

DES MOINES

# HOMESTYLE

YOUR SPACE. YOUR LOOK. YOUR LIFE!

## Think outside the house

- Plan a patio party
- Discover the beauty of bulbs
- Create your ideal outdoor space
- Gorgeous golf course homes

## Form and balance

Amanda Reynal brings her  
worldly style to Iowa



DES MOINES  
**HOMESTYLE**

Editor  
Jane Schorer Meisner  
Presentation Editor  
Nathan Groepper  
Associate Editor  
Joe Hawkins  
Staff Writers  
Patt Johnson  
Jennifer Miller  
Dawn Sagario Pauls

Designers  
Amanda Holladay  
Arnie Brown  
Staff Photographer  
James D. Fidler

**To place an ad call:**  
Mary Gatliff  
(515) 284-8701 or  
(515) 238-9308  
Shane Morris  
(515) 284-8526

Des Moines Register  
Magazine Division  
Assistant Managing Editor  
Vickie D. Ashwill  
Vice President, Content  
Carolyn Washburn  
Vice President, Advertising  
Kevin Hall  
President and Publisher  
Laura Hollingsworth

**Contact us:**  
Des Moines  
**HOMESTYLE**  
P.O. Box 957  
Des Moines, Iowa 50306  
e-mail:  
jmeisner@dmreg.com

To subscribe to Des Moines  
**HOMESTYLE** magazine, call  
(515) 284-8060.

These materials are the sole and exclusive  
property of the Des Moines Register &  
Tri-State Co. and are not to be used without  
its written permission.

© 2009 Des Moines Register & Tri-State Co.

# may

## CONTENTS

### EVERY HOUSE HAS A STORY

- 18 Putting and poker** Paul and Ruth Poli's home near Polk City accommodates card games, practice putting and movie-watching.
- 26 Back in town** Spencer and Randi Vance gave up country living to return to Ankeny.

### OUTDOOR LIVING

- 12 Planning smart** Experts tell how to design and create the perfect porch, deck or patio.
- 14 The power of a pretty yard** How to master well-done landscaping.
- 16 Bulb bonanza** Flowering bulbs provide beauty all season long.

### ENTERTAINING

- 36 Patio party** Tips and recipes for easy entertaining outdoors.
- 42 Just like home** Accessories for your deck or patio that make the space feel like an extra room.

### FEATURES

- 7 Seasonal change-out** Revitalize your home for spring with bright colors and bold patterns.
- 44 Distinctive designer** Amanda Reynal's style gets noticed in Des Moines and nationwide.



Cover: Accessories in the Des Moines home of designer Amanda Reynal demonstrate her focus on proportion, form and balance. Photo by James D. Fidler.



distinctive  
designer

# Amanda Reynal

Stints in  
New York,  
Europe  
influence  
her style

by **DAWN SAGARIO PAULS**  
photos by **JAMES D. FIDLER**

As interior designer Amanda Reynal walks through her 1912 stucco, South-of-Grand home, she steps into her favorite room, the place where she and her husband, Michael, love to entertain.

The dining room features a mix of contemporary and classic — the modern lamps, dining chairs and rug share the space with antiques. Art by Reynal's husband and his great aunt add vibrant touches.

The space is not only attractive, but it's a place where everyone can feel comfortable. That's a key element for Reynal, who started Reynal Interiors in 2001.

"Most of my clients have young children and families, and they want to be able to entertain at home and have a great party. The nights when they're at home with their family, they also want to be comfortable," says Reynal, 37, who has two sons, Henry, 8, and George, 5. "The most important thing is for a family to be happy in a home and to be able to use their home."

Reynal was one of 20 young designers featured in the April issue of *Traditional*.

Amanda Reynal emphasizes comfort in her interior designs.



