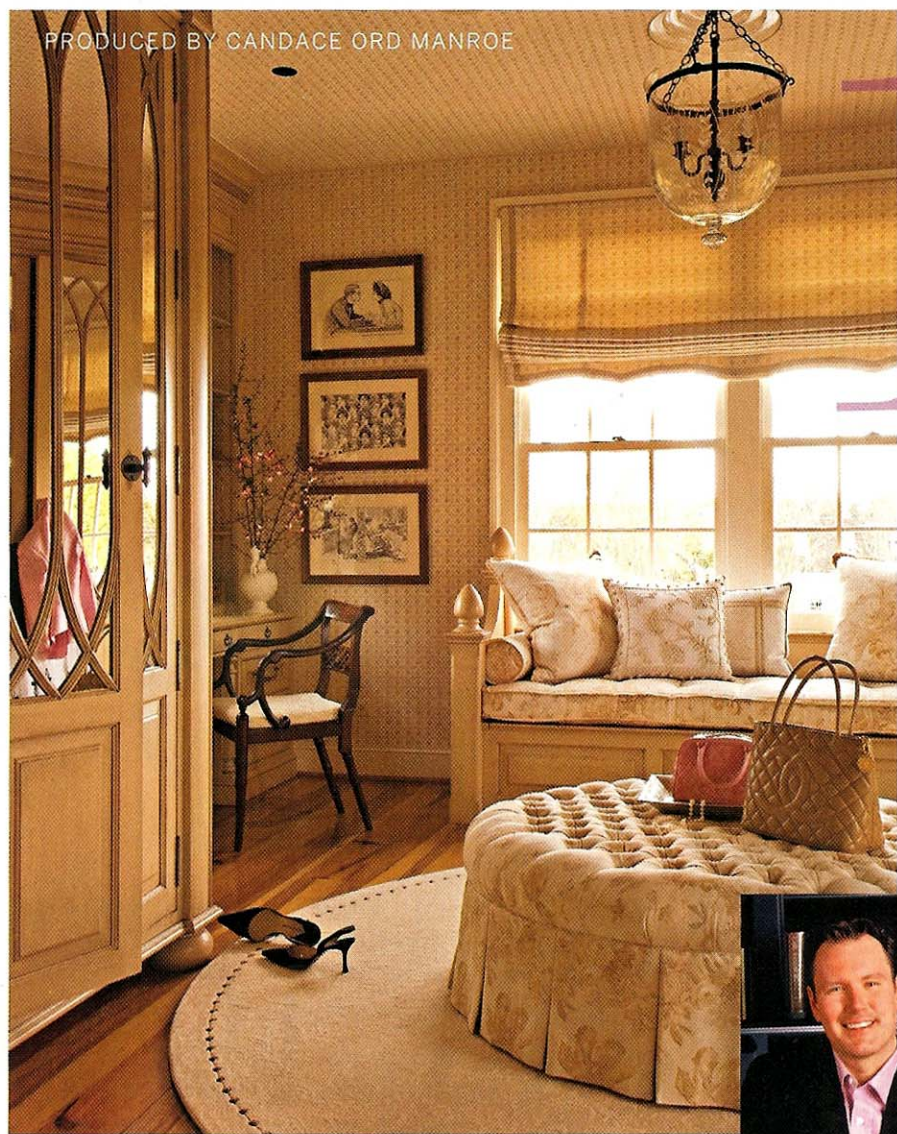


TOP 10 designer tips

In our most recent reader survey, we asked what you needed from us to improve your homes. "Decorating ideas!" came in loud and clear. To give you the very best, we approached 10 of America's hottest designers for their No. 1 tip—hits for your home, and classics all.

PRODUCED BY CANDACE ORD MANROE



Embrace infinity... expand your horizons

BARRY DIXON

"To make a room feel larger, use a round rug on the floor. The circle represents infinity, and a round rug brings that esoteric idea of 'no boundaries' into reality as a visual element. In this client's dressing room, I used both a round rug and an overscale round tufted ottoman to create a sense of unending space. Besides helping to increase the perception of space, the round ottoman provides a panoramic view of that gorgeous Virginia countryside."

Dixon shares another horizon-stretching tip: "So often when we decide to do built-ins for our dressing rooms and closets, we just presume they must go floor to ceiling and have conventional doors. A much more interesting look is achieved when you build quasi-furniture for your storage. As built-ins, I designed five large armoires that fall a few inches short of the ceiling and are raised, on bun feet, a few inches off the floor." ▶

