



Six up-and-coming designers
bring a fresh perspective to
the local design scene

HOTTALENT

William Woodhouse (left),
Elizabeth Crane-Rosen (front),
Sharon Marie (right) and partners
Lori Olsza, Kim Miller and Nancy
Thompson of Ocean House
Studio (back to front).

BY JULIE SANDERS





A Natural Aesthetic

The owners of this McLean, Virginia, home were seeking a designer who could help them achieve two main goals: to create a modern décor that would balance simplicity of line with warmth of style, and to source natural, sustainable materials whenever possible. The designer, Shannon Mann, their project embodied important aspects of her design philosophy, which emphasizes tenets of green design and the use of natural materials. "I create spaces that are luxurious yet respectful of the environment," Mann says. "I make sure there's an endorsement of sustainably influenced design." Fortunately, the designer adds, the best materials tend to be eco-friendly so that quality is seldom sacrificed for principle.

Mann also stresses client involvement, and this project was no exception. The clients were "very hands-on but easy to work with," she notes. They wanted a home

that would be contemporary yet calming, warm and full of textured, tactile surfaces. The result is a space in which the rooms flow together in a palette of pale yellows and greys and where, for example, Mann would pair a velvet chair with a smooth, Lucite glass table. In the dining room (above), yellow walls and crisp white-woodwork provide the backdrop for an elegant meal. The grey and yellow living room (opposite, top left and bottom) communicates a modern sensibility—space yet welcoming; and the family room (opposite, top right) adds a punch of color through its artwork.

"I like things to look simple and coordinated," Mann says. "I like the nature of materials—woods, marbles, terriles. Things have to look good and feel good." ❖

INTERIOR DESIGN: Shannon Mann, PhD, Anne Studio, McLean, Virginia; PHOTOGRAPHY: Sage Georger.