  
**IMAGINATIONS**  
INTERIOR DESIGN



JENNIFER MCLELLAN

CHERI BRICHETTO

KAREN LANTZ

RITA PELTZ

9379 SWANSON BLVD.

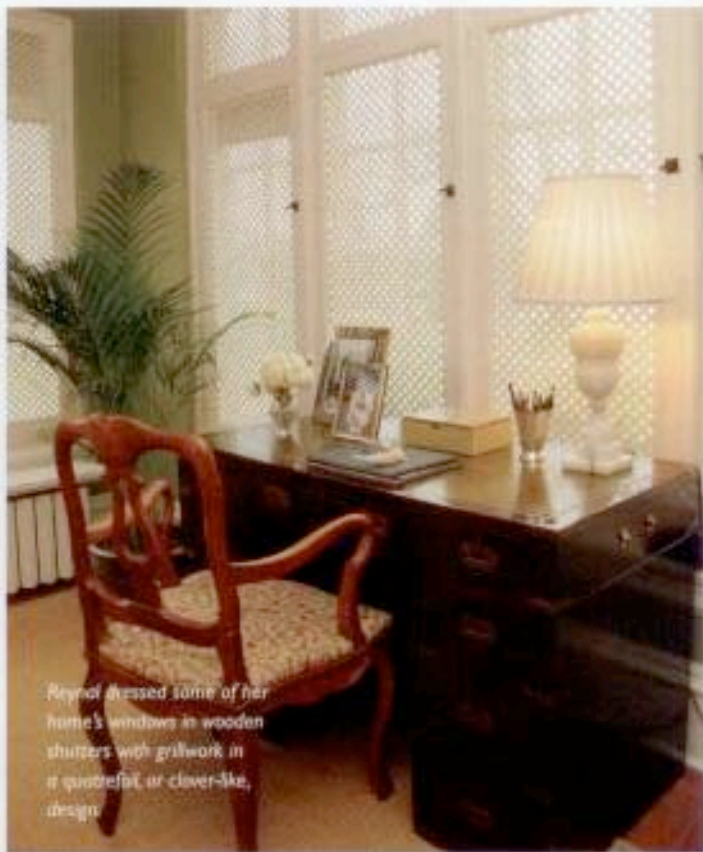
CLIVE, IOWA

251-7270





Reynal's dining room, her favorite space in her house, is mostly neutral. She uses napkins and flowers to add color and interest.



Reynal dressed some of her home's windows in wooden shutters with grillwork in a quarefial or clover-like design.

home magazine. She has a bachelor's degree in art history and has studied art and design in London, Florence and throughout Europe.

"I really honed my style and design aesthetic working in New York at a big design firm there, Cullman & Kravis. Before that, I also worked for an architect in New

York," says Reynal.

Most of her clients live in the South-of-Grand and Waterbury neighborhoods in Des Moines. Her projects include a mid-century ranch renovation, a brick Georgian home and a Tudor.

We asked Reynal about her design style and the latest design trends:

#### How would you describe your design style?

I think that the home I'm working on really has to dictate the style in which it should be decorated. That, coupled with the client's preferences, is really vital in coming up with a style. My style is really grounded in traditional roots of proportion and form and balance.

CONTINUED >>

**Quality Landscaping for Outdoor Living**

**Capital LANDSCAPING**

- Patios
- Walls
- Outdoor Kitchens
- Fire Places
- Water Features
- Lawn Maintenance
- Night Lighting

capitalawncarelandscaping.com **277-0246**



... It's always important to use classic forms and classic styles ... so that the design stands the test of time and isn't a fashionable whim.

### Is it acceptable to mix favorite pieces of furniture of different styles?

A room that's all done in one style and one period becomes really one-dimensional. There's a way to do it properly, and it can look really fabulous when it's done right. It all depends on the scale of the piece, what you mix with another piece, color and finish.

### How did you design your dining room, and why is it your favorite in the house?

I'm a big fan of color, and I chose a neutral color in our dining room because I love changing table settings and using different napkins and different colors of flowers. We've had countless, wonderful dinner parties in that dining room, and so many fun memories have been created in there.

### What's the hottest trend in home design right now?

One of them is natural fibers, which goes



Reynold's living room has a traditional feel. During economic downturns, she says, clients tend to gravitate toward more familiar design themes. "Florals are coming back and chintzes," she says. "I'm happy to see it."

along with the eco-friendly movement. I think we see this trend happen frequently when we're in a down market — people hearken back to more safe decisions, more traditional (and) prettier. Florals are coming back and chintzes. I'm happy to see it.

### What are several simple, fairly inexpensive ways to breathe new life into room?

Paint the walls. Changing lighting can really create a mood and an atmosphere. Another thing that is a great way to change your room is to repaint or reupholster furniture. ❁

Sculpted Plaster  
Decorative Paint Finishes  
Stucco • Old World Designs  
Interior and Exterior

The  
**Finished**  
*Edge*

**515-261-7200**  
Des Moines, Iowa

Visit our web site: [www.thefinishededge.com](http://www.thefinishededge.com)

*What we do...*  
We create distinctive spaces for outdoor living.

**PERENNIAL GARDENS**  
BY LINDA BRISVE, INC.

*Why we are different...*

**Installation** We really know our stuff  
We have landscape architects, certified nursery professionals and top-notch installers.

**Design** and most of all... WE LISTEN!

*Where to find us...*

**Garden Management** 1633 NW 84th Avenue  
Ankeny, Iowa  
515.964.7702  
[www.perennialgardens.biz](http://www.perennialgardens.biz)