

# DESIGN & DECORATING

## ANATOMY LESSON

# White Box Averted

She loves a pale, pure look. He fears living inside a restaurant takeout carton. Their designer's solution? Zippy neutrality



### GO INTO THE WHITE

"I didn't want to do a white that was clinical," said designer Brian J. McCarthy. "Gallery white can be very off-putting and cold." He used a dimensional favorite, Farrow & Ball's Pointing No. 2003. "It needed to have a softness and warmth without getting creamy," he said. \$170 a gallon, [us.farrow-ball.com](http://us.farrow-ball.com)



### CRUSH ON SOME VELVET

So pillows didn't entirely blend into the sofa, he opted for a fabric change. "It becomes this white-on-white moment that's quite beautiful," he said. Of this diamond-sewn cotton velvet alternative, he added, the pattern "makes it stronger, richer, more tactile." Velvet Throw Pillow, \$139, [allmodern.com](http://allmodern.com)



### EMBRACE OLD AGE

The designer admires the soulfully worn look of this glass and antiqued-gilt coffee table. "I love things to feel found and not just newly made," he said. "It makes the room and interiors feel more evolved." French Glass Coffee Table, \$5,600, [1stdibs.com](http://1stdibs.com)



### RAISE A SKYLINE

"I didn't want all the backs of chairs and sofas at one height, a great lesson I learned from Albert Hadley," Mr. McCarthy said. "We always refer to it as the skyline," which guides the eye around the space. A similarly tall style: Campbell Settee, from \$1,199, [ballarddesigns.com](http://ballarddesigns.com)

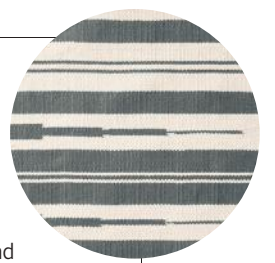


### PLANT A TREE

"The strength of the bronze on the table there really works," Mr. McCarthy said of the lamp, which counteracts the feminine lines of the table and the adjacent settee. Approximate the vibe with this nickel-plated piece. Tree of Life Table Lamp, \$575, [michaelaram.com](http://michaelaram.com)

### MAKE A MARK

"It's relatively quiet," said Mr. McCarthy of the custom rug, but the stripes "push the boundaries of the room, taking the eye under furniture and across the floor." Try this look-alike: Aura Stripe Indoor/Outdoor Rug, from \$395, [williams-sonoma.com](http://williams-sonoma.com)



### DON'T BE DIM

Mixing curves and straight edges creates a satisfying patchwork. Mr. McCarthy chose the 1950s sconces that flank the mirror for their streamlined form, a foil to the original intricate wall carvings and other ornate fixtures. This piece mimics his pick: Fragment Glass Wall Sconce, \$100, [cb2.com](http://cb2.com)



### ROUND OFF THE SQUARES

A circular-topped 1930s side table leaves breathing room in a right-angled corner and "holds visual interest," said Mr. McCarthy. Ditto this new version, crafted in Oregon. Tibro Round End Table, \$399, [scandinaviandesigns.com](http://scandinaviandesigns.com)



### MOO SOFTLY

Cowhide upholstery adds touchable texture. And because the chair's back faces the middle of the room, it must please from all angles. This slipper chair is cowhide in front, faux leather straps behind. Throggs Cowhide Slipper Chair, \$1,360, [wayfair.com](http://wayfair.com)

## FRESH PICKS

# Linens That Walk the Line

When it comes to bed and table linens, the options often seem limited to either pretty and feminine or stark and not-so-feminine. Here's an option that occupies a refreshing middle-ground: the summer collection from textile and clothing designer Erica Tanov. She collaborated with artist and fellow Bay Area resident Emily Payne to defy linen stereotypes and translate Ms. Payne's subtle wire sculptures, titled Fray, into two-dimensional patterns on earthy pastel cotton. The prints' delicate lines, neither fussy nor rigid, make for handsomely unisex bedding, throw pillows and table cloths. "I love the organic, hand-wrought lines of Emily's sculpture, and how it creates interesting negative spaces," said Ms. Tanov, who reduced and repeated images of the work, demonstrating a knack for mesmerizing the human eye. "Playing with scale and repetition is always fascinating to me."

