

THE NEXT WAVE: OUR EXCLUSIVE LIST OF TOP YOUNG DESIGNERS

House Beautiful

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MAKEOVER MAGIC: DRAMATIC BEFORES AND AFTERS



AMERICA'S TOP YOUNG DESIGNERS

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SHAWN HENDERSON New York, NY

Shawn Henderson believes he was destined to be a decorator. As a child growing up in rural Menands, New York, "I used to rearrange my parents' furniture," he confesses. "And in high school I would sneak into the guid-

ance counselor's office to look at the design school catalogues."

After earning a B.F.A. degree at the Rochester Institute of Technology, where he majored in interior design, he spent

four years working in collaboration with New York interior designer Thad Hayes. "Thad is really my mentor, but I've also been influenced by Billy Baldwin and Dorothy Draper—both of them have done fantastic stuff."

Earlier this year he opened his own firm, Shawn Henderson Interior Design,

where he seeks projects that let him work with interesting, elegant, and playfully irreverent spaces.

One of his current commissions, a 4,000-square-foot SoHo loft, features eclectic arrangements of vintage American and Danish furniture juxtaposed with serious French antiques. For a house in New Jersey on the grounds of a private golf club, Henderson mixed outdoor furniture (used indoors) with contemporary pieces. His own apartment blends pieces by midcentury masters Jens Risom, Harvey Probbler, and Paul McCobb. "It's very calm and serene," says Henderson. "And it's nice to have a place to go that is an antidote to the craziness of New York." *W.I.*