

## Q&A with New York-based Interior Designer Purvi Padia

New York-based designer Purvi Padia gives us an inside look at her process, projects, and inspiration!

by New York Spaces



Design by Purvi Padia. Photograph by Scott Jones.



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**NYS: Where is a lot of your interior design work based?**

**Purvi Padia:** The majority of our projects are in the Tri-State area, mostly in New York City, the Hamptons and Connecticut.

**NYS: What elements usually distinguish your interiors?**

**Purvi Padia:** I really believe in striking a balance between the refined AND the authentic. I, of course, want my spaces to look sophisticated, elegant and polished, but it is just as important to me that they reflect the values of the client and have a sense of comfort and

ease to them.

**NYS: You tend to create a lot of custom furniture and lighting for your clients. What are the benefits of doing a lot of custom work?**

**Purvi Padia:** There are so many benefits, especially in New York City where we often work with rooms that have unusual shapes and dimensions. Custom pieces enable me to create pieces that fit perfectly and give me and my clients the certainty that the space reflects the aesthetic we're trying to create.

**NYS: Why do you find it important to layer your interiors with a variety of textures? What do you think various textures add to a home?**

**Purvi Padia:** My style relies heavily on neutrals and layering textures to add interest, depth and a sense of luxury. A basic sofa can be transformed into something much more sophisticated with a fur throw and cowhide pillows. Layering enables you to add luxe materials without overdoing it and creates a sense of comfort and coziness.



Photograph by Scott Jones. Design by Purvi Padia.



Tribeca Loft, Design by Purvi Padia. Photo by Scott Jones.

**NYS: We love that you create such double-duty homes for families. How do you design an interior that can withstand young children yet still be the perfect place to hold a dinner party?**

**Purvi Padia:** I believe strongly that homes should not only be beautiful but also practical and livable. A huge part of that is making a home functional and welcoming to every member of the family.

I have a few rules of thumb when designing for young families:

First, use organic shapes. Cutting down on sharp corners make pieces kid-friendly and organic shapes, such as a petrified wood stump as a side table or a tufted ottoman in place of a cocktail table introduce an element of softness, warmth and comfort.

Second, while I love gorgeous lighting, floor and table lamps are a hazard for young children. For families, I love the idea of incorporating show-stopping sconces and chandeliers in unexpected places. Where I might use tall floor lamps to give a room height in a project without young children, for families I opt instead for heavy (read: untipable) sculptures displayed in the corner of the room.

And finally, we always gravitate to double-duty pieces and kid-friendly fabrics—sometimes even in projects where the clients don't have kids! Two of our favorite tricks are creating cocktail tables that can open up to stow all the kids' clutter, and we love durable fabrics—today there are so many that look chic and clean up easily.

**NYS: What does your own home look like?**

**Purvi Padia:** Not surprisingly, my home is grounded in neutral tones with loads of layers and textures. I've also incorporated elements of my Indian culture like a five foot-tall Ganesh statue and a piece of modern art featuring the Taj Mahal.

**NYS: How and why did you choose your color palette?**

**Purvi Padia:** To me, neutrals radiate comfort and warmth and that's what I want my home to feel like. I always say I want to feel like my home is giving me a hug when I walk through the door...



Designer Purvi Padia. Photograph by Scott Jones.

**NYS: We love your outdoor area! How did you approach the design of this space?**



Designer Purvi Padia. Photograph by Scott Jones.

**Purvi Padia:** I wanted our outdoor spaces to feel like an extension of the interiors. We used neutral colors, texture wherever possible and lighting with character. And of course, with the plantings, which we refresh seasonally, we have the organic element covered.

**NYS: What is one of your favorite design aspects of your own home?**

**Purvi Padia:** I love that our home has unexpected room shapes and angles. It really freed me to get creative with proportion and how things are positioned in each room. It makes every room feel special and the whole home feel unique. And I learned a lot in the process!

**NYS: We adore the Tribeca loft you created for a client. What was your design approach in this space?**

**Purvi Padia:** This is actually one of my personal favorites as well. The clients needed a flexible space that felt right for adult entertaining, a kids' gathering, and a quiet family day at home. To give them the versatility they needed, we did things like use eight Christian Liagre side tables to create a single coffee table—now they have a super-practical modular piece done in an elegant and sophisticated way.

We also used an oversized sofa piled with textured pillows, a piece with a ton of flexibility. It can be used as sumptuous seating with the layers of the throw pillows acting as a backrest for an elegant evening with adults. Or the pillows can be "thrown" right off to create a broad daybed for the kids to play on. And it can also just be an oversized sofa for the whole family to relax on a Sunday afternoon.

**NYS: Can you tell us about the wallpaper (?) behind the Buddha? It is beautiful!**

**Purvi Padia:** This is one of my favorite wall coverings. It's textured and reads like stone. It's an accessible way to create a dramatic, elegant, organic feel.

