Tuning is a frequently used word in Bohlin’s architectural vocabulary. It is what happens in the design process after the spaces have volume but before they have a quality.

DESIGN AT ALL SCALES
When we looked at this month’s inventory of stories, we were struck by the range of scales represented—the molecular machinations of the biobrick, the ingenious crafting of interior spaces, the furniture created for those spaces, and the buildings capable of containing them all. The variety and depth of those features seemed to convey to us the ongoing mission of the magazine: to cover all facets of design, in just about all of their many dimensions.
The economy may be sluggish and budgets tight, but five up-and-comers are doing incredibly rich interiors.

It's always an interesting challenge to find an emerging crop of interior designers. When we look for young talent in other disciplines—especially architecture and graphic design—it's fairly easy to check out the winners of the American Institute of Architects' and Art Directors Club's competitions, or even do a quick Google search to uncover designers promoting their own work. Not so for interior design. To turn up the five promising firms from around the country that are highlighted on the following pages, we often solicited the opinions of people we trust. The selected work runs the gamut. There's a modernist working in a historic town, a resourceful firm that handles full-service projects on a shoestring, architects who layer cultural references into spaces with real challenges, a pair of designers trying to recapture the luxury of department-store dining, and a high-end hospitality specialist who's not too shabby at making do with found objects. Whatever their style, these are people we expect to hear a lot more about—especially as the economy begins to pick up. —Paul Makovsky
ANGIE HRANOWSKY DESIGN STUDIO
Charleston, South Carolina
PITT STREET RESIDENCE
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

Charleston, South Carolina, is not exactly a hotbed of contemporary design. For the interior designer Angie Hranowsky, that’s both a boon and a burden. Most folks in the Holy City want old homes or homes that look old, but among those with more modern leanings, Hranowsky has virtually cornered the market. Still, it’s after she lands a job that she faces the real challenges: one, her clients have usually inherited furniture they’re unwilling to part with; and two, she has few local options for modern pieces.

When decorating a downtown property from the 1800s, she first went “shopping” among things homeowner Carolyn Evans already had in her home. Then she hit the Web. “I found the vintage barrel chairs in the kitchen on-line,” she says. “Carolyn really liked them, but she had the same question a lot of my clients have: ‘If you find furniture online, how do you know if it’s comfortable?’ I use so much vintage furniture that I can pretty much tell from looking at the shape, angles, and dimensions.”

Hranowsky re-upholstered several more online scores: a couple of ’70s side chairs in a China Seas ikat and the two benches under the kitchen console table in a Missoni-like pattern.

Hranowsky, who is trained as a graphic designer, started the interiors arm of her business in 2005. “My background translates in the sense that no matter whether you are looking at two-dimensional or three-dimensional design, you’re still looking at shape, form, balance, and color.” — R.C.

Originally the only space Hranowsky was hired to decorate, the sitting room (left) has three vintage chairs and two vintage tables. The pendant light is by Roost.

In the living room (top right), Hranowsky reupholstered pieces the client already owned. She chose a Blue China Seas fabric called Kit II for the club chair.