



A pair of Restoration Hardware's Parisian Classic Slope Arm Sofas, the Itaim cocktail table by Roberta Schilling and vintage club chairs recovered in Optima Leathers' Luxtan in Saddle perch on a custom hand-knotted silk rug from Fayette Studio. Photos by Lance Gerber.

2023 EMERGING DESIGNER AWARD: JOSHUA SMITH

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"I've always sensed that a home is the backdrop for creating a beautiful life," says [Joshua Smith](#), this year's emerging designer. Though he took some missteps before discovering his calling—what he refers to as his "detour into darkness"—his past experiences informed a considered, purposeful approach to design that results in spaces that are at once beautiful and uplifting.

"I didn't know where to start," he remembers of his initial forays into interiors, when he shouldered the decor of his first home. "I slowly began collecting things that made my heart sing." His joy in the process and the sense of peace he found there engineered an epiphany. "I understood how powerful a home can be, especially when it's designed for an individual," he recalls. "I realized my purpose was to help people achieve that same sense of sanctuary."