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# DESIGNERS

CREATIVE MINDS IN INTERIORS, LANDSCAPES, AND FURNISHINGS



## Charles Pavarini III Design Associates, Inc.

FAMILY LEGACY INCLUDES DESIGN ACCOLADES, COUTURE STYLE, AND PRESTIGIOUS PROJECTS

by Amy E. Lemen

Charles Pavarini III Design Associates, Inc. is a full-service interior-design firm that takes an architectural approach to every project. Given Pavarini's family history, that's not surprising. The New York-based firm, which was established in 1981, is a testament to the genealogical legacy carried by founder Charles Pavarini III. His father, Charles Pavarini Jr., operated a successful New York construction firm that his grandfather, Charles Pavarini Sr., founded in the early 1950s.

The construction firm, responsible for building such New York landmarks as the United Nations complex, the Seagram Building, and the David H. Koch Theater at Lincoln Center, established

the family of architects, designers, and builders that Pavarini would eventually follow the lead of. "Architecture is really in my DNA—I'm trained as an architect visually, and I bring that vision to every project," he says. "We don't just look at the space given but what the space can become, and then [we] give it new life and detail and layer it with design and decoration."

For Pavarini, it's first and foremost about the architecture of interior spaces and then the style that follows—a "Euro-focused forward thinking" approach that emphasizes new technologies, especially lighting. "Most of the technology we use is in audio-visual, lighting design, and lighting-

control systems," he says. "Lighting is not only used to illuminate space, but it's also a tool to make a space come alive."

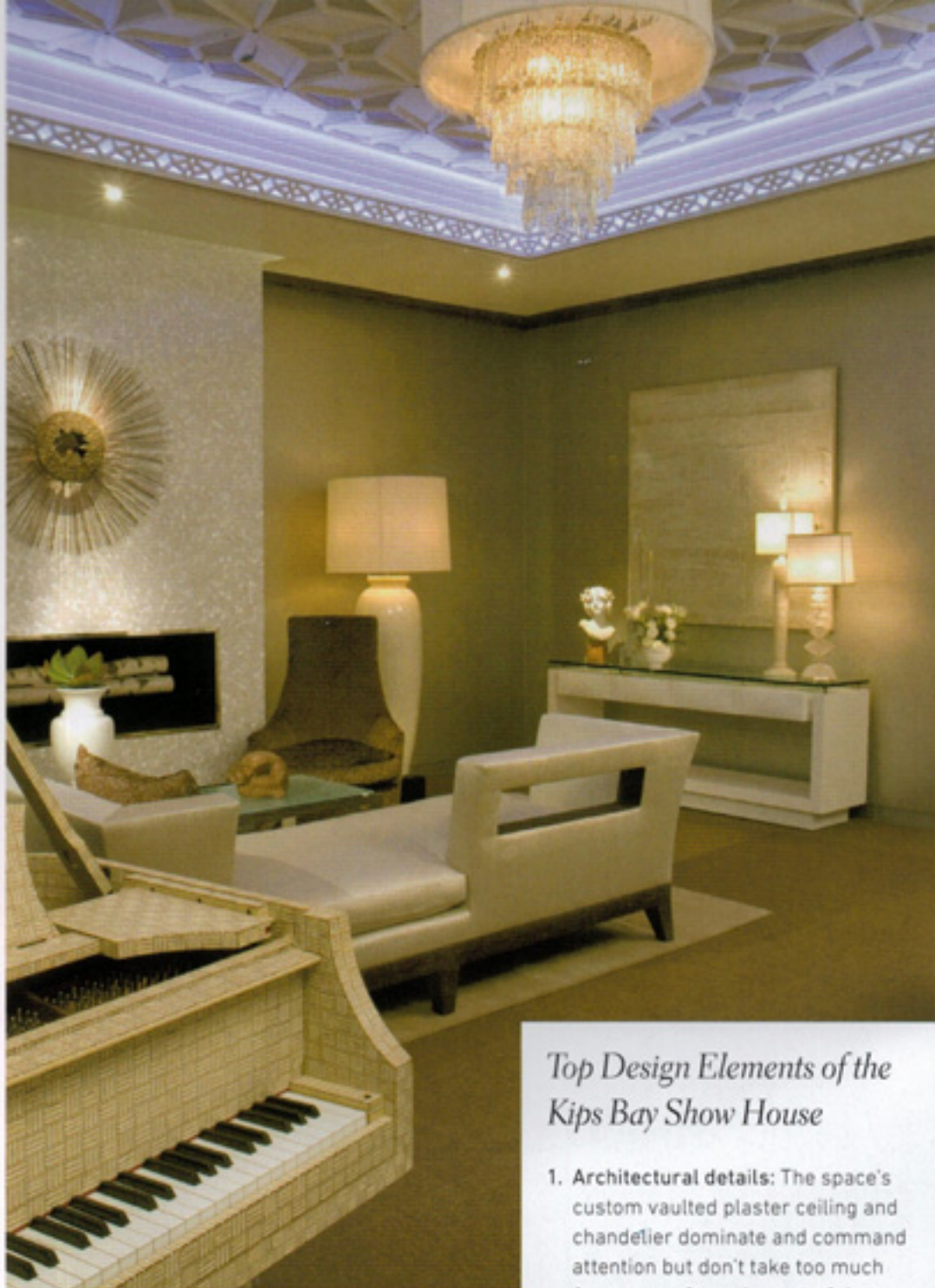
It's a style that's gotten the firm noticed, too. Recent accolades include the New York chapter of the International Furnishings & Design Association's (IFDA) 2010 Circle of Excellence Award for Interior Designer of the Year.

While the firm's work is distinctive, Pavarini says they have become so well versed in design that they're comfortable with any style or vernacular. This shows in the firm's work, which ranges from English homes in Connecticut and French-style

### A COMPOSITION IN CREAMS

In the living room, a grand iceberg photograph is given center stage, warmly nestled in a soothing living room designed to inspire conversation. Nuances such as the Meissen polar bear, Heinrich and Celine pottery, and the latest furniture piece by Vladimir Kagan ([vladimirkagan.com](http://vladimirkagan.com)) are balanced well within Pavarini's custom furniture composition by Avery Boardman ([averyboardman.com](http://averyboardman.com)).





### Top Design Elements of the Kips Bay Show House

1. **Architectural details:** The space's custom vaulted plaster ceiling and chandelier dominate and command attention but don't take too much focus away from the rest of the room.
2. **Lighting:** The technology-driven, color-fading LED lighting system adds and enhances the room's elegance and atmosphere without overpowering it.
3. **Artwork:** A marriage of art and architecture is always at the forefront for Pavarini. This room features custom furniture and commissioned art by both Vladimir Kagan ([vladimirkagan.com](http://vladimirkagan.com)) and Dakota Jackson ([dakotajackson.com](http://dakotajackson.com)).
4. **Texture:** Silk and sisal rugs, Venetian plaster, and Zolatone-sprayed walls all add up to a textural explosion that underscores the room's muted color palette.

mansions outside the city to luxury lodges in Vail, Colorado, and ultra-modern New York City apartments.

"All of our work begins with the architectural assembly in the early stages of conception" says vice president J. Randall Tarasuk, who has been with the firm since 1998. "We don't fill empty rooms with stuff. It's about giving them a personality, and that starts with the architecture."

Pavarini is also quick to point out that every interior is tailored for the client—not necessarily a designer's vision of what the space should look like. "It's amazing how interiors tell who



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