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Creative Spirits

Crafting a home bar ideal for entertaining is equal parts function and fabulous

In a Southampton home, designer William T. Georgis created a jewel box of a bar with rich tones, high-gloss materials, and glamorous mirrors.

More exclusive than the VIP room, a fully stocked and decadently designed bar at home has quickly become one of the most in-demand client requests for designers—and rightfully so. Tucked into an alcove or in a dedicated space all its own, these luxurious additions allow for intimate gatherings while also giving permission to push aesthetic boundaries with colorful materials, dramatic schemes, and accessories with lots of personality. “A bar is like a powder room. It gives an opportunity to really do something personal and potentially quirky,” says Frank de Biasi, who is currently devising a bamboo model inspired by a 1940s design for his own home in Tangier, Morocco. “You don’t have to follow the recipe or the rules for what the rest of the house is.”

PULLING UP A SEAT

“We don’t want the bar to feel like a cafeteria at the end of your living room,” says designer Miles Redd, whose interior spaces pop with bold strokes of color and exuberant embellishments. To disguise sinks, refrigerators, and other functional elements, he suggests drawing the eye up with sculptural additions, like colorful canopies. “I also love a well-curated, well-styled drinks table—they can make sad spaces immediately feel warm and cozy.”

Shelves of glistening bottles may create interest, but seating informs how guests interact. Designer Bryan Graybill advocates for going without to allow people room to roam, while Brigitte Romanek prefers options with backs, such as iconic Mario Bellini designs. “They have a specific look, and they’re sophisticated but also comfortable,” says the decorator, who just debuted her first furniture collection with Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams. “Often a barstool can be so architectural and cool, but you don’t want to sit there for more than two minutes.”



Designer Miles Redd turned a bar into the focal point of a library by adding a fetching striped canopy.



Princeton barstool from **BoConcept**;
boconcept.com



Benoit bar cabinet from **RH**; rh.com



Bresset barstool from **Alfonso Marina**;
alfonsomarina.com



The Blue Serpent cocktail cabinet by **Zelouf & Bell** from **Maison Gerard**;
maison Gerard.com