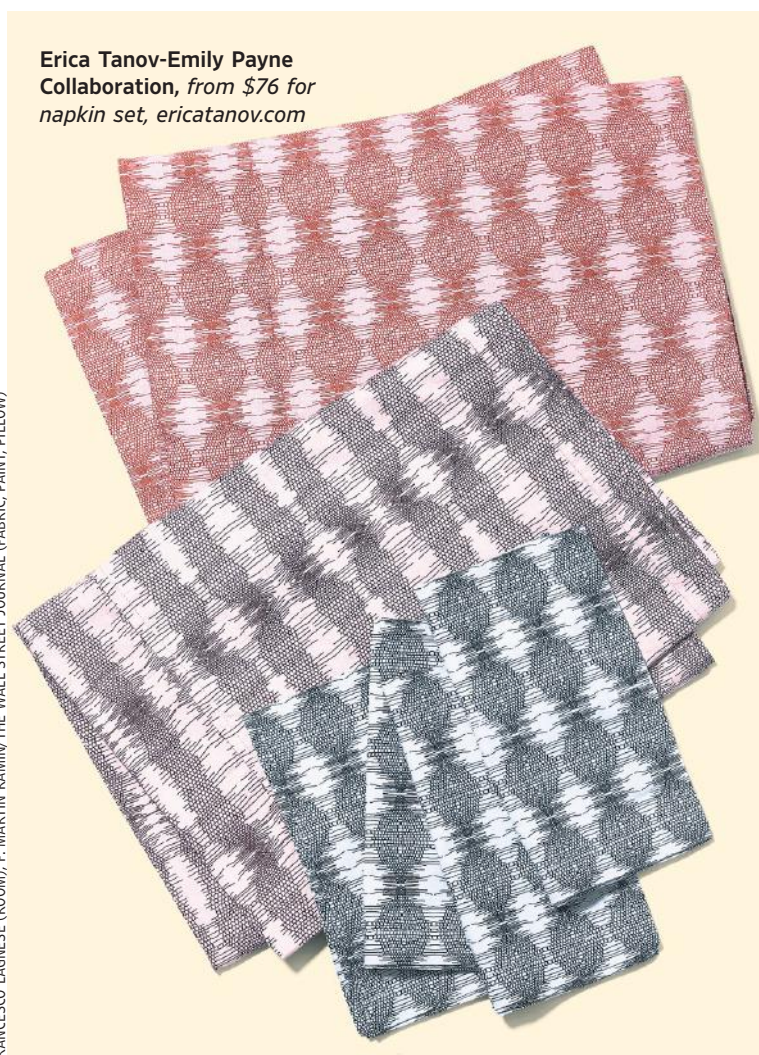
# The Ice Box Cometh

Known for their sorbet-colored 1950s-inspired refrigerators, appliance maker Big Chill burrows further into the past with its new Classic Fridge, a catch-the-eye take on Victorian-era iceboxes. The early coolers—used by many Americans through the 1930s—were wood structures lined in tin or zinc and insulated with sawdust or (yes) seaweed. The insulation sustained the chill provided by prodigious blocks of ice as they melted into a pan. Big Chill's contemporary interpretation nixes the ice, housing 21st-century amenities inside a stamped-metal body in colors such as a deep wine red and a mellow gray-blue, as well as black, white, and cream. Of this stylish update, Charleston, S.C., interior designer Courtney Bishop noted that the base colors and hardware options (chrome, brass, nickel and copper) instantly evolve "this vintage style from its icebox days to a chic appliance." For years, commanding countertops and ranges have been focal points of kitchens, said Austin, Texas, designer Meredith Ellis. "This refrigerator can now steal the show."



\$4,795, preorder at [bigchill.com/classic-fridge](http://bigchill.com/classic-fridge)

Erica Tanov-Emily Payne Collaboration, from \$76 for napkin set, [ericatanov.com](http://ericatanov.com)



FRANCESCO LAGNESE (ROOM); F. MARTIN RAMINI/THE WALL STREET JOURNAL (FABRIC, PAINT, PILLOW)

—Courtney Barnes