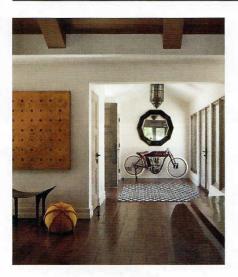
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## CLASSIC CONTEMPORARY

With a degree in Architecture from UC Berkeley, Maria Tenaglia began her career designing retail and restaurant space both na-



tionally and internationally. She was a Senior Designer for the retail design firm Hambrecht Terrell International and worked in their New York, London, and Los Angeles offices. She followed that up as a Senior Designer for Pat Kuleto Restaurants. Eighteen years ago, she decided to launch her own firm. Since then, Tenaglia has been earning a cult following for her fresh, modern spaces beautifully grounded with classic lines and details.



Key Design Influencers in your life/career? My mother, Nancy Keith Tenaglia, a talented architect and designer, and my grandfather, Kenyon Keith, an architect, builder, and developer. Being from a design-minded family, I was fortunate to gain insight into the field early on. I have fond memories of walking construction sites of homes my mother had designed at St. Malo Beach, a coastal community that my grandfather created and developed in the 1920s in Southern California.

As a teen, I absolutely loved the framing, and later, the painting stages of a home, so it became quite clear to me that I would follow in the family tradition. When home on college breaks, I spent hours at the Pacific Design Center assisting my mother with fabrics and color palettes. The homes that I grew up in were filled with lovely French toile and chintz fabrics, which is undoubtedly one of the reasons I am comfortable working with pattern and color to this day.

## 5 Key elements to a great room?

Proportion, architectural details (either traditional or modern) that remain consistent throughout a home, fantastic contemporary art, finishes or fabrics that give a bit of drama, and well-chosen accessories. There is nothing worse than a beautiful room with terrible accessories!



Design destinations that have influenced you recently? The city palaces of Jaipur and Udaipur in India, the Atlas Mountains in Morocco, and Istanbul.

In a fire you'd rescue? A 19th-century oil painting on panel of a Madonna and Child, a blanket made from all my son's old water polo tee shirts, and family photos.

Some of your favorite Bay Area design resources? Cavalier, Coup d'Etat, Kneedler Fauchere, Madeline Weinrib Collection, and the SFMOMA Store

*Favorite design blogs?* Dpagesblog, Style Saloniste by Diane Dorrans Saeks and, though not officially a blog, Nowness.com

Design books you can't live without? Salandino Villa and Lanvin by Dean Merceron—the remarkable history of the House of Lanvin and its affect on art and design.

**Do you have a Mantra?** Try not to belabor and over think things. Be efficient, effective, and rely on your instincts. •