

Nate Berkus and Lilly Bunn Weekes with folding screens by Arteriors, left, and Decorative Crafts. See Resources.



THE TOP 10 FOLDING SCREENS

Designers Lilly Bunn Weekes and Nate Berkus take a stand in favor of these old-school accessories, which prove surprisingly versatile even today

The folding screen's glamour tends to overshadow its practicality. Coco Chanel famously decked the walls of her Paris apartment with antique Coromandel screens, and many designers of her day—including Eileen Gray and Jean Dunand—created exquisite examples of their own.

But for centuries, the screen played an important dual role: “to conceal, and to trap heat,” explains designer Nate Berkus. Today’s homes may be less drafty, but the piece still has many applications.

“A screen adds instant architecture to a space,” says Berkus, who often places one behind a bed or sofa for a layered look. “A good interior should feel as though it has been assembled over time.”

Decorator Lilly Bunn Weekes points to classic uses—partitioning a room or filling a dark corner—as well as more unusual ones, such as using a screen as a backdrop for artwork. “It’s so versatile,” she says. “A screen can be your headboard one day, and then sit beside an armchair the next.” ▸

THE EXPERTS

NATE BERKUS

Known for his polished interiors, the New York-based designer also creates products for Target and is working on a new television project. His latest book, *The Things That Matter*, was published in 2012. nateberkus.com

LILLY BUNN WEEKES

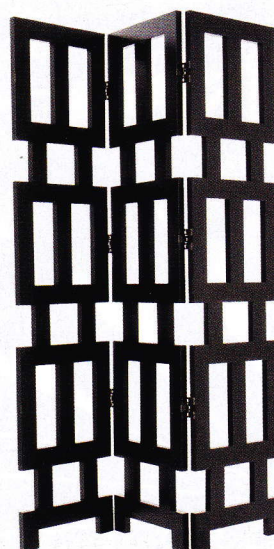
After honing her eye at McMillen, Bunn Weekes launched her practice three years ago. Current projects include a chic, family-friendly house in Water Mill, New York. lillybunn.com

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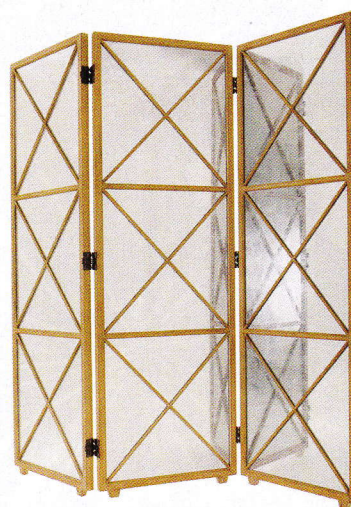
1 / EVE SCREEN BY MITCHELL GOLD + BOB WILLIAMS

With its upholstered panels and nailhead trim, this screen is perfect for a bedroom or library, according to Lilly Bunn Weekes. "It has a sense of intimacy," she says, noting that she'd use it in lieu of a headboard. "I like the curved top," adds Nate Berkus. "It gives it a chic, Louis XV-style look." A four-panel version and other upholstery options are available. 76" h. x 57" w. x 3" d.; \$1,960 as shown; mgbwhome.com



2 / GRATE ROOM DIVIDER BY WAYBORN

To Berkus, the crisp geometry of this hand-carved birch screen lends it a midcentury feel: "It needs a 1960s bar cart in front of it." Bunn Weekes sees it in a 20-something's studio, dividing sleeping and living areas without blocking light. "It's a good transitional piece," she says—the screen could easily move into the bedroom or entry of a subsequent apartment. 78" h. x 54" w. x 2" d.; \$480; wayfair.com



3 / WEATHERED OAK SCREEN BY RESTORATION HARDWARE

Modeled after an English Regency antique, this generously scaled screen pairs an oak frame with reverse-painted mirror. Bunn Weekes pictures it as a dressing screen in a pool-house, or brightening up a corner. "It's versatile, if you have room for it," she says. Berkus praises the handsome finishes. "This is a game-changer in any space," he says. 80" h. x 82" w. x 2" d.; \$1,495; rh.com



4 / DYNASTY SCREEN BY BERNHARDT FURNITURE

This lacquered screen, inspired by a door in London, reminds Berkus of beautifully detailed architectural artifacts. "I love using pieces like this that have heft and character and age to them," he says. He envisions it by a fireplace, alongside a club chair and floor lamp. To Bunn Weekes, the glossy finish calls for a high-style interior. "This is masculine and glamorous at the same time," she explains. 83" h. x 72" w. x 2" d.; \$1,565; bernhardt.com



5 / PAINTED FOLDING SCREEN 3049 BY DECORATIVE CRAFTS

Featuring a hand-painted chinoiserie scene over antiqued silver leaf, this screen (available to the trade) offers the look of bold wallpaper without the commitment, Bunn Weekes points out. "In a modern dining room with a Saarinen table, it could be the one traditional element," she says. Berkus agrees: "It would be interesting to mix it with 1970s Lucite chairs." 78" h. x 72" w. x 1" d.; \$2,000; decorativecrafts.com

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