



INTERIOR DESIGNERS & DECORATORS

Quality **+** Cost **\$** Value **◆** Recommend? **★**

**Sara Bengur Interiors** 

**4 3 5 5**

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*Exotic, cohesive, classical interior design*

Dexterously blending enticing Old World objects and chic cosmopolitan furniture, Sara Bengur and her clients are shaking up the Upper East Side and the suburbs. Drawing upon her Turkish heritage, Bengur creates a highly customized look that is fresh and original, yet comfortably appropriate for family living. Instead of the expected Roman shades, there are goblet pleats in ocher linen. Continental antiques live beside a Jean-Michel Frank in natural duck with antique textile pillows. Sources report that Bengur initially invests a great deal of time to understand clients' interests and takes deep pride in creating something special and unique.

After working on Wall Street for a few years, Bengur studied at Parsons, then managed large projects for Stephen Sills. She went off on her own in 1992. Recent projects include homes in Manhattan, Connecticut, Maine, and the French West Indies. The firm has a "highly collaborative and fun attitude."

Clients praise Bengur's close attention to "every little detail" and her strong sensitivity to family traffic. Entire homes are usually undertaken, sometimes in stages. The firm generally charges a standard design fee, a standard percentage over net on products (same on antiques), and hourly fees for oversight. HB Top Designers 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005.

*"You get to the point where you just trust her reflective designs. I never would have picked these colors, but I love them more each day." "Sara will never do the same thing for any two clients, right down to the last lampshade." "She tirelessly searches up and down the eastern seaboard to find unique antiques and objects." "She organized a big group of subcontractors, all of whom turned out to be great." "While she does not push, she will encourage us to go for the highest quality we can afford without spending a fortune." "She's not fussy, silly, or puffed-up. She's a very sincere, intelligent person." "An amazing colorist." "Sara would never purchase mass market, preferring small shop treasures at the same cost." "She has a wonderful sense of human scale and a delicate understanding of propriety, especially for someone so young." "Sara insisted on going to my attic to see if we could reuse any of my family pieces. That meant so much to me." "I have worked with her on four homes over the past three and a half years, and I'll continue to work with her in the future."*