



BENJAMIN NORIEGA-ORTIZ, New York, NY: This designer leans toward the architectural and clean in his designs for the rich, famous, and influential. No surprise: He holds not one but two degrees in architecture and, before launching his own firm in 1992, spent six years as head designer for John Saladino. Noriega-Ortiz loves the architecture of the classic Knole sofa from George Smith, with its high arms and a back that “makes you feel like you’re sitting in your own little room.” His personal version of the Knole is likely to feature Fortuny patterned fabric over the insides and cushions, and a sofa body wrapped in a solid color. “It gives any room the flair of the old without being stuffy,” he says.

