



Designer Markham Roberts favors pieces like double-sided sofas to create distinct seating groups that orient the space toward conversation. "It helps relax the room, especially when you add in lighter, whimsical pieces, which make larger rooms feel less daunting for visitors," notes the designer, who points to his mentor, Mark Hampton, for mastery of this sense of order and proportion. "He could make the most formal room be just as comfortable for a couple of people as it would be for a large group."