

ASPEN HOME

HOLIDAY 2006/2007

M A G A Z I N E

MODERN MAKEOVER
A DOWNTOWN CONDO
GOES UPSCALE

**STARWOOD'S
STAYING POWER**

STILL THE ADDRESS
WITH ENVIABLE CACHET

A LITTLE OWNERSHIP

PREMIUM PRICES FOR A SMALL PIECE
OF THE ASPEN DREAM

The Inside Story



Richard and Barbara Mullen, with son George, opposite, at a client's Aspen home. The Mullens sought to soften the edges of the architecturally contemporary house with furnishings like the vintage cashmere sofa and classic cotton drapes. The vignette at right contrasts a wall of reclaimed wood with damask-upholstered chairs and an Asian credenza in signature Mullen style. "I love that it's mixing a very Aspen rustic with more of a polished look," says Barbara.



Think Globally, Design Locally

DESIGNERS BARBARA AND RICHARD MULLEN OFFER A WORLDLY PERSPECTIVE AND A KNACK FOR MIXING STYLES

BY AMIEE WHITE BEAZLEY

With their classic sense of style and architectural design, Barbara and Richard Mullen are quickly becoming one of Aspen's most sought-after interior design teams. After heading up the interiors group at Aspen-based Poss Architecture and Planning for more than four years, the couple recently launched their own full-service firm, Caroline Edwards Interior Design.

Their move was motivated by a desire to helm their own ship as well as a need to spend more time with their son, one-year-old George. "George needed flexibility as much as we did," says Barbara. "We needed to be able to make our own schedules. With the baby now, we are all working for the same goal. It's all about our family."

Part of the firm's appeal is that Caroline Edwards (the couple's middle names) can work in a range of styles, from classic mountain to modern to culturally themed. Richard,

an interior architect, and Barbara, an interior designer, thrive on the challenge of satisfying their sometimes high-profile clients' international tastes. "Good design is good design," says Richard of their varying design capabilities. "We do the research, and we can always find a common thread that can tie the rooms together."

That thread is often executed in well-planned architectural details like intricately laid stone floors, carved wooden banisters, and unique fireplace surrounds. An interior may be punctuated by colorful fabrics, while wall coverings like grass cloth—a material Barbara is particularly fond of—add textural interest. Barbara also favors simple but tailored custom window coverings, like the combination of woven blinds, iron curtain rods, and drapery made of an orange-and-cream-hued Rose Tarlow fabric that she used in a recent project. The overall effect is one of elegance and sophistication.



For Southern

Many of their designs are influenced by the family's extensive travels through Europe, Mexico, and Saudi Arabia, where they spend time touring extraordinary buildings, meeting local artisans, and photographing distinct architectural elements. Richard, who has also lived as far afield as Kenya, Guam, and Australia, later relies on these photos as inspiration for the hand-drawn detailing that is his specialty.

With every project, the Mullens are a cohesive team. In the early stages, Richard will work with the

client's architect on space planning and architectural details, perfecting the layout of the home's interior. Barbara then focuses on fabrics, furniture, fine art, and accessories to transform a home into a comfortable, inviting retreat. Finally, the pair collaborates on finishes.

"We do a good job of working together," says Barbara. "We both respect each other's work."

"And we don't step on each other's toes," adds Richard. "We've only worked together. It's all we've ever known."

The couple met in 1996 at their first jobs at Wilson & Associates, a large interior/architecture design firm in Dallas. Barbara had just completed her undergraduate studies at Texas Christian University, and Richard, a Boston-area native, had recently earned his masters in architecture at University of Texas at Austin. "Wilson recruited me, and I decided

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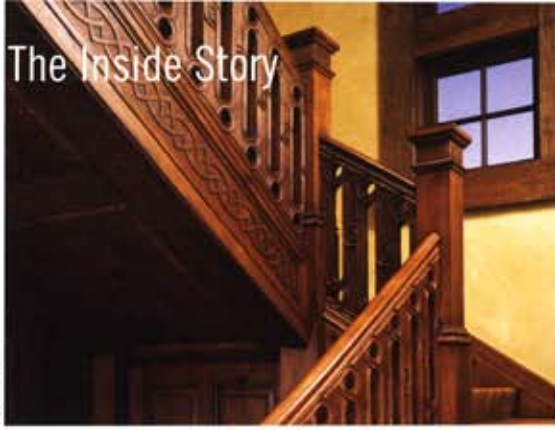


For Southern

Top left: The vignette of different textures, combines a laminated-plywood abstract hanging sculpture, stone floor, and worsted-wool drapes. Above: Contemporary mohair sofas from DessinFournir, lined with an eclectic mix of pillows, play off the dry-stacked Bachelor Gulch stone of the fireplace and wall, and the custom-made iron chandelier.

The Inside Story

Pat Schinnerer



In designing the white-oak carved banister, left, Richard was inspired by the work of several prominent 19th-century American architects. Below: The Mullens incorporated upholstered wool wall panels and custom bed linens into a rich brown-and-gold palette to create a welcoming refuge.

to give interiors a shot," Richard says. "It cast the die for the rest of my life."

Not only did he discover interior architecture, but he also found a wife. Barbara and Richard married in April 1998. Three years later the couple relocated to Aspen, where they were wooed by Bill Poss to begin that firm's full-service interiors division. The projects they led while at Poss include the Remède Spa at the St. Regis Resort, Aspen, and several custom residential interiors.

As the principals of Caroline Edwards, the Mullens hope to continue doing high-quality projects, both residential and commercial, for clients worldwide. "One of our goals is that we make a name for ourselves," says Richard, "and people come to us for our work regardless of where we are." ■

For more information on Caroline Edwards Interior Design, 970-920-3331 or Richard@carolineedwards.com



Pat Schinnerer