

JULY 2008

House Beautiful

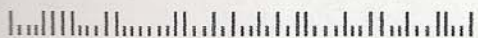
SMALL
SPACE

do's & don'ts

HOW TO CREATE YOUR OWN PERSONAL STYLE IN ANY SIZE ROOM

SECRETS
OF A 6x8
KITCHEN

#BXBCGBD **CR LOT 0114A**C-006
#HBUD036736676/6# RQ
0006 AUTO-CA 00012 A10
LAURA KIRAR JUL09
RM 810
611 BROADWAY
NEW YORK NY 10012-2648



EVERYWHERE WE LOOK...

Circles

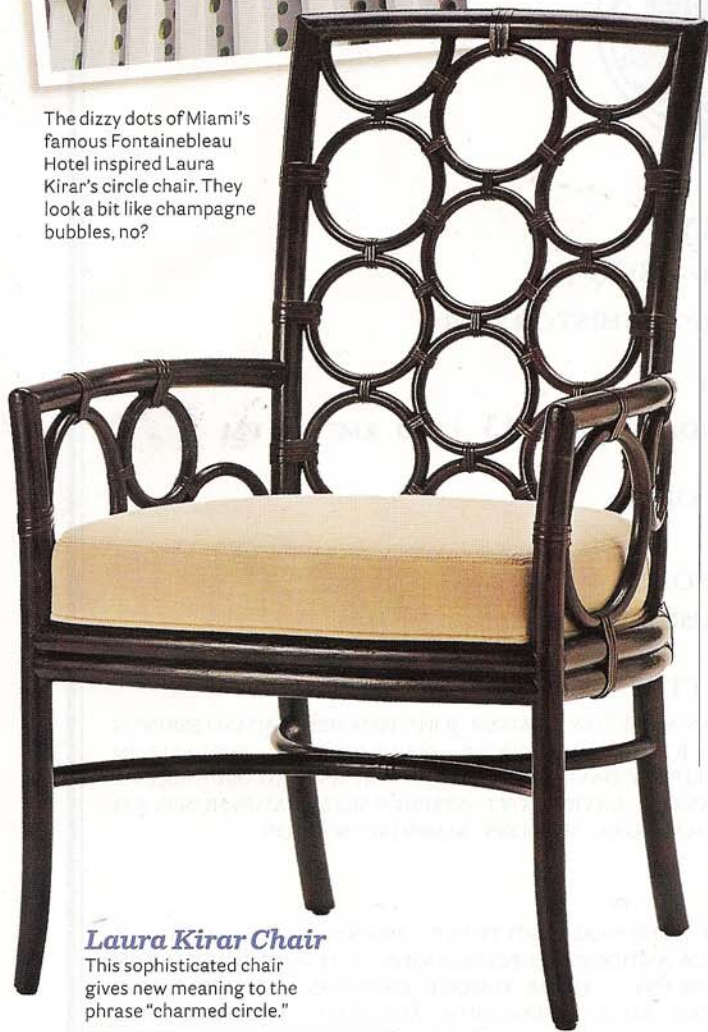
The circle is the perfect shape: it has no beginning and no end, and it's so easy on the eye. No wonder it's such a popular decorative motif

Written by
JENNIFER DWYER

Produced by
KENNY GEE



The dizzy dots of Miami's famous Fontainebleau Hotel inspired Laura Kirar's circle chair. They look a bit like champagne bubbles, no?



Laura Kirar Chair

This sophisticated chair gives new meaning to the phrase "charmed circle."

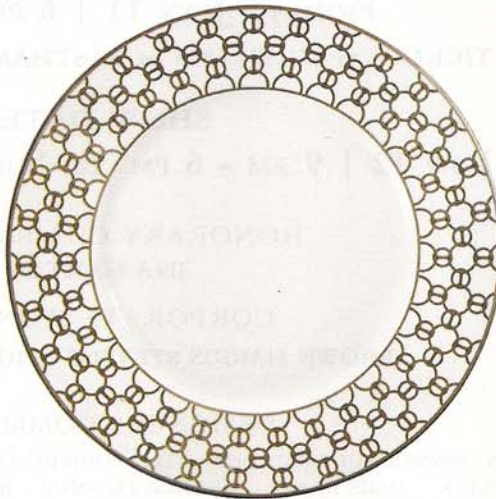
Laura Kirar Dining Arm Chair, \$3,700 each. MCGUIRE FURNITURE COMPANY: 800-662-4847; mcguirefurniture.com.



