

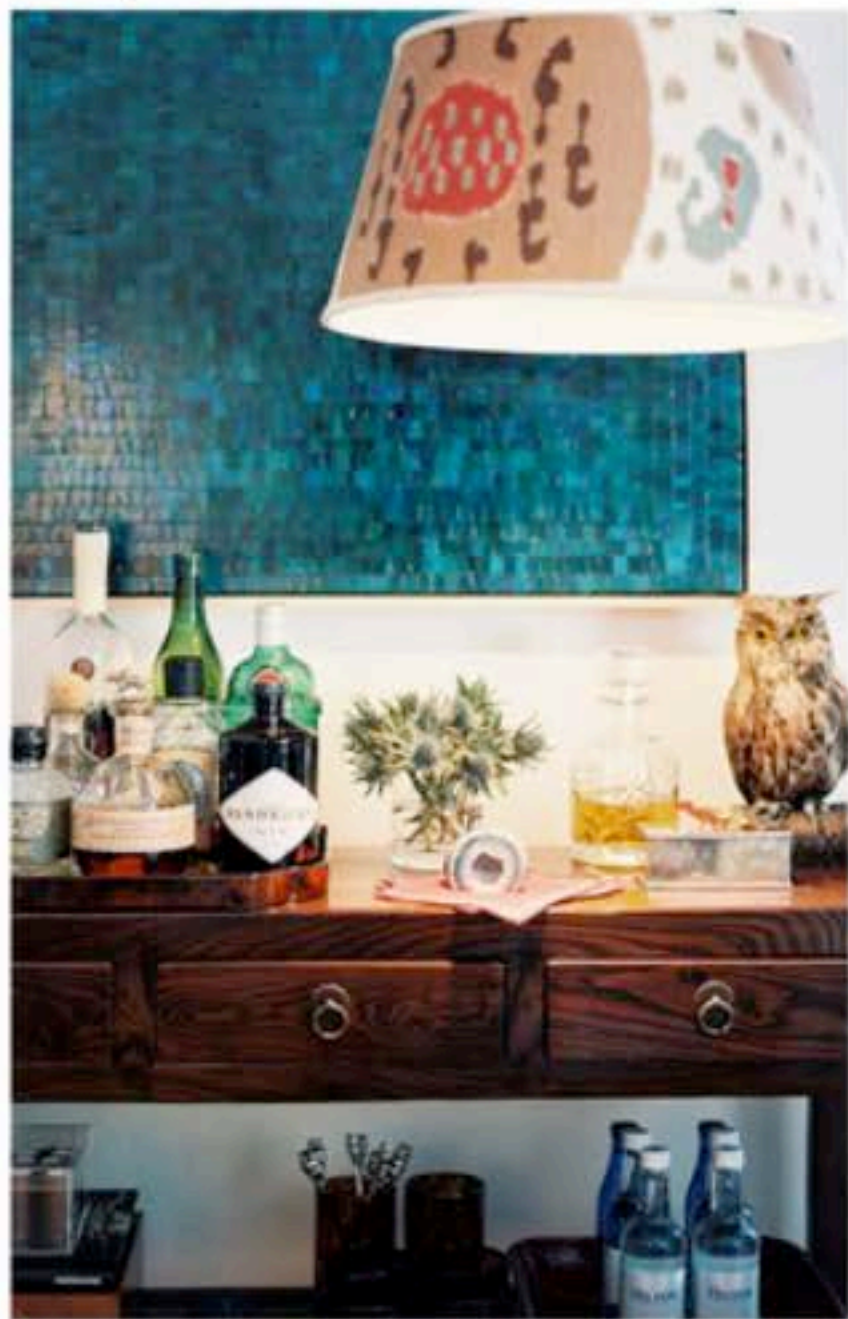


*new* traditional  
SUYSEL DEPEDRO CUNNINGHAM & ANNE MAXWELL FOSTER

## Country Cosmopolitan

Suysel dePedro Cunningham and Anne Maxwell Foster share an affinity for the city of Boston, from its clam chowder to its Newbury Street shopping. Both women went to college and met their husbands there, and their passion for the city, along with a shared love of visual design, resulted in an instant bond when the pair first met through a mutual friend in New York City. "Our love for Boston and our insane passion for interiors sealed our fate as great friends and eventual business partners," says Cunningham.

