

DALLAS

MODERN LUXURY

4TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE!

FASHION AND HOME SPECIAL

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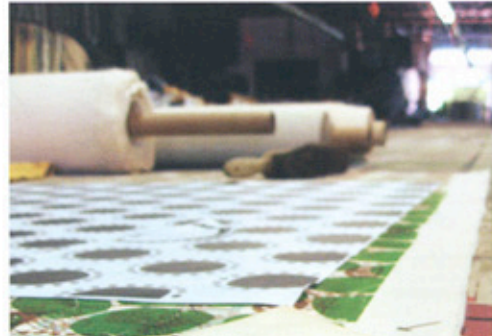


TEXTILE STYLE: Bonnee Sharp in her bedroom, against headboard with her custom-designed fabric, match.

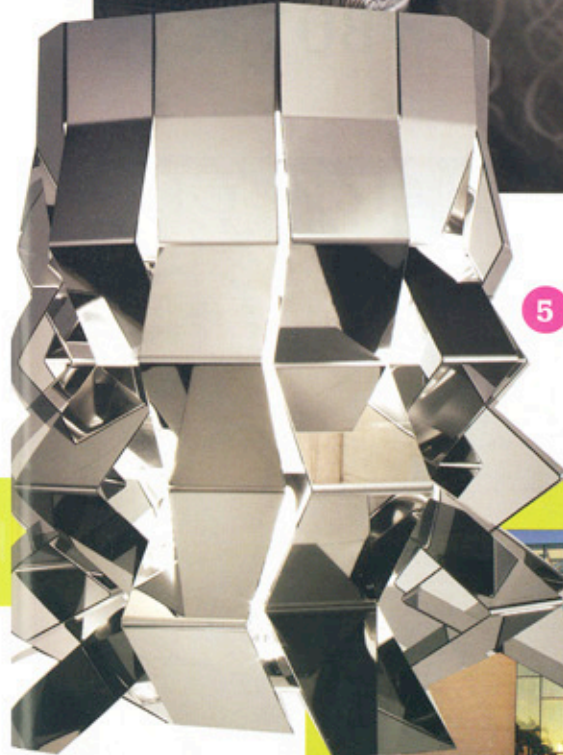
MATERIAL GIRL >>>>>>>>>

In three short years, 32-year-old designer Bonnee Sharp launched her own high-end textile company, a cool website (studiobon.net, for which she did all the photography, layout and text), and birthed baby Georgia, a cutie pie who's just starting to toddle. A stay-at-home mom who turned her M-street gingerbread into a stylish laboratory of design, Sharp's success—and her ability to multitask—comes from hard work and good training (interior design courses at UCLA; photography at New York's School of Visual Arts and fine art painting courses from New York's legendary Art Students League). Sharp credits her posh customer base to referrals from Dallas based Emily Summers, for whom she worked for 2 1/2 years, and recent raves on the hip blogspot Design Sponge, which targets hot new talent nationwide.

Clients are crazy for Sharp's geometrically graphic designs and modern, minimal color palettes. Everything is made to order by a crew in a former knitting mill in South Dallas and done by hand, from the initial pattern sketches to the printing. A local, skilled silk screener painstakingly reproduces Sharp's patterns onto woven cotton, or cotton canvas, her fabrics of choice. "Cotton just looks so crisp and contemporary," she says. With more than 30 patterns available in hundreds of colors (400 additional designs are in archives), Sharp doesn't show any signs of slowing down. "I love my work. It's the coolest thing ever." ■



(RE)COVER UP! Instead of buying new, reupholster those antiques. It's both chic and green. French and mid-century modern take particularly well to reinvention with a crisp, contemporary print. Wingback chairs are also a good bet because they channel both traditional and modern with a simple change of clothes. Upholster a wall. Fabric is a luxurious option that softens a room and has amazing soundproofing qualities.



SHARP TOUCH: 1 & 7. The yardage star has converted a former South Dallas knitting mill into her printing warehouse, where patterns and silkscreens are prepped. 2, 3 & 4. Few surfaces in the designer's M-streets home go unembellished. The kitchen wall hanging features 'Fuzz' pattern from the Studio Bon Collection. 5. The designer depends on a great lamp to help pull a room together. 'Andre' by Studio Italia Design, is available through Scott + Cooner. 6. Barney's New York at NorthPark Center is a favorite haunt for design finds. 8. Design influences include paintings by Rex Ray, available through Conduit Gallery in Dallas.

FAB LAB Your home becomes your ideal voice. Mine is all about textiles. So, in a way, my house has grown up with my line. My house really is my laboratory where I try out new patterns on all the furniture. I'm also a photographer, so I have lots of my photos on the wall, most which reflect my love of pattern and repetition, such as the graphic nature of trees and architecture.

ON THE MONEY Being green costs more, because it costs more to produce. It has become a luxury the way shopping at Central Market or Whole Foods is a luxury. My goods are labor intensive, and pass through a lot of hands. Because of that, my fabrics are expensive. You pay a lot more to have a human make something.

