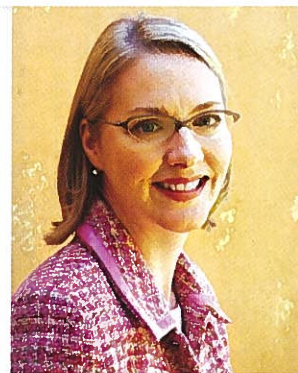


Carleton Varney is the president/owner of Dorothy Draper & Co. Inc., the oldest established interior design firm in the United States named after its legendary founder, Dorothy Draper, considered one of the doyennes of interior design in the United States. Carleton is associated with the restoration and decoration of countless hotels and resorts all over the world, including castles in Ireland and hotels in Europe and the United States, including The Breakers in Palm Beach, The Waldorf Towers (New York City), Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island (Michigan) and The Greenbrier, White Sulphur Springs (West Virginia). He has decorated Governor's mansions, the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, and the Official Vice President's House in Washington, D.C. His versatility in design can be seen in the wide range of products that bears his mark, from dinnerware to scarves to furniture lines. Carleton's design philosophy stresses "the use of bright colors and the rejection of all that is impractical, uncomfortable and drab." Find Carleton's homage to Ms. Draper in this month's essay (page 49).

Mia Malm spent 20 years pounding the boards of Broadway and international stages before dancing her way into a new career in public relations. In 2005, she relocated from New York City to the Napa Valley, where she is learning to garden around gophers instead of pigeons. Not only has she had to adjust to a whole new climate, different plants and the lack of rain from May to September, but she also had to brush up on her driving skills after years of using public transit or hitting the streets on foot. In this issue, Mia recounts some of her experiences as a part of New York's volunteer group The Garden People ("Flower Power," page 53).



Heather Oliver is a freelance writer based in Suwanee, Georgia who loves to spend time with her husband Carey and two-and-a-half-year-old son Will. In addition to her "hometown" Atlanta Botanical Garden, she has visited The Royal Botanic Gardens Kew and Hampton Court Palace Gardens in London and the Gardens at the Palace of Versailles in Paris. She hopes to someday stroll through the Keukenhof flower garden in Holland during the height of tulip season. Read Heather's interview with floral designer Amy Osaba (page 76) and find out her favorites from Atlanta's Southeastern Flower Show ("In the Event," page 25) in this issue.



Emmy award-winning television producer and writer **Conne Ward-Cameron** has been creating gardening, cooking, and documentary stories for more than 20 years. She produced several national cooking and gardening series, including "Nathalie Dupree Cooks" and "The Well-Placed Weed" for public television in addition to working with HGTV. She gardens in Atlanta, her passion for growing things nurtured through involvement with numerous plant societies and inspired by the wonderful gardens around her. Conne writes for the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* and has contributed to *Veranda* and *Chicago Home & Garden*. This month, Conne portrays well-known Atlanta garden designer Ryan Gainey and his fabulous arrangement for a dear friend (page 64).



Interior shots of a private residence decorated by Carleton Varney. Carleton was inspired by Dorothy's belief that the garden and its colors should be brought inside the house with the liberal use of flowery chintz in upholstery and even in the wall covering in the entrance hall.

(photo credit: Peter Vitale)



Dorothy Draper, circa 1958



flowers, flowers everywhere

The perennial style of American icon Dorothy Draper

BY CARLETON VARNEY

DOROTHY DRAPER, the decorator credited with having turned the art of interior design into a profession (way back in the early 1900's when no one ever heard of a school of interior design), loved flowers, particularly roses. She was forever filling hotels and resorts around the world with floral chintzes for curtains, bed skirts, lobby upholstery, and table covers.

The Greenbrier Hotel in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, as well as the famous Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island sing the Dorothy Draper song...flowers, flowers, everywhere.

"Why live in a drab world, when you can fill your room with the colors of a summer garden?" Mrs. Draper would often say. Dorothy Draper's neutral colors were not gray or beige, but rather soft jonquil yellow, cosmos pink, light lavender, mint green and Jefferson blue. These were the neutrals she used as background colors for her never-to-be-forgotten rooms.

The "Draper Touch" has been sweeping America through the decades, most recently with an exhibition titled "In the Pink" that ran from December 2006 to March 2007 at The Women's Museum in Fair Park, Texas.

For those of you who want to brush up on your Dorothy Draper history, pick up a copy of *In the Pink: Dorothy Draper—America's Most Fabulous Decorator* or the newly re-issued *Decorating Is Fun* by Mrs. Draper herself (from Painted Leaf Press). Both books highlight the style that made Dorothy Draper an American legend.

Here are some Dorothy Draper pointers to consider when decorating your own home:

1. Install a black-and-white marble floor—18-inch squares, please—in your foyer, living room, dining room, wherever. Make sure the black and white tiles are very clean and free of veining as much as possible, and definitely make certain that they are laid on the diagonal.
2. Install a white-painted dado and a white-painted chair rail, a requirement in a room with the Dorothy Draper look. Use the "snowiest" white paint you can find.
3. Paint the ceilings a Thomas Jefferson pale aqua blue. Mrs. Draper liked people to look up and see the sky in her interiors.
4. Above the chair rail, use a clear Dorothy Draper color, like her favorite aqua blue, soft yellow, or neutral pale pink. Or, as she often did, choose striped wallpaper in a rich hunter green and white of a 3- or 5-inch width. Sometimes in really large spaces, she would use stripes 15 inches wide.
5. Find happy, full-blown, flowery chintz for the draperies and upholstery in a room that features stripes. Mrs. Draper believed stripes were the common denominator in decorating and that stripes and flowery chintz were a romantic combination. Don't think that green and white stripes belong only on Ascot awnings; Mrs. Draper used stripes on window shades as well.
6. A Dorothy Draper room always required some touches of black. These could be lampshades, a Chinese-style coffee table, a pair of black-lacquer or porcelain end tables, or simply a black-lacquer box.
7. Put braided trim on comfortable chairs and sofas (Mrs. Draper loved fringe). Don't hang a single curtain without giving it an edge or two of handsome braiding or long bullion fringe, maybe 6 to 8 inches long. Big braided tie backs are also a must. ✧