



*True
Felicity*
THE AMERICAN COUNTRY
STYLING

HAUTE PROPERTY Design Brief



Interior designer Meredith Ellis selects products (BELOW)—all found in the Clarksville area—that illustrate the trend of recalling a classic aesthetic.

Classic Revival

HIGH-END INTERIOR DESIGNER **MEREDITH ELLIS** SEES TRADITIONAL DÉCOR MAKING A COMEBACK IN AUSTIN HOMES. **BY DANINE ALATI**

“I am seeing a return to interiors that have a more classic, decorative look—rooms that use traditional elements in a very simplified, pared-down way,” explains Meredith Ellis, founder of her eponymous design firm. “It’s a kind of ‘casual elegance,’ and, frankly, that’s what Austin is all about. It’s a sophisticated city, but it’s also a very livable, relaxed city.”

Raised by a Texan interior designer mother, Ellis studied art history at the University of Colorado and worked for renowned designers in New York and Los Angeles before launching Meredith Ellis Design in LA in 2008 and bringing the practice to Austin in 2010. “Austin has experienced rapid growth, and it’s now more of an international city,” she explains. “I am seeing people interject their personalities into their interiors—but they’re doing it with restraint, and that’s key.” This infusion of global influences has led to an elevation in the caliber of design resources available, as well as a shift in the prevailing local design trends. “More antique and vintage-type furniture stores are opening,” Ellis notes, adding, “Until recently, Midcentury Modern and sleek, contemporary styles have had a real hold on Austin. Mixing materials, styles, and periods is not only timely, but it’s classic.” *meredithellisdesign.com* **AW**



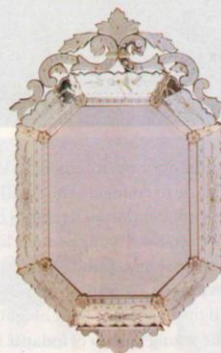
Jonathan Adler
LOUIS XVI CHAIR

“To create a modern twist on an old-fashioned favorite, Jonathan Adler has taken a traditional Louis XVI chair and high-glossed it white and added a simple navy fabric. I would recommend this to someone who wants to add a little pizzazz to his or her decorating palette, without compromising on style.” *Jonathan Adler* (\$1,295), 1011 W. Fifth St., Ste. 130, 512-296-2507; *jonathanadler.com*



Gracie
ANTIQUE WALLPAPER SCREEN

“A screen is a classic piece that can be the quick fix to certain decorating issues. For example, it can serve as a room divider, cover up an ugly set of wall plugs, or be purely decorative. I would use this piece as a backdrop behind a simple sofa, or as a decorative headboard. It is a definite talking point!” *Lotus Asian Art & Antiques Gallery* (price on request), 1009 W. Sixth St., Ste. 101, 512-474-1700; *lotusasianart.com*



Jean-Marc Fray
ANTIQUE VENETIAN GLASS MIRROR

“This piece can be the yin to your modern yang; the clean-cut, crisp, clear glass balances an otherwise opulent room. Or a more decorative Venetian mirror, like this 19th-century version, adorned with more ornamental elements, can add a little spice to your simple setting without being overdone.” *Jean-Marc Fray French Antiques* (\$7,900), 1009 W. Sixth St., Ste. 102, 512-457-0077; *jeanmarcfray.com*