

# On The Couch

DECORATOR VERSUS SHRINK! (WHAT DO YOU THINK?)



Do you think the furnishings and objects in a room reveal much about the homeowner(s)? Interior designers and psychologists have demonstrated in past On The Couch columns that they can identify characteristics of an unidentified home with amazing accuracy. Their "analyses" have uncovered surprising discoveries. Here, New Rochelle designer Gregory Allan Cramer of Gregory Allan Cramer of Company faces off against Manhattan psychotherapist Dr. Felicia Morrow: How close do their assumptions come? Turn to page 114 for the answer.

### THE INTERIOR DESIGNER SAYS GREGORY ALLAN CRAMER

This looks like a Manhattan apartment and has a very simplistic feel. Between the white walls and spareness in design it almost has a gallery feel. Is that a walnut Knoll credenza with white leather doors? That is kind of interesting. It's a neutral space. Maybe whoever lives here is afraid of color. The design scheme seems safe. These aren't people likely to take a risk. It looks comfortable, but I'm not sure whether it's comfortable to live in. Whoever lives here is not fussy. They probably like to entertain because they have six chairs around the table. I'm picturing something casual, maybe cocktail parties. Whoever lives here probably works a lot and doesn't have a

They don't want to fuss with a lot of stuff when they are in the apartment. I think either a husband and wife or a gay couple live here, but two men, definitely not two women. I just don't see that female touch in the house. It's a little too hard-edged for a woman. Also, they could be Asian because of the artwork along with the vase with the cherry blossoms. In Japan their apartments are so small and so expensive that this kind of minimal styling is very common. The less you have in a room the bigger it looks. Also whoever lives here enjoys the light as there are only minimal shades for privacy.

Who Lives Here? | What does the décor and color scheme in this room tell about the people who live here? Where is this home located? Look carefully and turn to page 114 to see how your answers stack up.

## THE SHRINK SAYS FELICIA MORROW, PHD

Whoever lives here certainly wanted some brightness in their apartment, which imparts a soothing effect for a lot of people. There's no paint color and there's little art work. This blending and lack of contrast can be very calming in design. I sense whoever lives here likes things clean and organized. They relish serenity. I think it could be a single person and it doesn't seem like he or she has children. Looking at the window there's a fine piece of glass that is too delicate to leave out otherwise. I imagine he or she entertains, though not all the time because even the furniture is white. He or she probably has a few people over but for cocktails on rare occasions, never large festivities. Also there are probably no animals to further keep the pureness of the space. A woman might live here. One of the chairs has a throw. I see a lot of glass in the accessories and the furnishings. Men seem to gravitate towards heavy wood and dark colors. He or she is not a risk taker because of the lack of color. The most important thing to him or her is a clear sense of space without feeling closed in or claustrophobic by the design.

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## Resources & More...

ITEMS PICTURED BUT NOT LISTED HEE ARE EITHER FROM PRIVATE COLLECTIONS OR HAVE NO ADDITIONAL DETAILS

(T) - Sources available through architects, interior designers and design professionals.

Decoration & Design Building (D&D) 979 Third Ave., NYC, (212) 759-5408, www.ddbuilding.com. New York Design Center (NYDC) 200 Lexington Ave., NYC, (212) 679-9500, www.nydc.com.

#### LOCAL CUSTOM

Pages 14-22: Carmine Luppino, Luppino Landscaping & Masonry, 127 Tripp St., Mt. Kisco, (914) 666-7028. Léron, 804 Madison Ave., NYC, (212) 753-6700, www.leron. com. Carolyn Ray, Inc., 578 Nepperhan Ave., Yonkers, (212) 476-0619, www.carolynray.com. P.E. Guerin, 21-23 & 25 Jane St., NYC, (212) 243-5270 or www.peguerin.com. R.P. Scully Furniture, Inc., 1000 N. Division St., Peekskill, (914) 788-3811 or www.rpscullyfurniture.com.

#### COCKTAIL HOUR

Pages 34-35: Morgans Fish House, 22 Elm Pl. Rye, (914) 921-8190, www.morgansfishhouse.net.

