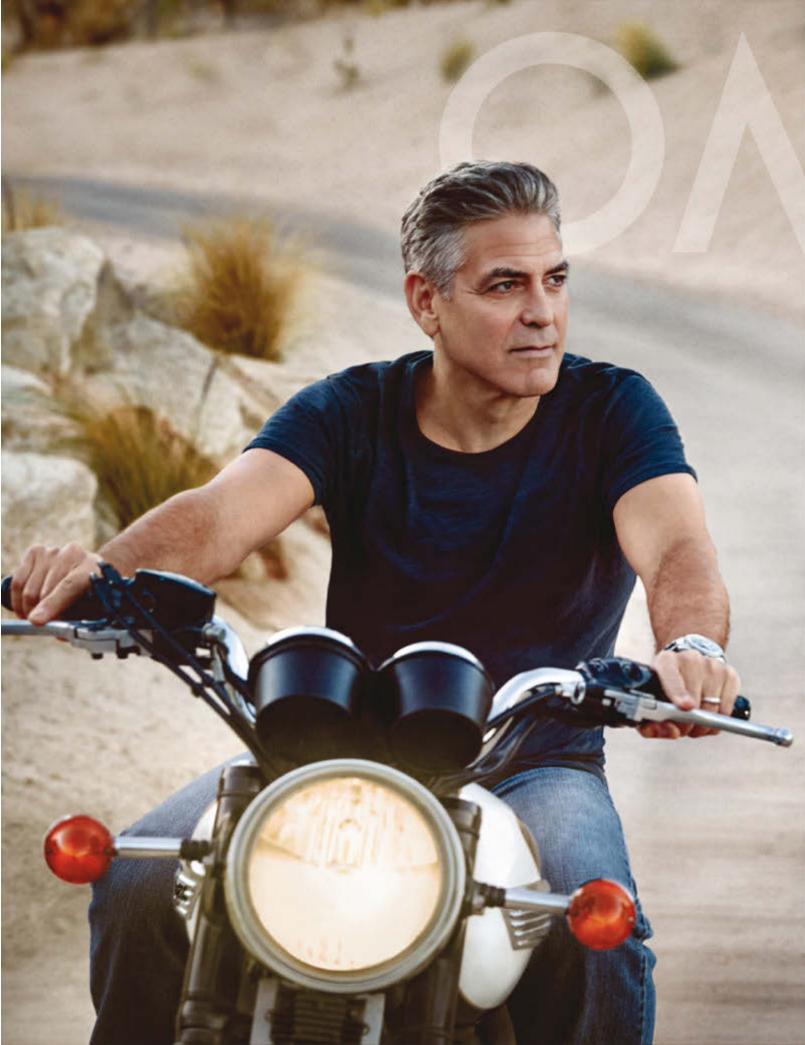
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THE INTERNATIONAL DESIGN AUTHORITY

JUNE 2015







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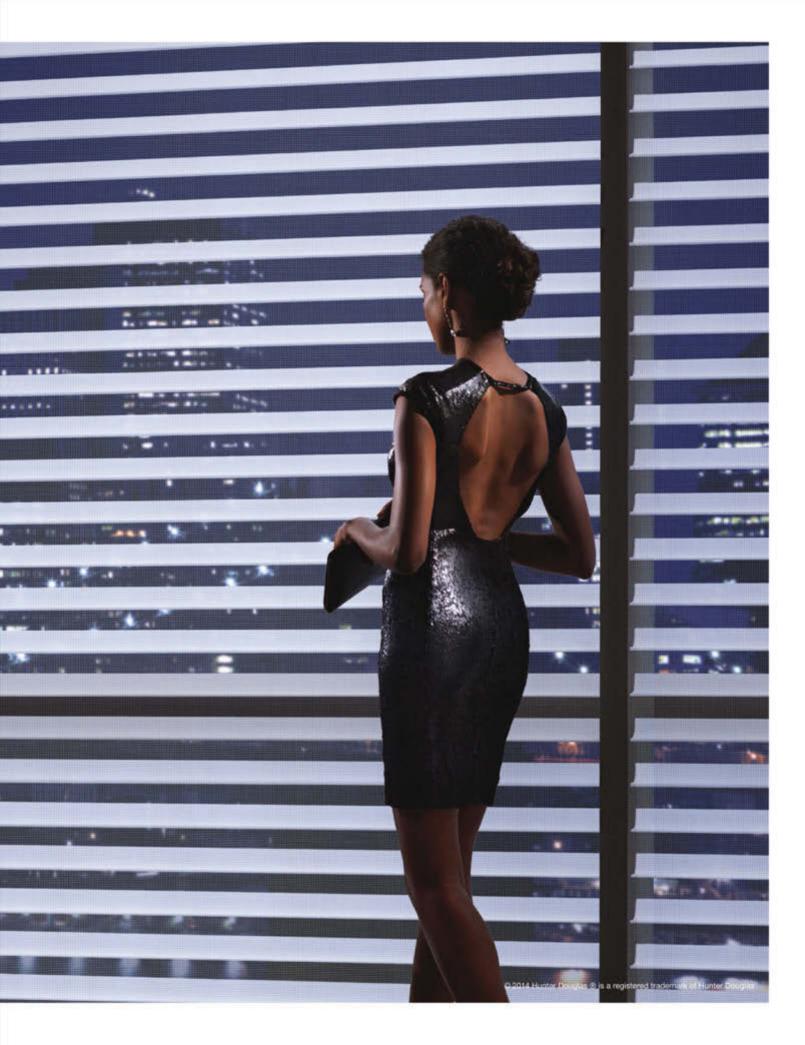
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The family room of an Aspen, Colorado, house designed by Bohlin Cywinski Jackson, with interiors by Shelton, Mindel & Assoc.

