

# inspiration!

## 5 Design Challenges and How They Were Solved

THESE FAMILIES WANTED TO USE PARTS OF THEIR HOMES IN VERY SPECIFIC WAYS. PROBLEM WAS, THE SPACES WEREN'T COOPERATING. TO THE RESCUE: AWARD-WINNING SOLUTIONS FROM TOP NEW JERSEY DESIGNERS.

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Success in interior design doesn't come from following rules and formulas. It comes from listening to clients and translating their wishes—no matter how idiosyncratic—into reality. — In fact, individual desire presents interior designers with the kind of unexpected challenges they thrive on. It's the essential inspiration that unlocks their creativity. As a good interior designer can show you, living exactly the way you want to is the beginning and the end of great design. — Each year, the New Jersey chapter of the American Society of Interior Designers holds a competition to determine which residential designs completed during the previous year fully met, in concept and execution, the professional standard for excellence. We've selected five of the 2002 award-winners to illustrate the astonishing variety of challenges facing designers today and the beautiful solutions they create. — No two solutions are alike, just as no two people and no two families are alike. Down to the last detail, these spaces were meticulously designed to make unique individuals happy in that place only they can call "home."

## ◀ a sophisticated ski home

1 For the New Jersey clients of Lori Margolis of Commercial Design Group in Summit, owning a farmhouse in the Colorado mountains means skiing and hiking eight months a year and having friends visit as often as they can. The house needs to accommodate their active lifestyle (and the gear it requires), as well as provide a place for elegant entertaining, and a showcase for their museum-quality art collection. Margolis obliged with a makeover of the 5,600 square-foot house that emphasizes clean straight lines and solid surfaces. The handsome tongue-and-groove wood ceilings never need painting. Flooring made from local Colorado stone is a

seamless extension of the great outdoors: It is impervious to repeated assaults from muddy boots, bike treads and ski poles, all of which get stowed well out of sight in a utility space under the stairs. Rugged wood planking makes up the simple steps that lead to a suite for a college-aged daughter. Throughout the spacious, airy home, the furnishings focus on function first but with a noticeably sophisticated style—no antlers, no wagon wheels, no frames made of birch bark. Strength of design is married to strength of material to make every corner an appealing expression of personal tradition and taste, but without any clutter at all.



## ◀ a terrace transformed

2 Not everybody needs a house and not everybody wants one. But almost everybody craves a private corner outdoors where he or she can relax, maybe even tend to plant or two. Beth Insabella Walsh of Insabella Design in Red Bank took the standard concrete slab affixed to a modern high-rise apartment and transformed it into this enchanting garden room for a busy single executive. Porcelain tiles now mask the concrete, upgrading the space to elegance. A bright yellow canopy hangs above, guaranteeing a splash of sunshine whatever the weather. Images of Caribbean women balancing baskets atop their heads grace the removable cushions, and the breezy feel of life at the beach is carried through with the all-weather, mosaic table. The curving metalwork on the outdoor furniture echoes the private garden theme of an antique gate nearby, purchased by the owner to serve as a trellis for climbing vines. An ideal perch for reading the morning newspaper or watching the world go by, it's also a wonderful place for entertaining *al fresco*.

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