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WHAT I'M CRUSHING ON

Five Savvy Design Finds from Barbara Vanderkolk Gardner

Two knockout lighting fixtures and a special burlwood chest from the owner of Collins Interiors.

With Barbara Vanderkolk Gardner • 6/17/2016 at 9:09am

Interior designer Barbara Vanderkolk Gardner, owner of Sarasota-based Collins Interiors, shares her latest finds.



I am crushing on so many great geometric fabrics, but especially this chic one from Kravet. The aqua, spring green and cream combination works so well in Sarasota's sunshine and would look great as a window treatment, as bedding or as accent pillows. It is a multipurpose embroidered fabric of cotton and poly. Available through the trade.



Holtkoetter manufactures cutting-edge lighting with contemporary styling. This lamp is described as “lighting for the aging eye” because it is dimmable and bright enough for reading or other close work. The beautiful glass shade and metal base are available in several finishes. I prefer this brushed brass version with the warm toned alabaster shade. I have used this on a desk in a condo on the Gulf, but also would use a pair on a console table or buffet. It’s available online through lumens.com.



I am crushing on this Hudson chest from Worlds Away because I love the combination of glossy burl wood with the gold-leaf hardware and trim. Lacquered woods and gold tones are becoming so popular after years of chrome and brushed nickel dominating hardware and accessories. This chest would look terrific in a contemporary home or with more traditional decor. It is available through designers.



I am so enamored of this Baker Solaire light fixture that I purchased it for my own home from the Baker showroom at the Design Center outside Miami. It was designed for Baker by Thomas Pheasant, on whom I definitely have a crush. His pieces are so elegant and feature modern interpretations of classic Greek and Roman forms. It hangs over my very traditional Italian mahogany dining table but could look equally at home over a contemporary glass table. I love the contrast of the faceted wood with wrapped brass “wire” stem and simple linen hatbox style shade.



Ebanista is a California-based company that makes quality furniture with high style inspired by art and antiquities throughout the world. The shape of this Brunello side chair is so sexy, and it also looks supremely comfortable, so important in a dining chair. The back and seat can be covered in any fabric desired by the client. Available through the trade.

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