Working at separate design firms when they met, the two joined forces in 2010 and opened Tilton Fenwick, a home furnishings boutique and design studio in the Flatiron District of Manhattan whose name is derived from a combination of their college dormitories' names. For the duo, who share the same taste in everything "from furniture to nail polish," the partnership has been "a dream." "It's the perfect example of a creative collaboration without compromise," says Foster. "Though



"The living room is where we relax and have fun," says Cunningham. "We were going for comfort." Markham Roberts, Cunningham's previous employer and mentor, took the photograph above the sofa. **Opposite left:** An owl keeps watch over the liquor cabinet. **Opposite right:** A painting by Alex Schuchard rests on a side table.



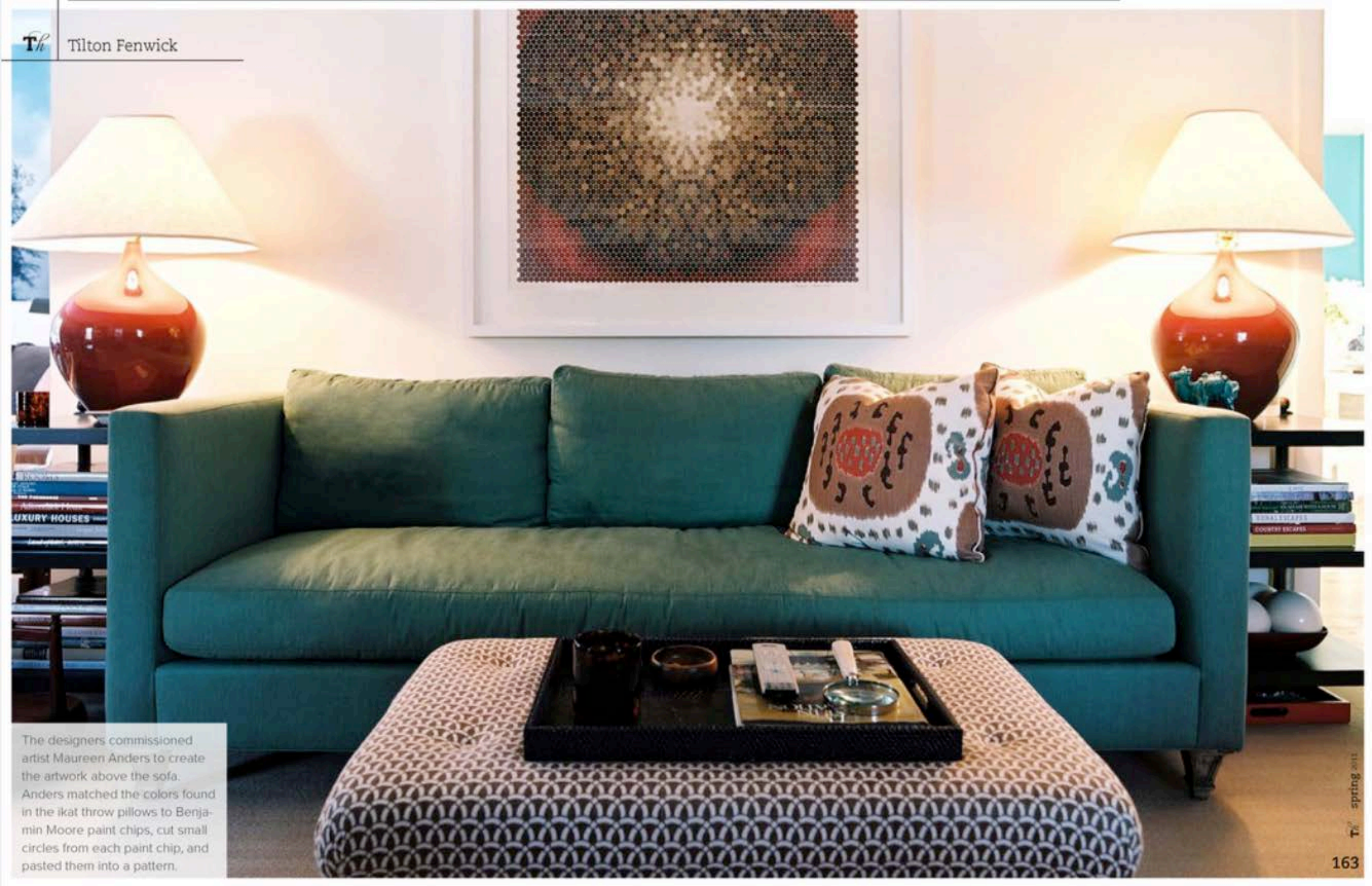
our tastes are eerily similar, we also push each other creatively."

