

STEVEN GAMBREL

Steven Gambrel has the two qualities necessary to pull off tailored interiors with panache: knowledge and confidence. Educated in architecture at the University of Virginia, Gambrel will turn out a room with detailed moldings and perfect proportions, then layer on the colors and pattern. From Belgium come heavily framed mirrors, the purest linen, and chairs and tables with shapely legs of dark wood offset by pale upholstery; from New York's Garment District come topstitched belts transformed into handles for desk drawers. Solids (a sofa done in cocoa-colored silk velvet, a fauteuil upholstered in lime-green leather) play against patterns (a carpet in a David Hicks honeycomb motif, a curtain of Indian batik, cushions in stripes and paisleys). The scrumptious, unexpected colors are always balanced by traditional lines, placing Gambrel's work squarely in the 21st century.

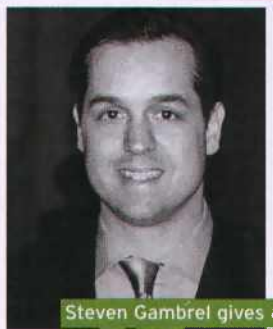
PALETTE Blues ranging from ice to turquoise to lapis; pink; neutrals like linen and straw with accents of red, orange, yellow, and green. Paint colors: Benjamin Moore's Iceberg and Bittersweet, and Farrow & Ball's Parma gray and Ballroom blue.

MATERIALS Great hardware, ash, glossy paint. Belgian linen from Corragio Textiles (www.corragio.com). Wools from Holland & Sherry (44-20/7437-0404). Patterned fabrics from Osborne & Little (44-20/7352-1456).

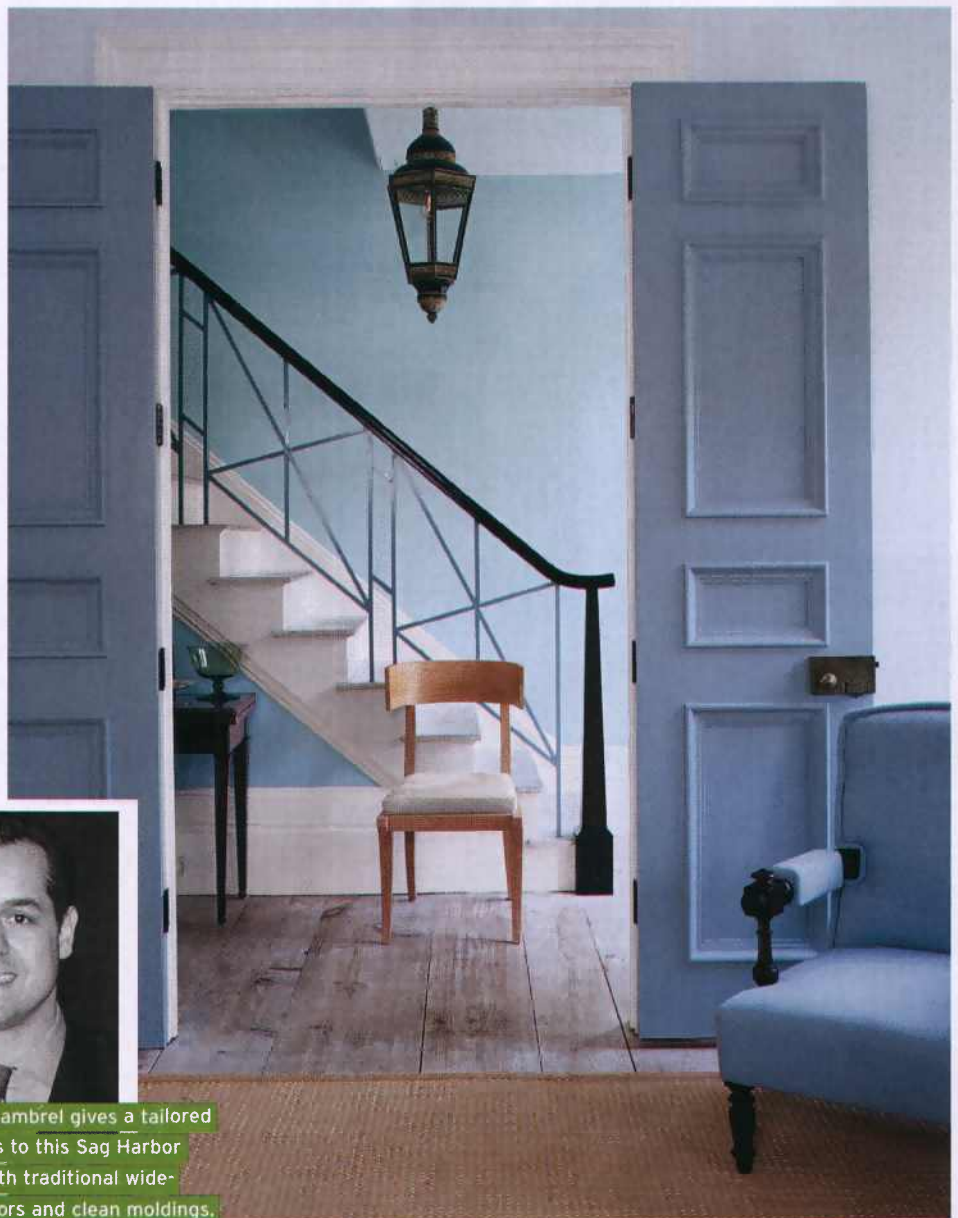
CLIENTS Liz Lange, Lisa and Michael Schultz (he's CEO of the Lulu Guinness and Cath Kidston companies), Lillian von Stauffenberg, and "young families with busy lifestyles," in Gambrel's words.

SECRET SOURCES Newport Nautical Supply (Newport, RI; 888-847-9241) for polished chrome portholes, which Gambrel installs in service doors. Ball and Ball Antique Hardware Reproductions (Exton, PA; 800-257-3711; www.ballandball-us.com) for period box locks, which he often dresses in nickel or silver plate. Phelps Company (Brattleboro, VT; 802-257-4314; www.phelpscompany.com) for oil-rubbed bronze window-sash locks and chains.

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Steven Gambrel gives a tailored crispness to this Sag Harbor house with traditional wide-plank floors and clean moldings.



INSPIRATION

- 1 The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston
- 2 Brussels's Grand'Place, Ogenblik Restaurant, and Place du Grand Sablon, with the city's weekend antiques market
- 3 Peggy Guggenheim ALSO Sleeper-McCann House by Henry Davis Sleeper, Gloucester, MA; Chick Austen, Wadsworth Atheneum director (1927-1944)