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HOME RUN

For this interior designer, personal style has as much to do with one's home as it does one's closet



THE WOMAN: Lilly Bunn Weekes, 31, New York City

THE JOB: Interior designer, Lilly Bunn Inc. Her day is spent meeting with clients, shopping for upholstery, wrangling two young daughters, and consulting with contractors in revamping homes that range from the Upper East Side "classic six" to haute hipster townhouses in Brooklyn.

THE UNIFORM: Sensible chic. J Brand jeans in twill or corduroy are a staple, worn with an easy Joe Fresh deep V-neck, Pierre Hardy high-top sneakers or Valentino booties, and red lipstick.

Viscose-blend sweater, **Carven**, \$595, collection at Opening Ceremony stores nationwide. Printed cotton-and-silk pants, **Dries Van Noten**, \$965, collection at La Maison Simons, Quebec, Canada. Druzy and diamond necklace, **Jemma Sands**, \$525, visit jemmasands.com. Leather loafers, **Giambattista Valli**, \$550, collection at Blake, Chicago

ELLE: You call yourself a minimalist, yet you love original moldings and quirky wallpaper. How do you reconcile that?

LILLY BUNN WEEKES: I like to try different aesthetics, though I don't like to buy a lot of things. Maybe it's because I'm from New York City; I like to have room. I buy mostly black and navy clothes from Barneys, and I filter them with pieces from less expensive brands, like H&M or Zara, then donate all but the useful pieces at the end of the year; I think it's a space thing. I'm inspired by a lot of different things and people. I like the work of Robert Stilin, Steven Gambrel, Bunny Williams, Kelly Wearstler. Seeing a friend's house, you learn everything about the person in one second.

ELLE: When did you know you wanted to be an interior designer?

LBW: When I was growing up, my best friend's mother was an editor at *House Beautiful*, and they had the most gorgeous apartment you've ever seen. It had hand-painted wallpaper in the dining room and a big wood-paneled library and amazing chintzes and over-the-top everything. The first time I saw their place was when I knew that I really wanted to do that.

ELLE: Did you always know your design style? Or did you play around to find it?

LBW: It evolves constantly. The same as my fashion sense. When I first started working as a fashion editor at *Town & Country*, I was wearing things like a hot pink tube top with a giant red flower on the side. Now...am I going to wear the hot pink dress to every party? No. But maybe the black dress I'll wear four times that year, with different necklaces. Like with my interiors, I don't want to go over the top with really colorful fabrics and bright prints. I want the main pieces in the room to be neutral so you can rework things over time. I'm high-low: I like cheap with expensive. I want to get the most out of my things. I tell my clients, "It's my job to take your budget and get the most I can for you out of it."

ELLE: You have two daughters, Grace, age four, and Daisy, age three. Did your style change with motherhood?

LBW: Yes. I want everything to be comfortable. I live with kids. I want them to be in every room. I don't believe in a formal living room. I want the whole space to feel like you could walk into any room and feel good sitting down.

ELLE: Was it Diane von Furstenberg who said that an apartment should really speak to the style of a person?

LBW: She said it was like dressing a woman. I would never hire a decorator who had really bad personal style.

—COTTON CODINHA



Bunn Weekes flips through samples at Quadrille, in Manhattan's D&D Building

Pullover turtleneck, **Billy Reid**, \$295, at Billy Reid, NYC. Wool-blend skirt, **Jenni Kayne**, \$550, at Jenni Kayne, Almont, MI. Wood and crystal bracelet, **Isabel Marant**, \$325, at Isabel Marant, L.A. Leather front-zip ankle boots, **Manolo Blahnik for Band of Outsiders**, \$1,075, collection at Bergdorf Goodman, NYC. Crocodile-embossed leather handbag, **Alexander Wang**, \$1,050, at Alexander Wang, NYC

SHOWROOM APPOINTMENT

CLIENT MEETING

The interior designer on the go, near her Upper East Side apartment

Printed wool dress, **Etro**, \$2,805, at select Etro boutiques nationwide. Calfskin handbag, **Chanel**, \$3,000, call 800-550-0005. Python sandals, **Marc Jacobs**, \$1,890, at Marc Jacobs, NYC



"I like some masculine pieces and some more eccentric things. But I also like color and softness."



"I wore black J Brand pants with heels practically every day this year."

"I keep it very simple. I don't carry a notebook or camera—I use my phone for everything, and I carry a leather bag to tote it all around."



From top: Cashmere sweater, **Equipment**, \$268, collection at Saks Fifth Avenue stores nationwide. Optic glasses, **Miu Miu**, \$320, collection at LensCrafters stores nationwide. Printed silk-blend pants, **Joie**, \$298, visit joie.com. Jacquard skirt, **Ann Taylor**, \$88, visit anntaylor.com. Suede sandal, **Alexandre Birman**, \$595, collection at Saks Fifth Avenue, NYC. Leather and snakeskin handbag, **Diane von Furstenberg**, \$350, visit dvf.com

Still lifes: Ben Goldstein/Studio D (prop styling by Gwen Lawrence at Mark Edward Inc.)