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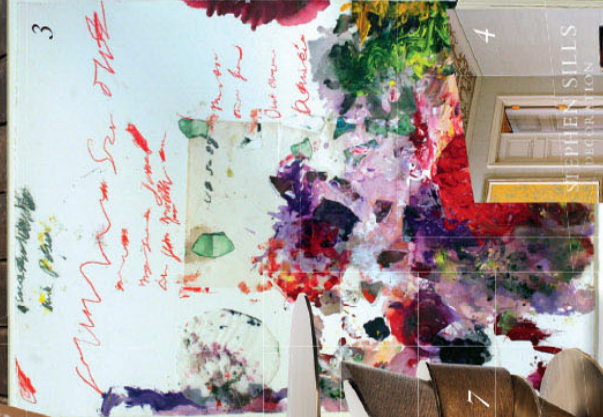
Refined tastes
Interior designer Thomas Hamel has
a finely honed sense of style.



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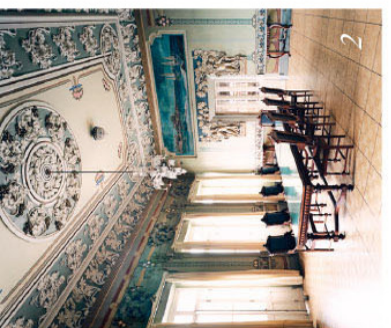
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Which artist has been an enduring influence? Cy Twombly is a favourite. I was introduced to his work [3] in a John Saladino interior. What contemporary art do you most admire? I'm a fan of photography and I love the large interior images by Candida Höfer. [2] Do you collect anything? Oh boy do I collect! I can't resist items from ancient civilisations – my number one gallery would have to be Douglas Dawson in Chicago – I really want his entire stock. [5] Fashion must-haves? Brunello Cucinelli is my first choice for 'city' clothes [8], and Russo Uomo in Capri is a highlight of my visits. Favourite watch? The Hermès 'Cape Cod' GM with a taupe band [9], but sometimes I take it off for my Panerai divers watch. Fragrance of choice? Acqua di Parma is the best – I swap sometimes but I particularly like Fico di Amalfi. [6] Books – what are you reading now –fiction and art/design? Historical biographies are first choice and, being a Virginian, Jon Meacham's Thomas Jefferson: The Art of Power is fascinating. My current design book favourite is Stephen Sills Decoration. [4] Music – what's on rotation at office and home? We listen to Pandora 'Chill' – everyone in the office needs the calming effect. Favourite flowers? The scent of tuberoses [10] makes them special – they're not easy to find, so phalaenopsis orchids have to suffice. Best downtime (if you ever have any) pursuit? Downtime is usually on Virgin Australia or Qantas. My 'deep breath' time occurs when technology is turned off. Long walks on Cronulla beach are top. Entertaining – at home – and restaurant of choice? With a new Gregorius Pinco dining table from Los Angeles, dinners at home with our Sumatran chef Rita's spicy cooking are the preference. Preferred tipples? I adore margaritas on the rocks – no salt. Films that have inspired you? I loved the black and white interiors of Coco Chanel & Igor Stravinsky – so classy but chic. Shops and online stores you frequent? In Los Angeles its DAO, Gray Gallery [1] and Mecox Gardens. NYC is Cocobolo and Bergdorf Goodman, and in London, Willer always gets my heart pumping. For internet shopping Taigan always offers incredible options. Magazines you read regularly? Of course I start with Belle, then the US standbys: Architectural Digest, Veranda and Elle Decoration but I don't discount Florida Design for an occasional inspiration. Travel – favourite regular haunt and where is on your must-see list? I travel constantly – projects in London, Florida, Telluride, LA and Melbourne keep me hopping. On the wish list is Cape Town. Objects of desire that you would buy right now? I am desperate for a sculpture by Thierry Martenon. Other must-haves are a 'City' chest of drawers by Fiona Barratt Campbell, and a 'Rachis' table from the Hamel + Farrell Collection for Jean de Merry. [7] Visit thomshamel.com