

GIL WALSH

A CASE FOR COLOR

Gil Walsh with Margaret Reilly Muldoon

Master colorist Gil Walsh has been winning regional East Coast design awards over the past twenty years and has now captured the eye of the Houzz national architecture and design community, having been voted “Best of Houzz—Design” three years running, 2014–2016.

Her premiere monograph comes to life with rooms showing that color can be enjoyed with gusto, whether in pretty pastels or bold, bright hues. Rich photographs showcase Gil Walsh designs in classic blue on blue, in vibrant jewel tones, in a riot of colors layered with woods, fabrics, and accessories.

From beach houses in the Florida Keys to sky-scraping apartments in Palm Beach, historic landmark buildings such as Fallingwater and the Duquesne Club in Pennsylvania, and a cozy cottage on Martha’s Vineyard, Gil has applied her artistic eye and techniques to a wide variety of interiors and period styles.



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Lush Layering

Layers give *depth*, and depth is the difference between a space with furniture and a *finished room*.

When you look at classical architecture, your eye is struck by the visual effect of the brickwork, the placement of cornices and plaster ornamentation, a wrought-iron door, or a rococo balcony. These layers of brick and mortar identify the architectural style. The intricate motifs distinguish a classical building from a simple box building, although there is place in our appreciation for those as well, I love the fact that there is room for all styles of architecture—French, English, Italian, green and organic—as there is for personal preferences in décor—traditional, contemporary, Art Deco or modern. In every instance, layering makes a room distinctive, elegant, and welcoming.

Rooms come to life with color, contrast, and mixtures of period furniture and fabrics. One can make a simple sofa interesting by the addition of nailheads or a border of fringe. The mixing of styles and materials like antiques, Lucite, or lacquered furniture all become actors in this play we are producing, because we are setting the stage.

I look at each room from the ground up. I might start with a Persian carpet, a woven silk rug from India, or a natural sisal rug. This is the foundation. A rug becomes the stage on which to build and centers your room to become the first scene of an award-winning production.

FACING: Layering continues as I decide what color to paint or paper the walls; either one or both can bring in additional artistry by creating a backdrop that emphasizes the placement of the furniture.



Photo by Alissa Dragun

Gil Walsh, ASID, has practiced interior design for forty years. As a life-long student of classic design, she learned from the masters of English, French, and Italian design. Her hands-on training with master craftsmen in areas of furniture and window treatment fabrication, woodworking, and plastering comes to life in her design work. She is known for her extraordinary eye for design, color, and fabric. Walsh divides her time among homes in Palm Beach, Pittsburgh, and Martha's Vineyard.

Margaret Reilly Muldoon, as the executive of Muldoon Communications, is a writer and contributor to national print media and applies her extensive knowledge of fashion and interior in the film and design industries. She resides in Palm Beach County, Florida.

Jacket design by Debra McQuiston