



design intelligence

by PEGGY LEVINSON

What's Happening!

Weddings, babies, and a nod to Native American style.

OH, BABY

There are always stories about how far designers go for the benefit of their clients—way beyond merely picking fabrics and advising paint colors. But this is a new one even to me: interior designer **Margaret Chambers**, ASID, has to keep secrets from her clients (or at least one couple she works for). That's because when the **Pogues** get pregnant, Chambers is the only one who finds out the sex of the baby—not the parents, not the grandparents. It's only Chambers and the doctor in the know. Why? Well, the Pogues approve two different nursery schemes, and Chambers covertly makes her pink or blue purchases and goes to work. Mom and baby arrive home from the hospital to a darling, fully outfitted room. Though unusual, this sort



of above-and-beyond service is becoming the norm. A trusted decorator becomes part of the family—arbitrator, therapist, lifestyle coach, tastemaker, and children's manners instructor.

NO STONE UNTURNED

Local designer **Joseph Minton** and **Kevin Peavy** recently returned from a week in Ireland with the **Irish Georgian Society**. The society was formed 50 years ago by **Desmond Guinness** in order to save the 18th-century manor houses that were being torn down to build modern houses and apartments. A chapter was formed here in the early 1970s by decorator **Nita Carol Cervin**, and local members include **Nancy Dedman**, **Mary Faulkner**, **Betty Gertz**, **Beverly Field**, and other antiques connoisseurs. The national society raises millions of dollars to encourage an interest in the conservation of endangered Irish art and architecture. So, Minton, Peavy, and friend and antique dealer Betty Gertz lived like royalty for a week at some of the finest examples of Georgian architecture in the world. Considering the formidable knowledge and taste among the three of them, they probably knew every lineage

of each of the treasures they saw. From accommodations in County Kildare at the Carton House to a dinner for 200 at Castle Town, formerly owned by Desmond Guinness, to teas at other houses, they were regally entertained. The annual meeting of the distinguished **Ghost Club**, collectors of antique Rolls Royces and Bentleys, was happening at the same time. When Minton tarried a little too long at **Leixlip Castle** and was left by his group, he very quickly accepted the invitation for a ride back to Carton House in a vintage Rolls Royce. "There I was, driving through the misty Irish countryside in a 1935 Bentley, >>



ABOVE: Boy's nursery designed by Margaret Chambers. BELOW LEFT: Joe Minton's wild ride. BELOW RIGHT: Malabar fabrics from ID Collection.



surrounded by other vintage cars, some convertibles with drivers in leather helmets and goggles. I felt like I was in a **Merchant Ivory** movie," Minton says.

After enjoying such highbrow culture, one needs to get a little down and dirty. So, it was on to London for dinner with **Jerry Hall**, who was in the market for a couple of handsome escorts to the wedding of the daughter of Rolling Stones' **Ronnie Wood** at his Holmwood House estate. Local art rep **Kristy Stubbs**, who represents both Jerry and her sister **Terry's** daughters' artwork, was there and actually snuck a forbidden camera into the ceremony. It was a perfect midsummer night's dream, and the setting would have made **Shakespeare** proud. Acres of gardens were festooned with twinkling lights, and little people dressed as elves wandered around keeping things interesting, though they were hardly necessary. Guests included the **Rolling Stones** (of

course), **Pattie Boyd** (the inspiration for **Eric Clapton's** classic song "Layla"), model **Kate Moss**, **Issey Miyake**, and artist **Tracey Emin**. This probably dates me, but I love seeing those old rock and rollers just keep going.

TREND WATCH

I'm seeing a certain Native American influence in the showrooms. Don't worry, I'm not talking about that faux Southwest style with howling coyotes and turquoise beads. I'm talking about the sophistication of pattern that was part of the original American style. You can't see a **David Hicks** fabric or a **Bottega Veneta** couture bag without noticing the concentric circles and zigzagging designs that were first seen on blankets and hides. **Jim Williamson**, creative director at **ID Collection**, notes, "I see how both Native American and African-American art tie in closely as inspiration for the new geometric designs and textures, including



EDELMAN LEATHER'S "HIDE."

the new embroidery patterns from Malabar." **Edelman Leather** has introduced Wild Hide, a free-range cowhide tanned in the original manner and colors of buckskin. It's all completely natural and authentic. Also, check out painted hides with an adaptation of the Indian symbol for friendship. You might even get your own dream catcher—the ancient spider web weaving used to put over your bed to capture your good dreams. In this economy, you just might need it. **D**

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HOUSES in DALLAS

OUR LIST CAN BE SUMMED UP IN TWO WORDS. Curb appeal. We asked more than 30 of our favorite people around town to name their favorite house—everyone from interior designers such as Sherry Hayslip and Betty Lou Phillips and real estate agents like Ebby Halliday and Dave Perry-Miller to “celebrities” such as *Dallas Morning News* columnist Alan Peppard and actress Stephanie March. The catch: we were interested in exterior only. We had no desire to scale 10-foot walls, and never mind the adage that it’s what’s on the inside that counts. We don’t care a whit about that. For our list, dear readers, it’s only the outside that counts. Have an opinion? Check out our web site at www.dmagazine.com/toptenhouses, and vote on your favorite of the bunch, download our driving map. You can also send accolades or angry rants, and even send in pictures of your personal favorites. Who knows? Maybe your suggestions will make the list next year.

All bedroom/bathroom and year-built information is from www.dallasstar.org.



4800 PRESTON RD.

NEIGHBORHOOD: Highland Park **BUILT:** 2001 **STATS:** 6 bedrooms, 9 bathrooms **ARCHITECT:** Quinlan Terry
WHY WE CHOSE IT: Every time we drive by, we want to stop and gaze at this mansion. We don’t dare, though, as it is all too likely that doing so will cause a 10-car pile-up on Preston Road. “This house is pure perfection, with wonderful views of the creek. Dallas is lucky to have it,” antiques dealer Betty Gertz says. Her friend and colleague Joseph Minton agrees. “It’s a perfect example of Palladian architecture—wonderfully scaled,” he says. “It will be better in 25 years, more beautiful in 50 years, and stunning in 100 years.”

Text by THE D HOME EDITORS

Photography by SCOTT WOHACK (2001) MARK MCWILLIAMS