#### ANTIQUES

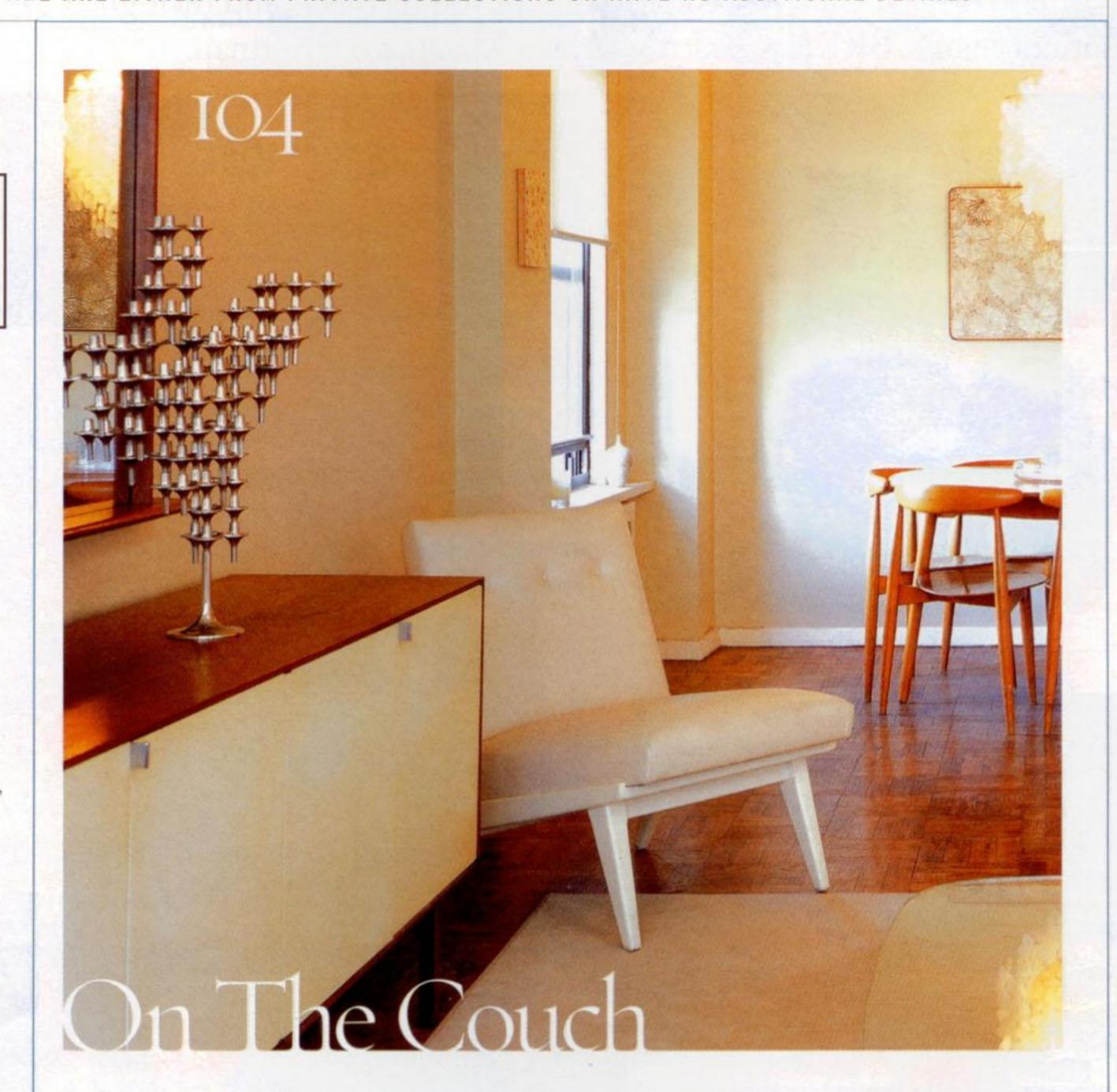
Pages 38-43: SGH Designs, P.O. Box 535, Pound Ridge, (914) 764-8042. Avant Garden, 87 Westchester Ave., Pound Ridge, (914) 764-0010. Antiques & Tools of Business & Kitchen, 165 Westchester Ave., Pound Ridge, (914) 764-0015. The Yellow Monkey Antiques, Route 35, Cross River, (914) 763-5848.

#### MATERIALISM

Page 44: Native Trails, through Harpers Plumbing and Heating Supply, Mamaroneck, (914) 835-2300 and Carminart, Elmsford, (914) 592-6330 or www.nativetrails.net. Wendell Castle, www.wendellcastle.com. Tom Dixon, www.tomdixon.net.

#### WRIGHT TURNS

Pages 58-65: Pages 58-59, Book, Usonia New York: Building a Community with Frank Lloyd Wright, by Roland Reisley, through www.amazon.com. Pages 60-61, Living room: Pillows and throw, Lot 84, 84 Lexington Ave., Mt. Kisco, (914) 244-8535.



Wrong!! Too funny! These responses really made me laugh out loud. My name may be Lau but I'm a red-head originally from Arizona. When this picture was taken I was a single gal. This was my first apartment in New York right out of grad school and I upholstered the sofa in an ivory synthetic leather because the love of my life is a 90-pound winter white Spinone who likes to sit on it with me at night. Even funnier, as an interior designer I'm known for bold colors. I will never again have white walls, even in a rental! I absolutely do think of my apartment as a sanctuary, because my days at the office of my firm are long and packed with meetings. It's true that clutter makes me crazy and because of this I've always sought uncluttered living spaces. I also advise collectors of 20th-century decorative arts, so that explains the vintage Knoll walnut credenza with white lacquered panels as well as the brushed metal Nagel candle sticks. Finally, I absolutely agree that entertaining is essential and I adore having close friends visit, for cocktails and a good laugh. -Amy Lau, Amy Lau Design