

GOOD LIFE

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# Gray

PACIFIC NORTHWEST DESIGN

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“When you come as an immigrant to the U.S., you develop a thick skin. It drives you to be successful. To do things... even if you don’t feel prepared.”

—Paloma Hurtado,  
fashion designer

GOOD DESIGN  
GOOD CAUSES  
GOOD LIVING

# Brian Paquette (Seattle, WA)



**Sectional:**  
3675-Shannon,  
Color Silver

A sitting room off the kitchen holds the Lawson-Fenning sofa, upholstered in green Pindler fabric, that served as an aesthetic launchpad for the whole renovation. The rug is vintage; the ottoman is Lawson-Fenning, and the rush chair is from Hollywood at Home. Pillows from ZAK + FOX add subtle pattern to the seating.



Paquette says, noting that his team didn't have to tear down any walls. "It just needed some of the '90s taken off." The kitchen had updated appliances and cabinetry, so it stayed relatively untouched, but Paquette did remove the wall-to-wall carpet in most of the other rooms to reveal original hardwood floors. He refinished and stained them espresso brown, and the walls throughout the house received a coat of Farrow & Ball's warm white Pointing to create a fresh, uplifting backdrop.

With the anchor palette in place, Paquette started to populate the rooms with neutral-toned furniture. "The palette she wanted was very 1990s Banana Republic catalogue: khakis, dusty greens, tan. She's spent quite a bit of time in South Africa, so some of those colors are inspired by natural, earthy tones."

In the living room, a major hangout spot for the homeowner's friends and family, the client needed a couch that would accommodate them all. In response, Paquette custom-designed a low-slung 14-foot sectional. A large vintage rug provides a cozy place for floor seating, and a work by ceramicist Jolinda Linden adds texture to one wall.

Shades of blue appear in the Romo-upholstered Lawson-Fenning dining room chairs and a leather ottoman in the sitting room. A sofa in the sitting room is covered in green Pindler fabric that proved to be an aesthetic driver for the entire project. "In one of our first meetings, we were standing over a table of fabric swatches," Paquette remembers. "She pretty quickly picked that fabric, and off we went from there."

Other decisions weren't as easy. The client initially contested Paquette's choice of a Cloud chandelier from Apparatus to hang over the dining table. "When I first saw it, I said, 'Absolutely not! That looks like Bubbles the Clown.' But once it was up, I saw how much softness it brought to the room. Brian was right," she admits.

This trusting rapport between client and designer was the backbone of a project that both taps into a Northwest neutral palette and puts a slightly global twist on modern sensibilities. "She knew what she wanted," Paquette says, "but I helped stretch her aesthetics and shepherd things along." ✨



**Sofa:**  
5450-Bond,  
Color Forest