The FABRICS of SOCIETY

OUR 25 DESIGN POWER DUOS ARE CO-CONSPIRATORS IN HOMES AND PALACES OF VAST SCALE AND GRANDEUR—SOME TOP SECRET, OTHERS PUBLIC MONUMENTS TO ART AND RETAIL. ALL ARE MASTERPIECES THAT RAISE THE BAR FOR EVERYBODY ELSE.

Clients' Spheres of Influence

Fashion Art Hollywood Celebrity Society Politics Royalty Business

Axel Vervoordt & Kanye West

Probably for the first time, a high-end interior designer made it onto TMZ, as the hip-hop superstar hired Belgian designer Vervoordt in January to "perfect his crib's look" in Los Angeles. Vervoordt will likely do so with Ye-yo-friendly tasteful minimalism, much as he has done for clients Bill Gates, Sting, and Calvin Klein.

Rem Koolhaas & Miuccia Prada

Few in fashion have Miuccia Prada's eye for interior design—not her boutiques and epiphanies—but her most enduring collaborator is architect Rem Koolhaas, whose firm OMA has helped stage her shows for 15 years and even designed a "front-pack" for her fall 2018 men's show. The Fondazione Prada (right) is getting a new nine-story tower for its permanent collection this spring.

Roman and Williams & Gwyneth Paltrow

The actress tapped Robert Stodder and Stephen Alesch, the couple behind New York's Le Coucou, last fall for Goop Lab in Brentwood, her first permanent store (right). In December, Roman and Williams (named for their grandparents) opened the Guild, a showroom and café in Soho.

Jamie Drake & Michael Bloomberg

Known for his crisp and colorful rooms, Drake has done up the former mayor's townhouse on the Upper East Side and Bullocks: his $20 million Georgian estate in Southampton. Plus, he restored Grauman's while Bloomberg was in office.

William Sofield & Tom Ford

What happens when a college dropout (Ford) and a Princetonian (Sofield) get together? Troubled, in a word. Inseparable for 25 years, these two know the secret sauce to retail, and it's hard to keep their stores on Madison Avenue or Rodeo Drive (right) without upsetting your accountant.
MICHAEI S. SMITH & THE OBAMAS
Michael S. Smith didn’t just decorate the Obamas’ private residence in the White House (right); he “upheld the proud history of this building” in the woods of First lady and tastemaker Michelle. Smith also designed the $2.000 square-foot Kahana home they bought after Barack left office.

STERLING RUBY & RAFA SIMONs
Ever since he got to Calvin Klein, Simons has relied on his longtime friend, the L.A. artist Sterling Ruby, to inject the label’s shows, headquarters, and flagship store (below) with a rambunctious energy—and hard-to-miss colors.

ROSE UNIACKE & THE BECKHAMS
The antiques dealer became a London sensation when Victoria and David selected her to take over from another designer in decorating their $44 million Holland Park palace.

KEN FULK & KEVIN SYSTROM
Sublety is not Fulk’s forte, but that’s why he’s the guy Silicon Valley trusts with its palaces. For Instagram’s Systrom he didn’t just design his home but also his wedding to Nicole Schlachet, which brought the spirit of New Orleans to Napa Valley (above).

JOHN PAWSON & IAN SCHRAGER
Schrager is something of a shadow architect himself, but his friendship with Pawson extends over two decades, from the apartments at the Gramercy Park Hotel to Schrager’s penthouse at 40 Bond (right). They’re now working on the West Hollywood Edition hotel, opening this year.

BEN PENTREATH & PRINCE WILLIAM AND KATE MIDDLETON
With three door hosts to his name, including English Homes, Pentreath, a graduate of the Prince of Wales’s Institute of Architecture, was an inspired choice by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge to renovate their Kensington Palace apartment.

NORMAN FOSTER & ALAN FANA
The Argentine Fierro recruited a murderer’s row of starchitects for his Miami complex, but the palatial condominium tower (pictured) fell to the Pritzker-winning Foster. Inside is the $55 million penthouse Citadel CEO Kenneth Griffin is selling.

VICTORIA HAGAN & THE BIDENS
Often described as “the queen of restrained elegance,” Hagan is a master of clean, timeless interiors (like this one in East Hamp- ton), which was precisely the aesthetic the first vice presi- dent and his wife Jill wanted for their official private residence while he was in office.

PETER MARINO & BERNARD ARNAULT
LVMH mogul Arnault can call the Oceans-born Marino the man who built Louis Vuitton, having tapped him to design the brand’s behemoth stores.

DANIEL ROMUALDE & TORY BURCH
Betsy Bloomingdale to his Billy Haines, Burch first met Romualdez in the late ’90s, then hired him to work on her apart- ment at the Pierre. Her homes and offices in Manhattan and the Hamptons followed, plus over 100 stores, including this glittering Long Island location.
JACQUES GRANGE & VERON LAUDER

Many a grande dame has called on French legend Grange (Princess Caroline, Terry de Gunzburg, Paloma Picasso), and the beauty siren followed them (and her father Ronald, Grange’s first New York client) when she tapped him for her first Upper East Side apartment and her office.

ROBERT COUTURIER & JEFF KOONS

The designer is known for classic French-inspired chic, and naturally he meshes well with an artist known for grandeur. Couturier is among the designers Koons is currently working with to combine the two Upper East Side townhouses he paid $32 million for a decade ago.

FRANK GEHRY & ETHEL AND ELI BROAD

The powerful collectors have ties to every major architect, but they’ve gone with Pritzker Prize winner Gehry twice for their Brentwood mansion (which featured Gehry flourishes, although he never finished it) and the Los Angeles Philharmonic’s Walt Disney Concert Hall (below).

STEPHEN SHADLEY & DIANE KENTON

The bond between the decorator and the Oscar winner stretches back over 30 years, and four homes. Kenton documented the creation of her 8,000-square-foot Brentwood compound (pictured above) in last year’s book The House That Pinterest Built.

GERT VOORIJANS & DRIES VAN NOTEN

Friends for 15 years, they have worked on the fashion designer’s Belgian estate, Ringghof (see the 2017 documentary Dries), which features exquisite gardens (a passion of Van Noten’s) designed by landscape architect Erik Dhont. This year Voorijans also launched a vibrant fabric collection for Jim Thompson.

DAVID ADJAYE & BRAD PITT

After Hurricane Katrina, Pitt recruited starchitects like Adjaye to build sustainable housing in New Orleans (above). The actor’s Make It Right Foundation has since built more than 100 homes in the Lower 9th Ward. Adjaye went on to acclaim with the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

FRANCOIS CATROUX & LAUREN SANTO DOMINGO

The Moda Operandi co-founder became the latest Santo Domingo to enlist the French couturier (who first worked with the family in the early ’90s when she brought him on to do her 18th-century Paris apartment (above).

ERIC HUGHES & SARAH JESSICA PARKER

In the 90s, movie executive Hughes used to give the actress friendly decorating tips. In 2002, after Parker asked him to design her Bridgehampton home (right), his design career took off and he left the biz. Now he’s working with architect Morris Adjaye to combine Parker’s two West Village townhouses.

PIERRE Yovanovitch & FRANCOIS HENRI PINAULT

French luxury boss Pinault entrusted the Parisian designer with not only the Hôtel de Clermont-Tonnerre—the jewel where his Artcurial conglomerate is headquartered—but his personal office. Last fall Yovanovitch curated a furniture collection called Dops.