**NYS: You incorporated a ton of very busy artwork in a very relaxing way. How did you accomplish this?**

**Purvi Padia:** In this particular project, the art was actually the inspiration for the entire space. While there is color in the art, the background of the piece is made up of dark neutrals, and we used those tones as the inspiration for our color palette. We were careful not to introduce any colors in the room that were not already represented in the art.

**NYS: What is one of your favorite aspects of this interior?**

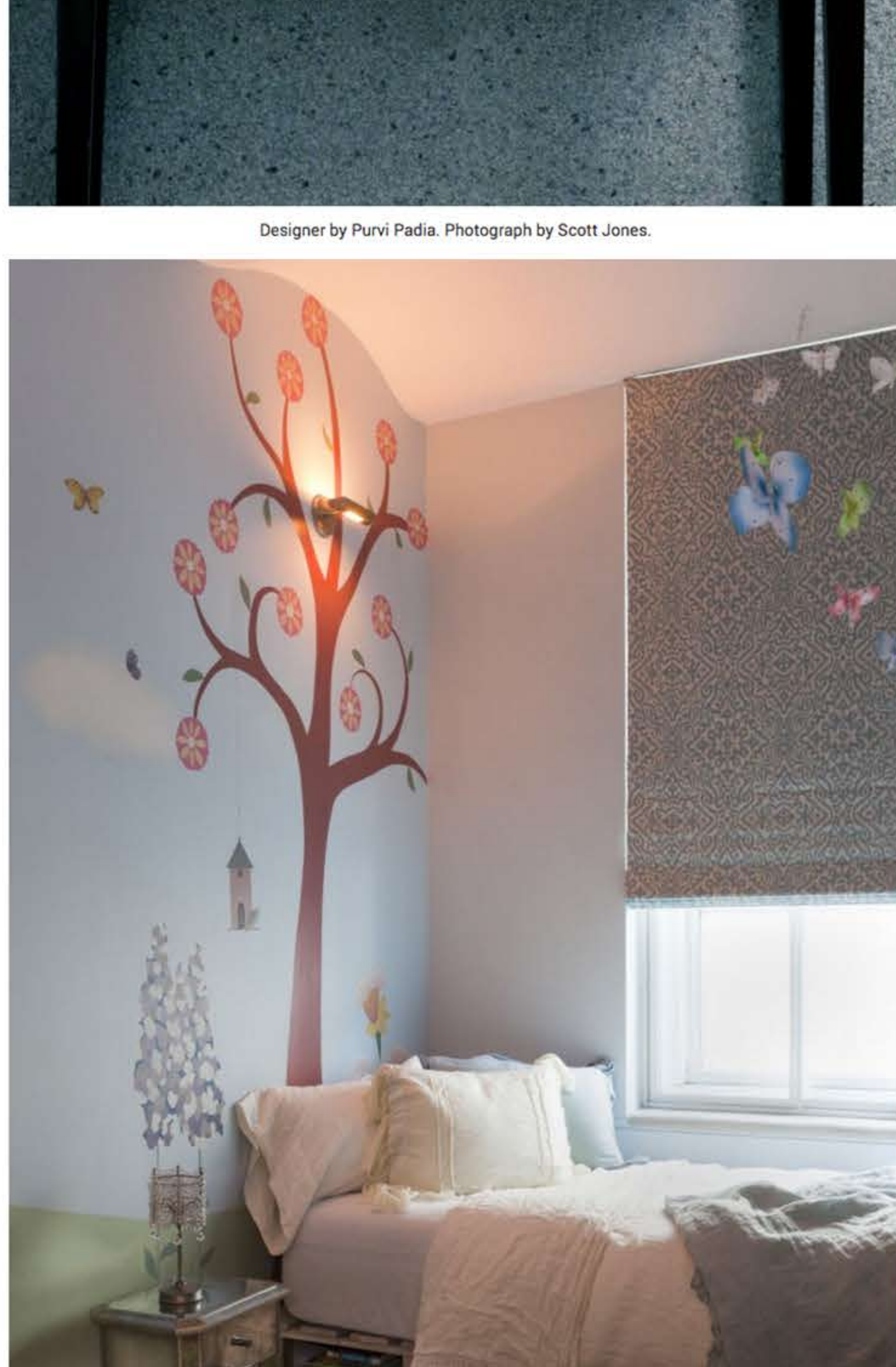
**Purvi Padia:** I love the entry of this apartment. There are so many interesting elements, from the barn door to the black wall to the row of sconces to the wall covering. The long corridor gives the apartment a feeling of grandeur before it opens up into this casual, sophisticated, airy living space.

**NYS: What are you working on now?**

**Purvi Padia:** Most of my current projects are in NYC. The two I am most excited about are a double-story townhouse in the West Village and a 7500-square foot duplex in the heart of Tribeca.



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