Tile

Billy Baldwin once said, "There's chic in repetition." I think this tile reflects that sentiment perfectly.

Beau Monde-Cary, \$185/sq. ft.
ANN SACKS: 800-278-8453;
annsacks.com.



Hermès China

This pattern is a bit reminiscent of chain mail. It's medieval gone glam.

Fil d'argent Dinner Plate, \$200 each.
LA TABLE HERMÈS: 800-441-4488.

A Little Backstory

Designers can't seem to get enough of the circle, and the more, the better. They connect them, loop them, lock them together. Those glamorous Art Deco designers Emile-Jacques Ruhlmann and René Prou used looping circles on their furniture. So did Frances Elkins on her iconic 1930s Loop chair. David Hicks was connecting circles in a totally mod way on his carpets in the '60s. Fast-forward to today: Charlotte Moss connects them on her Elsie china [charlottemoss.com], Barbara Barry on her Inlay fabric [kravet.com], Kelly Hoppen on her ring screen [centuryfurniture.com]. But the most famous interlocked circles in my mind are the Olympic rings—so sporty, don't you agree? >>

THE LAST WORDS

What's the biggest mistake people make with a small space? Oh, dear: you, too? Eight interior designers share what they know about getting it right

Interviews by SHAX RIEGLER



“Playing it safe. Instead, put a large-scale printed fabric or wallpaper on the walls and even the ceiling. It’s easier, safer, and less expensive to be dramatic in a small space. You might get tired of a bold print in the main living area, but it can make a smaller, less-used room an exciting space to spend time.”

VICTORIA NEALE

“Cramming the space with too much stuff. A large piece of furniture can actually make the space feel larger, as long as it’s selected carefully. For instance, if you have the benefit of high ceilings, a tall cabinet appropriately placed has the effect of drawing one’s eye upward and away from the small footprint of the room. Just make sure every piece counts and holds its place and lets your eye rest.”

LAURA KIRAR

“Not strategizing. Decide everything that needs to happen in a room, and then work that legerdemain, baby. Divide a room geometrically into task-oriented zones—working, sleeping, relaxing, dining. Think in halves, quarters, or even on the diagonal and assign a function to each section.”

ELAINE GRIFFIN

“Not paying enough attention to the color of flooring and walls. Lighter walls and lighter floors do automatically give the illusion of more space.”

MARY MCGEE

“People think that they need to use small furniture and light colors to make a small room look big, but that’s not the case at all. Dark colors and just a few pieces of large-scale furniture, with the appropriate lighting and accessories, can give a room a larger, more luxurious feel.”

MONA HAJJ

“Proportion and scale are vital. Custom upholstery is essential if you want to avoid burdening a room with furniture that looks like it’s on steroids. You should have furniture made in the correct width, height, and depth for the scale of a room. For smaller rooms, I try to avoid anything over 36 inches deep. Better not to overpower a room with the steroid-injected, super-deep models made to fill titanic spaces in McMansions. Bigger is not always better.”

TODD KLEIN

“Often, a small space is a missed opportunity. Turn it into a jewel box. For instance, I turned a small room in my apartment into a luxurious retreat. I upholstered the walls in a soft chalk-striped brown wool flannel, coffered the ceiling applying custom-designed ‘faux bois’ wall covering in the coffers, laid a plush red carpet, installed a flat-screen TV on a flexible mount, hung an oversize faux-tortoise-frame mirror to create more dimension, and, finally, designed a custom-made sectional sofa to optimize the space. Now it’s a cozy space my whole family uses.”

PHILIP GORRIVAN

“White walls. Paint the room a dark charcoal gray or Ralph Lauren’s Black Truffles, one of my favorites. This will actually really open up the space.”

PAUL MATHIEU