When Cunningham purchased a home in Woodstock, New York, she and Foster took the opportunity to flex their creative muscles on what had been at the time of purchase a "virtually uninhabitable" farmhouse built in the 1890s. Every wall had to be taken down to the studs and the kitchen and bathrooms gutted. "It's a true decorator's dream to start from scratch," says Cunningham, "but a homeowner's nightmare!"

Once the demolition was over, however,

the pair began to execute their vision. "We recognized the beauty and quirks that already existed," says Foster, "and we highlighted its old charm while making it comfortable and playful."

Employing unexpected color, pattern, and whimsy, they transformed the farmhouse from an unsightly wreck to a cheerful getaway that's representative of the Tilton Fenwick aesthetic. "We're all about uncovering hidden harmonies," says Cunningham. "We have fun, we love what we do, and we hope our interiors always reflect that."

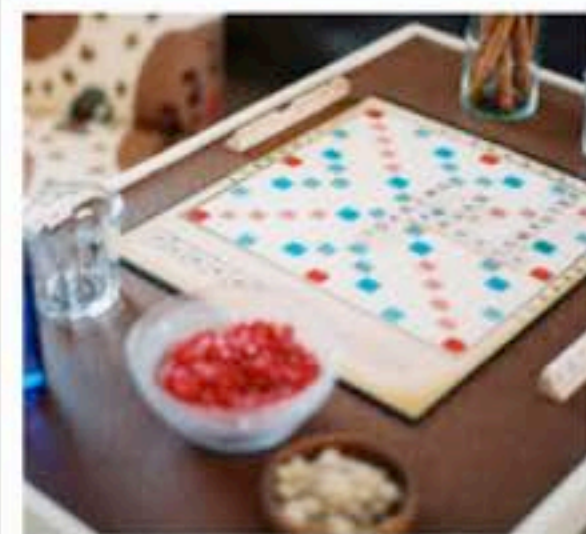


The designers commissioned artist Maureen Anders to create the artwork above the sofa. Anders matched the colors found in the ikat throw pillows to Benjamin Moore paint chips, cut small circles from each paint chip, and pasted them into a pattern.



**Left:** Cunningham and Foster chose the muted ikat fabric on the slipper chairs for its rustic charm. The ceramic stool is from James Sansum; the mirror and papier-mâché deer head above the fireplace were found online.

**Below:** An unfinished Scrabble game sits on a faux-ostrich side table. "Suyse's house is all about lighting a fire, playing games, relaxing, and unwinding," says Foster. "Fortunately, I'm invited often!"



## what *traditional* means to us

Traditional means an English roll-arm sofa upholstered in a new, bold print fabric; a vintage table lamp perched on a Lucite side table; or a modern graphic print displayed in an antique frame. Traditional always involves a contemporary outlook on what is inherently considered classic. Playing with classic shapes, bold color, traditional silhouettes, and fresh patterns, we always exude a classic sensibility with a twist of the unexpected in our interiors.

