

# TRADITIONAL HOME<sup>®</sup>

November 2008

from  
the  
*heart*

## Decorating

MAKE  
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SAY MORE  
ABOUT YOU!

59 OH-SO-PRETTY SPACES

23 HANDMADE TREASURES  
pick from fabrics to flooring

*plus* The romantic set of  
*Australia*, with Nicole Kidman  
and Hugh Jackman

## CLASSIC HOMES

Inspiring ideas  
to change  
how you live

Where Women Create

# inspire! me!

BY JENNIFER WILSON PRODUCED BY JENNY BRADLEY



## natural nomad

CLODAGH PERFECTS THE ALCHEMY OF HER WORK AMIDST THE **GOOD ENERGY OF HER NEW YORK STUDIO**

There is a simplicity born of the nomadic lifestyle. After wandering in more than 90 countries, interior designer Clodagh has carefully honed her spare design style.

Enter her New York City studio and showroom. Note its quiet energy. The tumble of water over rock. Wide brick arches like ancient fortresses. A giant tangle of vine as sculpture. Light bathes the serene space at Clodagh Design, where the energized staff of 23 architects and designers produces countless projects as well as fabric, carpet, lighting, and furniture with a global flair that borrows from nature. Clodagh and her staff are going retail as ▶



Clockwise from above: Clodagh in her New York office.

■ The adjoining showroom sells lighting, furniture, and accessories. ■ Proceeds from the sale of beads and bracelets go to Clodagh Cares. ■ Hand-thrown ceramic vases created by Pater Collis (starting at \$130) add a dash of vibrant color to the quiet serenity of the retail showroom.

Preceding page: Clodagh with staff members Sergio Mercado, left, and Jen DiLeonardi, right.



## Clodagh Cares

well: The product design division just launched an organic bedding line through Bed Bath & Beyond. Her own work has garnered international acclaim, including a spot in the Interior Design Hall of Fame.

"Interior and exterior design are stages for people to be," Clodagh says. "If you have too much stuff, it kills creativity. You need space for your mind."

Within the open floor plan of the 12,000 square-foot former Brooks Brothers building, she arranges desks according to feng shui—the ancient Chinese practice of color selection and furniture placement considered to promote health, happiness, and prosperity.

She and her staff "check their egos at the elevator" and often cluster together to ideate, write, and eat lunch—with light techno music playing softly. The retail showroom sells pieces from the Clodagh Collection, works from favorite artisans, private labels, and licensed products.

The design department works out the fabrics, carpets, and lights. An architecture studio orchestrates special projects—residential properties, hotels, spas—like the recently completed headquarters and test kitchen for *Saveur* magazine.

That's a hefty job description, put into perspective by Clodagh's lifelong motto: "Why not?" She overlooks the progress >

