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New Generation

Fresh into her design career, Elizabeth Pyne proves the apple fell very close to the tree

Making a room multifunctional by converting a closet into an office area complete with bookshelves is a way to define space within a small room. Including a pretty daybed adds options to the room; bed from Charles A. Beckley Inc. in fabric from Schumacher.

Furniture selections that are adaptable can help build a collection of well-loved and long-utilized pieces. Imagine this faux marble-topped desk as a console in a hall, a buffet in a dining room, or a bar in the living room.



Functional pieces do not have to sacrifice flair. Marry practicality and sculpture with a statement piece like this black metal chair with exaggerated proportions.

A traditionally influenced fabric such as Osborne & Little's metallic-leaf "Sherwood" fabric looks especially stylish when contrasted with a compilation of contemporary and classic furnishings.



Height, eye color, or mannerisms—some things are genetic. For Elizabeth Pyne, interior design is a prominent trait in her family tree. She grew up browsing antiques shows with her mother and her paternal grandmother, both interior designers.

Surrounded by beautiful things all her life, Elizabeth knew she had a knack for the arts. So after a post-graduation stint at Sotheby's, she joined McMillen Plus in 2009. The company is an offshoot of McMillen Inc., a New York design firm where her mother, Ann Pyne, works her creative magic. McMillen Plus serves a younger clientele, primarily apartment and loft dwellers. "We look for things that our clients can take with them, such as great art and furniture," says Elizabeth.

Such functionality is featured in Elizabeth's sitting room for the Kips Bay Boys & Girls Decorator Showhouse in Manhattan, where typically small dimensions in apartments call for inventive ways to accommodate both lounging and working spaces.

The people who inspired Elizabeth's career continue to be a part of her work today. Hanging above the tufted upholstery of the sofa in her showhouse room, a gold-framed portrait of her grandmother, Evelyn Sloane Pyne, is a reminder of Elizabeth's own career beginnings. "I wanted to emphasize the beauty of incorporating a piece as traditional as a 77-year-old painting into a modern space," she says.

Design gene or not, we feel confident Mom and Grandma would approve of her memorable multipurpose room. ➤

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Our designer says

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