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3 the sophisticate
christina murphy
NEW YORK CITY

Growing up in Palm Beach, FL, Murphy, 36, was dazzled by the grand houses decorated by stars such as Alberto Pinto, David Easton and Mark Hampton. "I felt so lucky to go into those places," she says, praising Hampton's color choices and Pinto's sense of proportion and scale. But Murphy describes her own taste as quieter, not as preppy and less pattern-heavy than the classic Palm Beach look. "I like a place for a person to have her thoughts," she says. While studying at the New York School of Interior Design, Murphy joined forces with childhood friend Celerie Kemble at Kemble Interiors, then branched out on her own a year and a half ago, executing projects of varied styles, united by a clean refinement.

tip: Play up a room's assets. If it has high ceilings, put up really tall curtains. If it's a dark box, don't try to alter it—painting it bright white will only make it seem dingy; instead, go for cozy.

Will do individual rooms or homes; works for set design fee (not by the hour), plus 50 percent markup; rooms from about \$30,000, homes from about \$300,000. CHRISTINA MURPHY INTERIORS, (212) 842-0773; CHRISTINAMURPHYINTERIORS.COM



A chocolate-brown wicker settee turns a nook into a mini spot for two.



Murphy embellished a sunken area in a client's Long Island beach house with hand-painted lily pads.



A Karl Springer-esque table, vintage starburst mirror and Mecox Garden chairs in the entryway capture the home's lighthearted, pop-y feel.



Murphy highlighted the house's pedigree with '70s fabrics and colors.