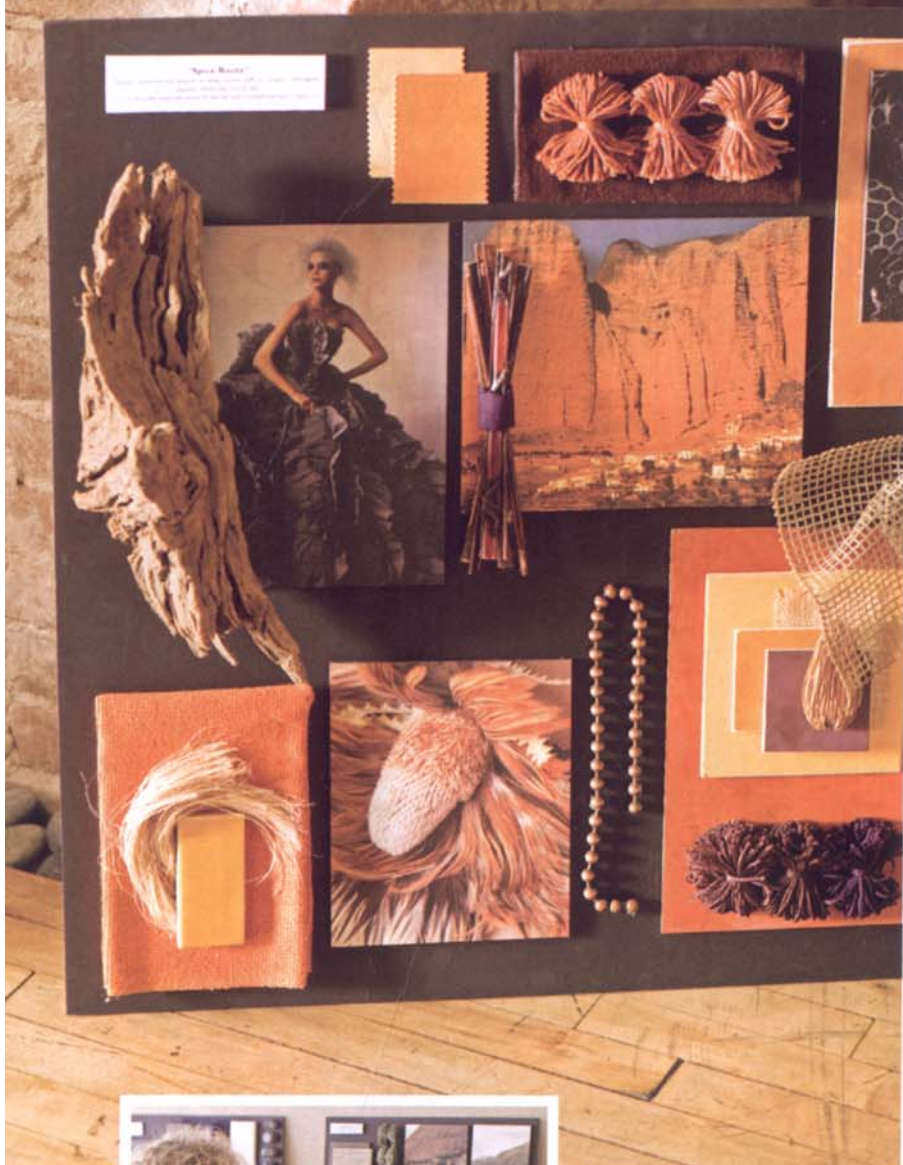
As if designer, CEO, and creative whirlwind weren't enough, Clodagh's new nonprofit, **Clodagh Cares** ([clodaghcares.org](http://clodaghcares.org)), pools donations for charitable organizations that provide education, health necessities, and other means of assistance to children around the globe.

The grassroots effort is bolstered by the sale of beads, *above*, and other trinkets in Clodagh's showroom. For the equivalent of "two lattes and a muffin," according to her Web site, a child could have a life-saving mosquito net or a school uniform. Just \$10. Can't you hear Clodagh posing her favorite question: Why not?

## INSPIRED READ

Internationally known for her Zen-like and environmentally friendly design, Clodagh applies her signature "Four C's" to contemporary living—contemplating, cleansing, clarifying, and creating everything from sensual bedrooms to spa-like baths—in her new book, *Your Home, Your Sanctuary* (Rizzoli; \$50).

"A home should support you in every way, and the book shares my ideas for creating that," says Clodagh. A "Top Nine" visual checklist of essential design elements, as well as striking photography by her husband, photographer Daniel Aubrey, makes this follow-up to her popular *Total Design* a fine addition to the minimalist's library.



Above: Clodagh and her team check out inspiration boards filled with photographs, natural elements, and textural trinkets. Center right: Some twisted vines create a sculptural endnote in the studio.

from her concrete-and-Cortens-steel desk, a spider orchid for company. "Interesting flowers stimulate the mind," she says. Beside her, a rolling restaurant cart (a favorite space-saver she calls "nomadic storage") overflows with photographs taken in the Tucson desert. Her images of shadows, water, and stone inspired a new carpet collection for Bentley Prince Street.

She came to interior design from fashion. Raised in Oscar Wilde's summer home in Ireland, Clodagh was named for a waterway that flowed past it. At 17 she began her own fashion-design company.



Then, she says, "I wanted to do something more meaningful." So she apprenticed with an architect in Spain.

Today, the woman who travels so lightly that even a last name became cumbersome aims to infuse her design with joy—an architecture that heals.

"It's about making a better world," she says. "What I like to hear most from my clients is, 'We feel good here.'"

Just as she does in this place where a quiet current of inspiration runs through burbling fountains, while the woman named for water creates. ■

**find it** For more information on Clodagh, visit [clodagh.com](http://clodagh.com) or [clodaghcares.org](http://clodaghcares.org).