



Veere Grenney's pink Palladian salon in Suffolk, England.

SPEAKING *Their* LANGUAGE

What is Veere's golden rule for curtains? Does Bunny have a can't-miss neutral? Here, an A-to-Z guide to **top designers' secret weapons** and time-tested tips for a well-decorated home.



Design by Madeline Stuart.

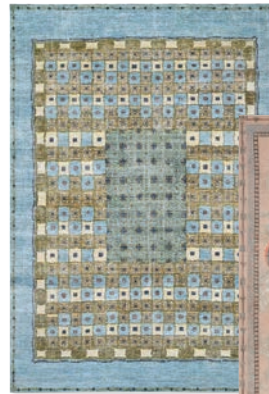
R Refracted Light

“Put in the fewest number of recessed lights you can get away with; it does no one any favors, leaving shadows on faces and harsh cones of light. Plus, it adds to what we refer to as “ceiling acne” (sprinklers, speakers, vents—you get the picture). I’d rather **light a room with sconces, lamps, a chandelier, a flush mount**—anything that bounces light off the ceiling and creates a refracted glow.”

—MADELINE STUART

S STORYTELLING RUGS

Protective palettes, mythical dragons, Swedish minimalism: Hand-knotted rugs bestow centuries of meaning, like legends passed through the ages.



↑
Spellbound rug,
Ward + Gray.

↓
Cadmus rug, New Moon Rugs.



↑
Scandinavian High rug, Rug & Kilim.

T Tailored Curtains

“After 40 years in the business, I know there are no such things as rules in decoration, only what is appropriate for a project. However, I am particular about a few things, such as *curtains*. These **should just touch the floor**, not too short and certainly not pooling on the floor. Also, **clutter is not part of the deal.**”

—VEERE GRENNEY



U Unified Collections

“I always encourage *bringing collections together* and centralizing their display. It looks cleaner and **makes a big impact.**”

—MARK D. SIKES

FROM LEFT: 18th-century Dutch Delft plate with chinoiserie decoration, Blue and White Antique Delft plate, and Blue and White Dutch Delft dish, 1stDibs.



An entry hall designed by Mark D. Sikes.

“I love using *V-groove* and *beadboard paneling* in *service areas*. It’s an easy way to add beautiful texture, detail, and warmth.”

—MARK D. SIKES

V V-GROOVE