



**RIISING STAR**  
 Designer Courtney Hill Fertitta photographed at her home in Houston. Right: Hill Fertitta designed this contemporary house in Houston for a client using limestone, stucco and ipe wood.



## Maximal Minimalist

Courtney Hill Fertitta, who trained with top New York designers Victoria Hagan and Greg Jordan, produces classic and contemporary with equal ease.

By Carla Jordan  
 Portrait by Phoebe Rourke-Ghabriel

We've got a soft spot for Texas designers because they dream, design and deliver the only way we know how—big. Case in point: Houston's talented Courtney Hill Fertitta. She's charmed us ever since she opted for the interior design program at the University of Texas instead of taking the expected path to Parson's School of Design in New York or the Savannah College of Art and Design in Georgia.

"When it came time for college, I didn't quite have my route figured out, but I knew UT had lots to offer in the two fields I loved—fashion and interior design," says Hill Fertitta, who grew up in Houston in a family of doctors. "As soon as I took my first drafting course, I knew I'd found my calling with interior design. I had great professors who encouraged me to think big when it came time for my senior internship. So I applied to firms all over, including Paris, California and New York. I landed in New York with Victoria Hagan Interiors as part of an accredited program and walked in the door well-trained in the daily tasks of a design firm. That just doesn't happen with many schools. UT's internship truly opened the door for me because Victoria hired me after graduation." **CONTINUED...**

...CONTINUED After three years with Hagan, Hill Fertitta signed on with another Manhattan designer, Greg Jordan. His colorful Southern style was polar opposite of Hagan's neutral, modern point of view. "I had Victoria's look down to a T, but my husband's job was taking us back to Texas so it was time to broaden my appeal," explains Hill Fertitta. "Greg forced me out of my comfort zone by nudging me to create interiors with florals on curtains and sofas, and to use gimp trim and tassels. He opened me up to a whole new palette."

Hill Fertitta soaked it all in, then drew from all her experiences to create her own look that has made her an ASID award winner and helped her develop a national client base. One such example: a four-bedroom house in Houston's Upper Kirby District for a client, which she designed with architect Allen Bianchi and UrbanCraft Custom Builders. The interiors are warm, inviting and tactile, with a mix of textures and materials (one of her signature elements) and filled with memorable design touchpoints. "The homeowners had amazing artwork, which we showcased throughout," she says. "We also used incredible materials for furniture and cabinets." And although many furnishings (and even the doors) are quite heavy and large, there's an airiness to the home that makes it feel serene and calm, which the homeowners were adamant about. From the University of Texas to Victoria Hagan and Greg Jordan, Courtney Hill Fertitta's design point of view has been influenced by some of the greats, yet is uniquely her own. ■



**QUICK STUDY** Clockwise from top: A home office designed by Courtney Hill Fertitta includes a custom white oak book case and desk with stained concrete top; a client's dining room includes a custom alder wood table and Minipop chairs by Christian Werner from Ligne Roset; the pool, with travertine fountain and deck, is visible from nearly all interior rooms, creating a feeling of calm. Outdoor furniture is from Dedon.