting silhouettes, and mixing old/new, timeless design can be achieved." Tom Collinses all around!

### ☛ SIDE TABLES — PRACTICAL PANACHE:

These nesting tables provide flexibility. They're from Baker/Barbara Barry Collection. [bakerfurniture.com](http://bakerfurniture.com).



"One-of-a-kind found objects are the most interesting accessories."

— Jimmy Angell

### ☛ IN THE WINGS:

The cream-colored Boca Lounge wing chair, manufactured by R. Jones, is "an updated version of a classically styled chair," says interior designer Angell. [rjones.com](http://rjones.com).



### ☛ FLOOR LAMP FLAIR:

"The Robert Abbey Doughnut floor lamp is "one of my favorites; it's simple, transitional, and the perfect scale." [robertabbey.biz](http://robertabbey.biz).



JIMMY  
ANGELL

**WHO:** Angell, a 20-year design veteran, owns Birmingham-based James Douglas Interiors, 248-593-1630, [jamesdouglasinteriors.com](http://jamesdouglasinteriors.com).

**DON'T MISS:** His work is also featured on the pages of this issue's Detroit Home Design Awards section.



### ☛ SWITCH TO A SCONCE:

This wall-mounted light manufactured by Visual Comfort features a swing arm in bronze with a silk shade. "Wall mount fixtures are ideal when surface space is limited or unavailable," the interior designer says.