

THE GUIDE TO LIVING WITH STYLE

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domino

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decorating
issue!

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125

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Pale-pink Venetian plaster walls are the starting point for designer Janine Carendi's unexpected medley of Biedermeier chairs, faux-zebra ottoman and lizard-patterned rug.



the domino 10 *decorators on the verge*

Our second annual roundup spotlights an exceptional group of upstarts from across the country who could be tomorrow's big names in the world of interiors. But today they're all yours! Read on for a trove of inspiring ideas, fresh for the taking.

produced by Tori Mellott text by Deb Schwartz



6 the optimist katie stassi

HOUSTON

Stassi, 36, briefly studied interior design as an undergrad at Ole Miss (she began rearranging her family's furniture at age 10), but when her business took off after decorating for friends, she credited a higher source. "It was a gift from God," she says. "Some people can sing, some people can dance—I can decorate." Stassi studied the work of Gerrie Bremermann, an acclaimed decorator in her native New Orleans, to learn how to combine modern pieces and antiques, and names Vicente Wolf, John Saladino and Kelly Wearstler as important role models for her livable minimalism, which is invigorated by pops of gutsy color.

tip: Don't neglect your entryway! Think of it as an appetizer for what comes next. It should reflect your home's overall style but also contain something special, so guests want to see more.

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Stassi outside her home in Houston's Tanglewood area.



A striped Missoni throw, acid-green Tibetan lamb's-wool pillows and a bright-yellow Philippe Starck chair spark up an all-white bedroom.



A reproduction 19th-century mirror, vintage flamingo and clean-lined furniture make a spare but intimate breakfast area.



Stassi used a custom valance to give her ranch a tailored mien.

