

DECORATING

Baskets / Containers
 Books / Videos
 Candles / Holders
 Design Styles
 Fabrics / Linens
 Faux Finishing
 Fireplace Decor
 Floorcoverings
 Floral Displays
 Frames
 Furnishings / Accessories
 Furniture
 Holidays / Special Occasions
 Home Tours
 Lamps / Lighting
 Pillows / Bedding
 Products / Trade Shows
 Resources / Organizations
 Room Design

Bathroom
 Bedroom
 Children's
 Colors
 Design Principles
 Dining Room
 Ergonomic
 Feng Shui
 Foyer / Entryway
 Hall / Stairwell
 Home Theater
 Kitchen
 Living Area
 Loft
 Office / Workspace
 Porch / Sunroom
 Small Space
 Themes
 Tips / Techniques
 Universal Design
Other

Stamping / Stenciling
 Tile
 Trash To Treasure
 Window Treatments

 PRINT VERSION
 EMAIL TO A FRIEND

The New Bachelor Pad

What do today's single men want? Style and comfort that reflects who they are.

By Anne Krueger, HGTV.com

You don't see the single and sexy Dr. Luka Kovacs on *ER* living in a dump. Nope, today's bachelors are bypassing the beer-can pyramids and stepping up to style. And we aren't talking about frat-house style here. We're talking about a combination of good looks and function that is perfect for the single King of the Castle who wants to lounge or entertain.



In a penthouse library [Shane Reilly](#) created a masculine getaway that combined wall panels in a rich, deep mahogany hue, a low and comfortable Roche-Bobois sectional, and a classic Holly Hunt leather ottoman that doubles as a table or the requisite footrest.

The homes of single men today represent a generational change in the approach to residential interior design, says designer Shane Reilly of Shane Reilly Interiors in New York and San Francisco. "Bachelors today have money to spend on the best products, are not constrained by compromising with a partner and are often willing to let their designers push the envelope," she says.

Most of these men worked hard in their 20s and early 30s, Reilly says, and at some point decided it was time to lose the roommates, donate the 10-year-old sofa to charity, plunk down a down payment on a new place and call an interior designer to help them set up their homes. "It's 'settling down' without the partner," she says.



The Ego Has Landed in this dramatic room. The red wall color from [California Paints'](#) bachelor pad series is accented with [Player](#) (dark gray) on the back wall and [Amp](#) (light gray) stripes.

Or course, women stopped waiting to get married before they decorated their places years ago. But this is a relatively new trend for men, says color expert Amy Desrosiers of California Paints. That's why she's cooked up a whole line of bachelor-pad colors with names like All Nighter, Chic Magnet, Lounge, Old School, Techie, The Goods, Alpha Male, Player, My Place or Yours, Kung-Fu, Amp and my personal favorite: The Ego Has Landed. What color, exactly, is The Ego Has Landed? It's a spicy red-orange that reeks of confidence.

Hmmm, confidence. That's something many men are lacking when it comes to decorating, even if they have the desire, says Reilly. "When my single male clients first come to me, they often don't know what they want. They know they need a place to sit down in their apartments, and they have a vague idea that they 'want it to look cool' and 'not too decorated or stuffy,' but that's about it," she says.

It's interesting because no matter what her clients' financial situation, most of them have some idea about the lifestyle and products they like in every single category--except the home. "They know the best places to buy clothes and are the first to try the newest, hip restaurants. They know what kind of car they like and where to take vacation," she says. "Yet they often have no idea how they want their apartment to look in general and what pieces will help their vision come together."

Reilly helps each bachelor explore and define his own sense of style and works from there. And what is it that her client wants, once he is able to articulate it? Her single male clients typically want:

- **A design that reflects who they are and who they want to be.** "My male clients may follow trends in clothes and cellphones, but they're too level-headed and business savvy to be swayed by trends in furnishings," Reilly says. Keywords are *classy* and *unique*. "They want a place to grow into."
- **A sophisticated *contemporary* look.** Most bachelors don't want antiques, chandeliers or lots of frills, Reilly says. They're more into clean contemporary lines. But they also don't want conspicuously modern furnishings that look like set pieces. "They typically like dark woods and a bit of color," she says.
- **A refuge.** Like most Americans today, bachelors want their homes to be an escape from the stresses of work. A San Francisco library designed by Reilly features deep midnight-blue paint and heavy chocolate-brown drapes. It also contains every bachelor's dream: A hidden screen that drops from the ceiling and transforms the room into a plush theater. "I wanted the place to feel like a lounge. You walk in and are inclined to sit down and never get up," Reilly says.
- **Comfort.** No looking good just for the sake of looking good for these guys, says Reilly: "It's all about comfort. Everything must be comfortable."

Because Reilly does interior design on both coasts, she gets to see the differences between San Francisco and New York bachelors. "In San Francisco they tend to go for a slightly more *traditional*, formal look compared to my New York clients, who veer toward the sleeker, edgier pieces," she says. San Francisco clients tend to like subdued, serene colors, whereas New Yorkers are willing to be more daring, she adds. "One New York client requested orange walls in the living room, and another is getting a bench upholstered in a vibrant lavender suede."

Of course, for those bachelors without enough dough to hire an interior designer, there's always Target or [bachelorfurniture.com](#), which caters to the post-dorm single crowd. There's no highbrow design philosophy here. The highest-priced item is a recliner, and the store's sell line is: Girls Like Guys With Nice Apartments.

Anne Krueger is the editor of HGTV.com's Decorating newsletter. She has written for In Style, This Old House, Martha Stewart Living and The New York Times.

GUESTS:

Shane Reilly
Designer, Shane Reilly Interiors
244 Madison Ave. #218
New York, NY 10016
Phone: 415-602-4454
Fax: 866-201-0781
E-mail: shane@shanereilly.com
Website: www.shanereilly.com

RELATED ARTICLES:

- [Bachelor Pad Dining/Living Room](#)
- [Hip Bachelor Pad](#)
- [Cool Bachelor Pad](#)
- [Contemporary Bachelor Pad](#)
- [Asian-Themed Bachelor Pad](#)
- [Bachelor Pads](#)
- [Bachelor's Living Room](#)
- [Bachelor's Kitchen](#)
- [Bachelor's Pad](#)

[Home](#) | [About Us](#) | [Newsletters](#) | [Questions](#) | [Advertising](#)
[Site Map](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Legal](#)

[DIY](#) | [Fine Living](#) | [Food Network](#) | [Shop At Home](#)
[Great American Country](#) | [HGTVPro](#) | [Living](#) | [Video On Demand](#)

[Comparison Shop for Home Gifts&Patio Furniture at Shopzilla](#)

©2006 Scripps Networks, Inc. All rights reserved.

HGTV