

# INTERIOR DESIGN

SEPTEMBER  
2013

*new york: in the swim*





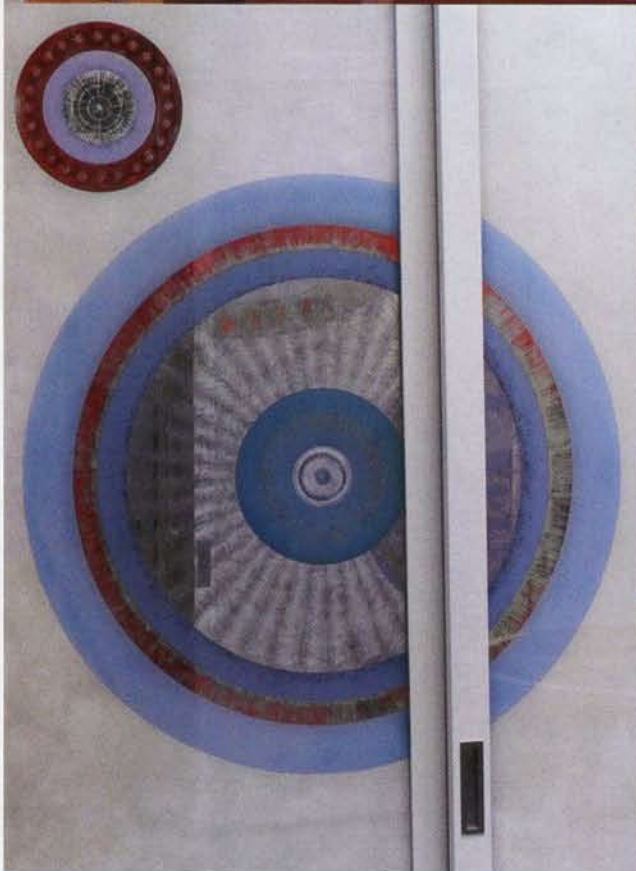
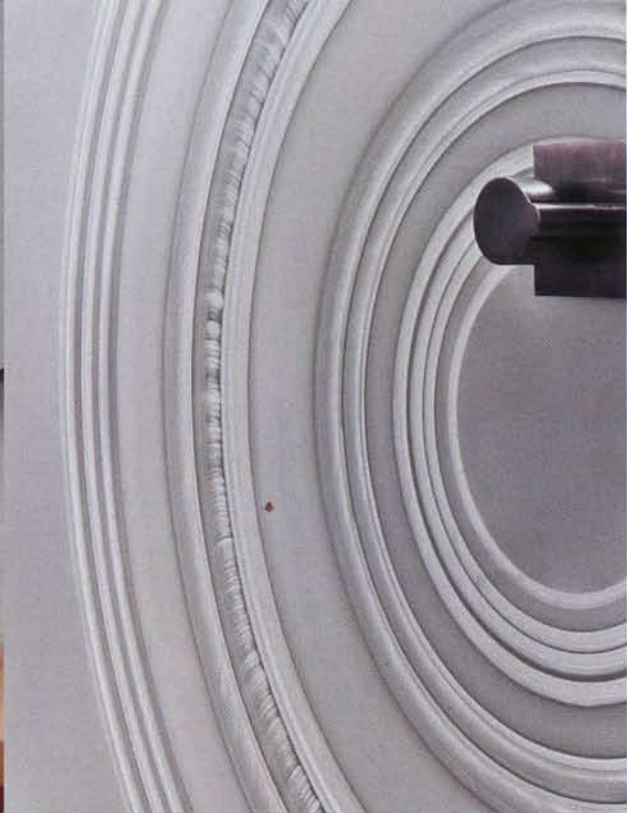
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firm:  
Harry Heissmann  
site:  
Greenwich Village

## his master's voice

In the master suite's dressing room, the closets' custom sliding doors are tempered glass, gilded and painted on the reverse. ➤





*Clockwise from top left: The dressing room's Jasper Morrison desk is a limited edition. Wheel-cut frosted glass fronts the shower. Stainless steel borders the panels. Door frames in the dressing room are painted wood.*





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**From top:** Paavo Tynell designed the chandelier in the dressing room. The bathroom's sink fittings are by Sieger Design. Onyx for the vanity and floor derives a blue tone from resin backing.

**Opposite:** Shower fittings have a chrome finish.



**“They asked me** for glamour,” Harry Heissmann says. “And I ran with it.” In a Greenwich Village town house, his namesake firm turned the entire second level into a master suite. The three-room enfilade totals 1,200 square feet, a lavish single space when pocket doors slide away.

First up: the dressing room, boasting a Finnish mid-century chandelier and, instead of a vanity table, a limited-edition plywood desk by Jasper Morrison. The sidewalls are actually closet doors, glass panels covered in a giant circle motif rendered in glittering mica, gold leaf, and polychrome paint—call them *verre églomisé*. To sketch the patterns, Heissmann grabbed a fistful of felt-tip pens and sheets of Mylar.

Concentric circles reappear in the bathroom. “They’re like water hitting water,” he explains. Here, on panels fronting the shower and toilet, the circles take the more muted form of frosted glass detailed by a practitioner of the rare art of ➤





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**From top:** A Georges Jouve sconce stands out against Venetian plaster in the bedroom. Its chair is Gio Ponti. On either side of the bathroom, custom carpet is wool.



wheel-cutting. "I remember him with sandpaper, going like this," Heissmann says, waving his hand back and forth to demonstrate. Other surfaces resemble a vast watercolor: They're highly figured beige onyx that owes its cornflower-blue undertone to resin backing.

In the bedroom, walls are Venetian plaster raked with a trowel into vertical grooves. Ceramic lamps that Heissmann designed with Christopher Spitzmiller flank the bed. Carpet, as in the dressing room at the opposite end of the enfilade, sports a spotted pattern developed for Brooke Astor, who kept a miniature donkey indoors and, Heissmann notes, "didn't want the marks to show." (He used to work for Astor's decorator, Albert Hadley.)

The town house's owners are repeat clients introduced to Heissmann when he worked for Hadley. After 20 meetings for the master suite, the couple are practically family. To wit, they even bought a fuzzy bed for Heissmann's French bulldog mix, Samson, to use whenever he drops by.

—Craig Kellogg

**FROM FRONT CA ATELIER:** CUSTOM CABINETRY (DRESSING ROOM, BATHROOM). **DORNBRACHT:** SINK FITTINGS (BATHROOM). **HANSGROHE:** SHOWER FITTINGS. **BDDW:** MIRROR (DRESSING ROOM). **WATERWORKS:** SCONCES. **CHRISTOPHER SPITZMILLER:** BEDSIDE LAMPS (BEDROOM). **THROUGH TODD MERRILL ANTIQUES:** NIGHTSTANDS. **THROUGH MAISON GERARD:** TABLE LAMP. **GUIDO DE ANGELIS:** CUSTOM BED. **STARK:** HEADBOARD FABRIC. **NANCY KOLTES:** CUSTOM BEDDING. **MECHOSHADE SYSTEMS** THROUGH **AUDIO VIDEO SYSTEMS:** WINDOW SHADES. **THROUGH-OUT EDWARD FIELDS CARPET MAKERS:** CUSTOM CARPET. **Puccio MARBLE & ONYX:** STONE SUPPLIER. **TIRSCHWELL & CO.:** LIGHTING CONSULTANT. **MIRIAM ELLNER;** **TOMAS TISCH STUDIO:** GLASSWORK. **ARTGROOVE:** PLASTERWORK.