

THE EXPERTS

Next Wave . Instant Room . Tablescape . Master Class

NEXT WAVE

Southern Charm

Head over heels for luxe antiques and soft, dreamy neutrals, New Orleans designer and shop owner Rivers Spencer creates rooms that are equal parts poised and ethereal.



Spencer in her eponymous retail store on iconic Magazine Street in New Orleans.

THE EXPERTS

NEXT WAVE

AN ELEGANT SPOT TO DINE

Deep in the throes of applying to law school, Rivers Spencer began faux-finishing antique furniture in her grandmother's garage as a creative outlet. Before long, she was hooked. "I read everything about design I could get my hands on after that," says the 29-year-old Mississippi native. In 2011, she opened her shop in New Orleans, and an influx of jobs followed. For a recent Garden District project (right), Spencer created a romantic dining room around a collection of rare Biedermeier klismos chairs. But the luminous smoke-colored walls are the showstopper. "I love how it feels like a little jewel box," she says.



A chandelier from Circa Lighting hangs over a Maison Jansen table.

A PEEK INSIDE RIVERS'S WORLD



< CARVEN LE PARFUM
"I'm drawn to floral scents, and the top notes in this really speak to me." saksfifthavenue.com



TIGRE VELOURS SOIE
"This is bold and modern, yet still sophisticated and traditional." clarencehouse.com



^ SANTORINI, GREECE
"It's so peaceful and idyllic, tucked away from all the hustle and bustle of the world."

“
White is crisp, clean, and uncomplicated. It creates a beautiful canvas for antiques.
”



^ MARBLEIZED VASE
"So striking and beautiful. I like the contrast of the blues with the gold rim." aerin.com



< 1930s TUB CHAIR
"I love everything about Art Deco pieces—the soft lines, the scale, the glamour." 1stdibs.com



^ OLIVIA COFFEE TABLE
"The pairing of the marble and rich gold leaf makes the piece." riversspencer.com



< TO CATCH A THIEF
"My all-time-favorite movie. The fashion, the cinematography, Grace Kelly and Cary Grant—I'm always so mesmerized."

> FOUND OBJECTS
"I place a few calligraphy brushes on a stack of books or a tray to add dimension."



PHOTOGRAPHERS TIM BLACK (INTERIOR); ALAMY (SANTORINI); LARA ROBBY/STUDIO D (FABRIC); COURTESY EVERETT COLLECTION (TO CATCH A THIEF); CORBIS (BRUSHES)