

Is DIY Dead? Weighing In On Designer Sheila Bridges' Claim

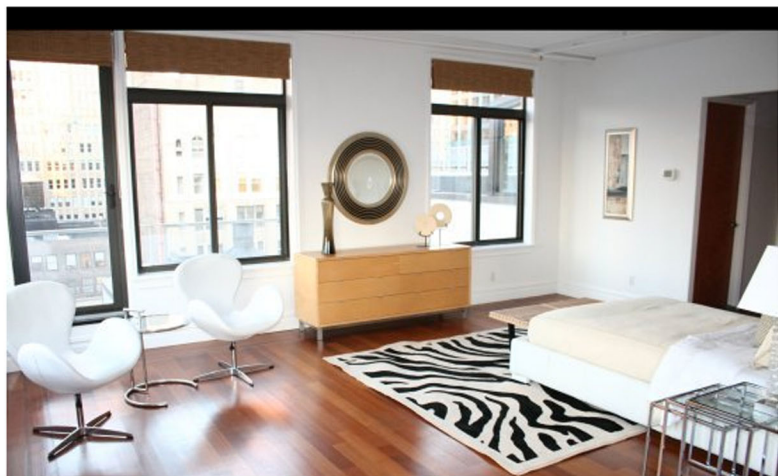
of the top fashion bloggers on **Today show's DIY Style Week**. Cathy Hobbs, interior designer and home stager extraordinaire, worked her way through six rounds of **HGTV's reality competition "Design Star"** last fall. While co-host of the show, **Tanika** spot, "HGTV'd."

Cathy Hobbs, Designer/Home Stager, Cast Of HGTV's 'Design Star,' Season 6

2 of 5



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deemed "so 2011" is moving further into the past. Honeysuckle pink, rainbow bookcases, those ubiquitous "Keep Calm And Carry On" signs, I get. But DIY? Dead?

I've been a fan of **Sheila Bridges traditional design** and her one-of-a-kind "**Harlem Toile**" collection for some time. She's been a go-to source on everything from **how well President Obama decorated his White House digs**, to **giving Gayle King's kitchen a sunny new look**. So it was no surprise when **Elle Decor** called on **Bridges to help put some bad**

What was surprising, however, was the trend Bridges says we need

The DIY craze has run its course, says decorator Sheila Bridges, handmade concoctions." Just because it can be reclaimed doesn't

Gasp! In a time when penny pinching is de rigeur and treasure hunting is in vogue, Bridges, but I have to disagree.

I mean, since when has DIY been a point of view date back to the 1950s? From a single source or multiple sources, fabric, your way of making

Yes, this is coming from someone who has made trivets from scratch. At the time, homegrown. But **my experience** was thriving beyond our wildest

There's Etsy, of course, which has made a million the year before. The **DIY maven** made her blog, **P.S. I Made This** DIY mavens to weigh in.

Rashon Carraway (AKA **Mashon**) (including this **\$300 living room** on the "Nate Berkus Show." **one of the top fashion bloggers** stager extraordinaire, worked **fall**. While co-host of the show, **spot**, "HGTV'd."

Here, they share their thoughts

"I feel more and more often clients are seeking if not demanding alternative design options in an attempt to achieve high style at as low of a price as possible.

With the incredible popularity of sites like Ebay, Etsy, and even 1st Dibs, design enthusiasts and would-be tastemakers have at their finger tips, more than ever, the ability to source and secure their own furniture and furnishings.

Additionally, there are those who simply love repurposing or reinventing a piece of furniture. I actually love this!! Why not take something old and give it new life, why not search for great treasures and finds at a flea market or even on the street and integrate it into your own design and decor?

To me these type of pieces, done well are often "the" treasured item in the home and that much more personal and special to the client because they made it themselves or perhaps created it as part of a family project with their children."

Best DIY moment: For a project involving a 4 level \$6 million dollar penthouse, a worn, birch sideboard was shined up and repurposed as an elegant dresser. "I call refinishing and repurposing old items, 'shining up old pennies' and I believe that will always be in style."