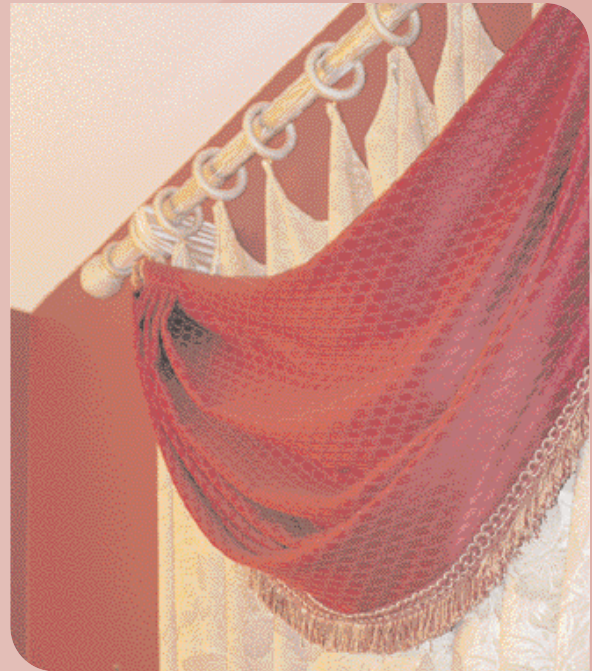


1st Place—Designer's Debut



Valentina Guenther
Valentina's Home Designs
Durham, Connecticut

A new category, Designer's Debut honors designers who have been in business five years or fewer. This master bedroom presented several challenges—pre-existing bedroom set, white walls, and a limited budget, to name a few. Guenther chose a warm red color for the walls. The **strong color choice was balanced with textured and embellished neutrals** used elsewhere in the room. Chenille with decorative trim was used for the bed coverlet and pillows. A red bedskirt frames the bed and separates the similar colors on the bed and carpet. At the window, she designed swags with panels that drape over holdbacks to create a soft, balanced look around the boxy furniture. The hardware she chose did not include holdbacks, so Guenther cut pieces from wooden poles and finials, and mounted the custom holdbacks to the window molding.



Butterfly-print fabric for the panels and chintz for the swag are from Lanscot & Arlen; the fringe is from Conso; and the decorative hardware is from Kirsch. The fabric for the coverlet is from Zimmerman, with trim from Mastex. The fabric for the bedskirt is from Lanscot and the carpet is from Mohawk. Valentina Guenther was the designer and fabricator; Valentina and Donald Guenther did the installation. Photography is by Pamela Bentley, Durham, Connecticut.