



athome with...

Darryl Carter

A master at blending classic and modern, this leading designer reveals his favorite fabric, go-to paint colors, and tricks of the trade for creating a comfortable, timeless home.

What inspires me... The evolution of design. All things return to their historical reference. The iconic Egg chair, for instance, is a modern offspring of the wing chair. For me, this is why the modern and the antique marry so well.

My design motto is... Good design is everlasting. Avoid trends.

Latest obsession... Not obsessing. It helps with a little thing called mental health.

Top summer vacation spot... My tiny cottage in The Plains, Virginia. Sequestered by a 150-foot, wisteria-covered pergola, it is bygone in its simplicity and gentility—an absolute departure from my city home. At night, hung with lanterns, the pergola is a veritable allée, which is absolutely enveloping when in full bloom. I was struck by this property for years in passing, and one day my real estate agent called to describe a new listing. I knew it instantly and bought it two days later.

Favorite paint shade other than white... If you insist on something “other than white” (Benjamin Moore Moonlight White is my go-to), I like Benjamin Moore Moonshine OC-56. It’s a chalky, grayish, brownish, moody classic color.

Favorite fabric... Rogers & Goffigon linen, which has a phenomenal hand.



PHOTOGRAPH BY MAIRA MCCOY

“Sometimes imperfection is a relief, inviting use and adding character to a space. Signs of life are good design elements.”

—DARRYL CARTER



above: Carter’s beloved dog Gus below: The Shaw Pendant from his lighting collection for the Urban Electric Co.



PHOTOGRAPH BY GORDON BEALL

What I’m reading now... I have to admit that I am a little ADD, so I tend to read several books at once, which proves to be highly entertaining when I’m sharing my most recent reads with others. I love any historic biography. Right now I am reading *American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer* by Kai Bird and Martin J. Sherwin, dovetailing with *The Follies and Garden Buildings of Ireland* by James Howley.

Favorite piece of furniture... The Carlton House desk in my study in Washington, DC. It is an incredible form replete with all kinds of hidden drawers and depository hardware at its top, as I believe it was once used in a bank. Other than this piece, I like all things Campaign. I am fascinated by metamorphic furniture and its varied utility.

I love a home filled with... Good friends for a casual dinner with great wine.

I can’t live without... Laughter, talking to my mother on the phone every day, and spending time with my three disobedient dogs, Otis, Lucy, and Gus. They are far more agreeable company than most human beings, especially at day’s end. Man’s best friends—no joke! Whoever first said that knew what they were talking about.

One thing you might not know about me... Every now and then, when inspired, I will take on a canvas and paint. Also, I am told that I have a wicked sense of humor.

from center: This wall of shallow shelves was designed to display a collection of 19th-century Flow Blue. Carter’s book, *The New Traditional*, is an elegant and accessible guide to mixing modern elements with classic design.



Benjamin Moore’s Moonshine paint.

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AT HOME IN FAIRFIELD COUNTY
SUMMER 2010 / SHAW

THE URBAN ELECTRIC Co.