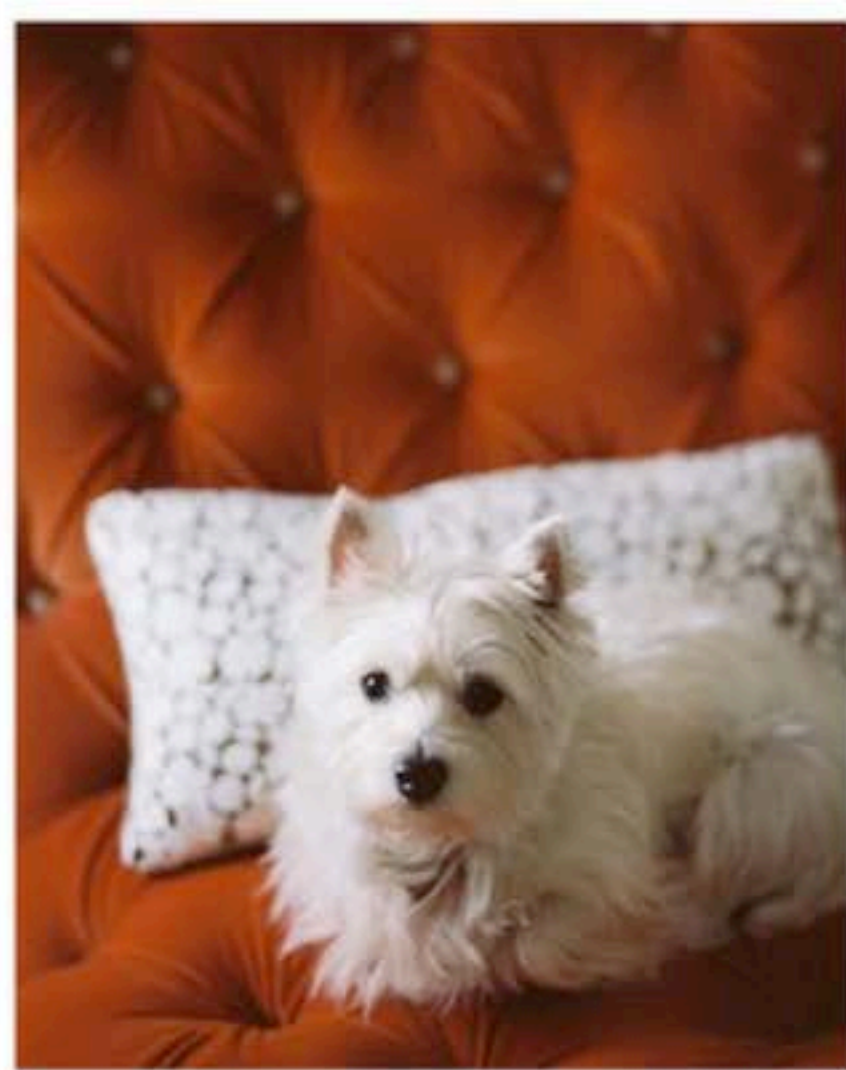


To create a sense of continuity between the dining and living areas, the designers chose a turquoise paint color for the dining room's walls to reference similar shades found in the living room's artwork and furnishings. A contemporary Parsons-style dining table is paired with whimsical chairs from Baker. "It's nice to have something modern upstate," says Foster. "It's unexpected and not too country-kitsch."

The John Robshaw duvet inspired the guest room's color scheme. The peacock above the bed is a flea-market find the designers revitalized with spray paint; the bed is from Restoration Hardware. **Right:** The custom wallpaper in the guest bedroom features Tilton Fenwick's peacock logo. "We're so in love with [the logo] that we figured, why not?" says Foster. A sisal rug lends balance to the room's blend of patterns.



"We wanted the master bedroom to be colorful and a little funkier," says Cunningham. "It needed that wow factor." **Opposite left:** They found the chaise lounge on eBay. The textile above the mantel is by French designer Paule Marrot. **Opposite right:** Dallas, Foster's West Highland Terrier, is a fan of Cunningham's home. "She loves it upstate!" says Foster. **Opposite below:** A vintage chest of drawers doubles as a display shelf.



## Tips FROM THE Trade

- Nº 1** Don't be afraid to use bold patterns and colors in small spaces. These are often the best spots to go big and bold with wallpaper!
- Nº 2** Large-scale graphic patterns in neutral colorways are a great way to add interest to a larger room without going overboard.
- Nº 3** Wallpaper can make great art. Have a large piece framed in a Lucite shadowbox for a statement piece with less commitment.
- Nº 4** Never be afraid to hang artwork or prints over bold wallpaper; the mix of patterns and colors adds interest and depth.
- Nº 5** Wallpapered ceilings can add drama to any room and, when paired with a neutral wall color, can make a subtler statement.

