

# ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST

## DAILY AD

THE INQUISITIVE GUEST: JAY MCINERNEY, NINA GRISCOM, AMY FINE COLLINS, BETTY WHITE, AND ELLEN BURSTYN REVEAL THEIR POSHEST ROOMS

Text by Jeffrey Slonim | May 30, 2012



The honorees at Lighthouse International's A Posh Affair: interior designer Robert Couturier, philanthropist Lizzie Tisch, and Henri Bendel president Chris Fiore. Photo: Ryan McCune/  
[PatrickMcMullan.com](http://PatrickMcMullan.com)

A posh affair typically begins in a finely appointed room—at a discreet, elegant hotel such as the Pierre on Fifth Avenue, say, where Lighthouse International recently held its annual Posh Affair gala and benefit auction. An impressive roster of New York society figures and fashion insiders turned out for the event, which honored Henri Bendel president Chris Fiore, interior designer Robert Couturier, and Lizzie Tisch, who chairs the Friends of the Costume Institute at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. All proceeds went to further the 106-year-old nonprofit's worldwide mission to fight against vision loss through prevention, education, and treatment.



**Couturier and *Architectural Digest* editor in chief Margaret Russell, who presented the designer with his award. Photo: Patrick McMullan/PatrickMcMullan.com**

Inspired by the stylish swans sipping cocktails in the hotel's Cotillion ballroom, a space festooned with gilded sconces, curtains with gold tassel tiebacks, and crystal chandeliers, we asked fellow revelers to describe the poshest room in their home. For good measure, we also posed the question at two other events: a Friars Club lunch toasting—and roasting—actress Betty White; and a starry cocktail reception at Alice Tully Hall hosted by USA Networks, previewing its upcoming television season.



"I have always wanted a real library," answered novelist and wine writer Jay McInerney, who is married to philanthropist Anne Hearst. "So my poshest room would likely be the one Anne and I are building right now in Water Mill [New York]. Robert Couturier is designing it, and it'll have a lot of ceilings, floors, and fireplaces that were intended for San Simeon [the California town where Anne's grandfather, William Randolph Hearst, built his famous castle] but which never made it there."





En route to the ballroom, Nina Griscom quietly consulted her hunky Argentine husband, Leonel Piraino. "His library," she answered. "It's covered in tobacco-leaf panels we had custom made in the Philippines. Garrison Rousseau helped me put it together. We had it all measured and installed. And it smells wonderful."

"Anything Robert has touched," answered Tiffany Dubin, a fashion and decorative-arts specialist who works in client services at Sotheby's. Couturier did not, however, design her beloved bedroom. "I live in it," she said. "The bed is an Art Nouveau design, sort of Les Lalannes-like."



Just before dinner, we caught up with fashion designer Naeem Khan. Though his elegant New York loft served as an interior in the film *Monsoon Wedding*, he tabbed the living room of his Miami apartment. "It has a big crystal chandelier from a palace in India," he revealed. "The fixture is 11 feet by nine feet—the size of, say, a good-size baby elephant."

Writer Amy Fine Collins—one of the evening's hosts—mentioned that she, too, owns a noteworthy chandelier. "The poshest room in my house is the maid's room, which has been converted into my closet," she said. "It has all my posh gowns. And I have a tall Billy Baldwin monkey chandelier hanging from the ceiling—it was a gift from Hamish Bowles."

Others cited their posh bathrooms, including Lizzie Tisch, who arrived at the Pierre on the arm of her mogul husband, Jonathan, the evening's auctioneer. "We have a powder room that is a favorite of mine," she said. "It has a metallic-pink toilet that a man in Florida made us. It's just a jewel box of a space."

<http://www.architecturaldigest.com/blogs/inquisitive-guest/2012/05/sigourney-weaver-betty-white-larry-king-poshest-rooms>