

leaving the publishing world. Working for Mann inspired him to take a career-discovery program at Harvard's Graduate School of Design, and the courses showed him that he "wanted to be a decorator and create beautiful spaces" rather than pursue architecture.

Again, with almost no training, except his time with Mann and as a child accompanying his interior designer mother to sites, he set about a new career. "I had been a journalist, and I didn't go to school for it, so I thought, I can make this happen if I just work hard." He did. Through fashion connections, Greene, now 36, landed at Ralph Lauren in decorative store development. Later, he moved to Los Angeles and worked for White House decorator Michael Smith and, in 2014, started his firm with Katrina Hernandez, his colleague at New York-based design firm Sawyer Berson. Sometimes, he says, "you just have to bite the bullet." 917-743-2753; [hernandezgreene.com](http://hernandezgreene.com).

### Joshua's Design Inspiration



Angkor fabric in Scarlet, \$320 per yard; [jimthompsonfabrics.com](http://jimthompsonfabrics.com)



Chahan Minassian Waterfall table, \$18,590; [chahan.com](http://chahan.com)



### ON FABRICS

Greene became a fabric devotee as a journalist, and the category remains a favorite. He loves **Dedar**, an Italian mill, for basic foundations: solid linens and velvets in "contemporary and forward" colors (Jerry Pair, 979 Third Ave., Ste. 502; 212-546-9001; [jerrypair.com](http://jerrypair.com)), **Jim Thompson** for textured silks (also at Jerry Pair), **Larsen** for "luxurious and intellectual" tribal prints (Cowtan & Tout, 979 Third Ave., Ste. 1022; 212-753-4488; [cowtan.com](http://cowtan.com)), and **Zak+Fox** for ethnic-inspired designs he uses for pillows and upholstery (134 W. 26th St., Ste. 400; 212-924-0199; [zakandfox.com](http://zakandfox.com)).

Anderson in his Irving Place office



## The Dynamo

CALEB ANDERSON blends past and present in subtle tones with expressive works of art.

**W**hen Caleb Anderson was an interior design student at Texas State University, he sent letters to some of the biggest design firms in New York, hoping to secure an internship. "Big" to the then 24-year-old meant "if I had seen you in a magazine or you had published a book." He landed one with decorating royalty Jamie Drake, who fit both criteria (Anderson brought Drake's book with him to New York so the designer could sign it), and, after graduating, he joined the firm as an assistant to the maestro himself. That was in 2010.

Fast-forward to last winter, when Drake announced that he was bringing the now 32-year-old Anderson on as a partner and renaming the firm Drake/Anderson. At the time, the Austin native had been running his own firm out of his Hell's Kitchen apartment and occasionally employing his mother, a retired teacher. "I had her getting quotes remotely,



and if I had an install, she'd fly up from Austin," he says, adding, "I didn't pay her very much." Joking aside, Anderson has been focused and strategic about his career. Before going out on his own he too worked with David Mann. On his own, he produced three show houses in a little over two years, which some might question as a massive expense for a young firm. But, he insists, "it was the most intelligent thing I did. I got a lot of press and a lot of attention very quickly. And I got Jamie's attention." The pair is working on high-end residential projects around the globe, and Anderson describes his role as "a validation. I never imagined this would happen with Jamie, that we'd have a partnership and I'd have ownership of an office like this." 212-754-3099; [drakeanderson.com](http://drakeanderson.com).

### Caleb's Design Inspiration

Limited-edition  
Homune table,  
\$21,000; [lasvit.com](http://lasvit.com)

Solaris chair,  
\$12,000;  
[21stgallery.com](http://21stgallery.com)

91-ST floor lamps,  
from \$6,500 each;  
[cedrichartman.com](http://cedrichartman.com)

Leifer inside  
an apartment  
he designed  
at 18 Gramercy  
Park South

## The Confidant

BENNETT LEIFER brings dramatic, gilded glamour to his highly customized projects.



Things go my way," says Bennett Leifer. He was referring to an art competition he won as a child, for a poster he drew depicting a way of conserving water. (Turn off the faucet while brushing your teeth.) But it could just as well apply to his career. Leifer grew up on Long Island; his mother was an emergency room nurse, and his late father was a financial adviser who, Leifer says, "was an artist at heart." When Leifer wanted to major in art history at Skidmore College, his father insisted he add business as well. As a result, Leifer says, "I realized I like the idea of doing something creative on the business side or something more business-y for the creative world."

It seems the 35-year-old interior designer, who boasts residential as well as developer clients, has done both. He

### ON LIGHTING

Anderson calls lighting "jewelry that has functionality" and uses various styles of fixtures to layer and balance a room. He praises Jeff Zimmerman's sculptural pieces, found at **R & Company**, for their quality of "moving while frozen" (82 Franklin St.; 212-343-7979; [r-and-company.com](http://r-and-company.com)). Anderson is a fan of chandeliers and sources antique styles at **Marvin Alexander** (315 E. 62nd St., 2nd fl.; 212-838-2320; [marvinalexanderinc.com](http://marvinalexanderinc.com)). For contemporary examples, the designer suggests **Gabriel Scott** for "statement pieces that are sculptural but a bit more severe" (372 Broome St.; 212-837-2923; [gabriel-scott.com](http://gabriel-scott.com)).