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By Mayer Rus

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Cover: Giorgio Armani's home in Saint-Tropez, France. "A Place in the Sun," page 102. Photography by Richard Powers; produced by Anita Sarsidi.

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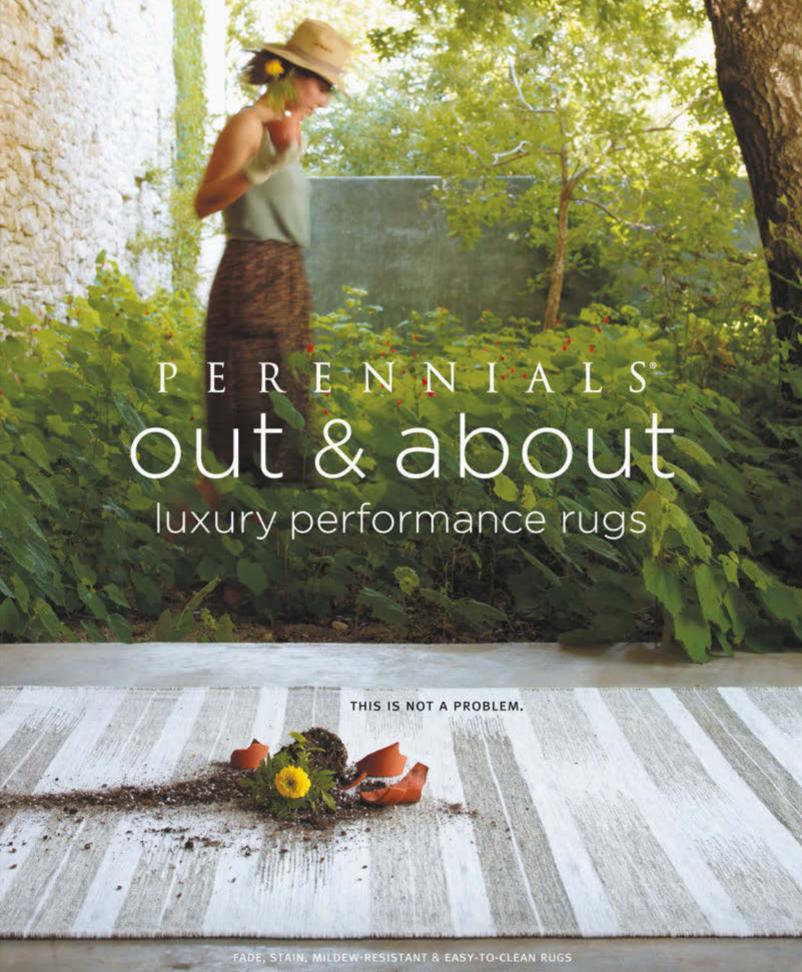


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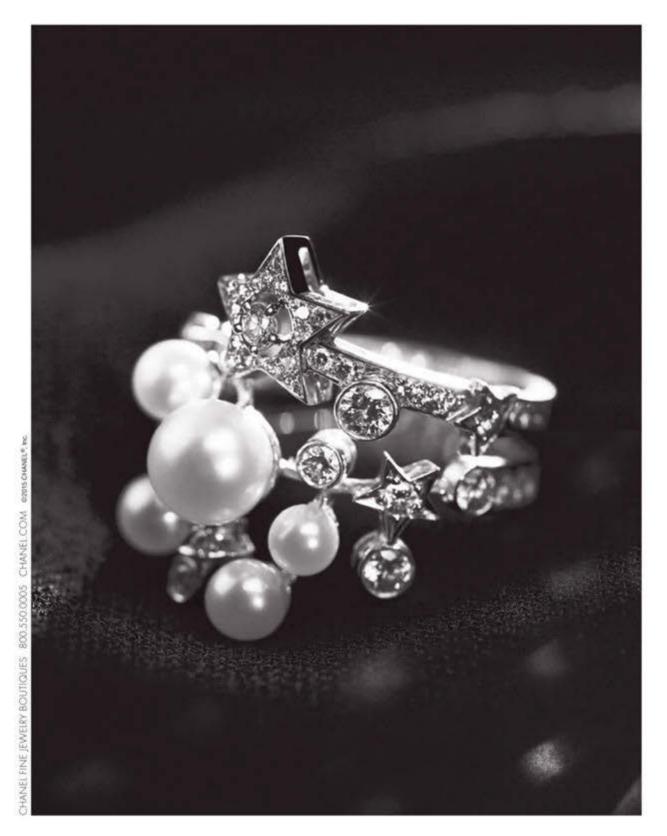
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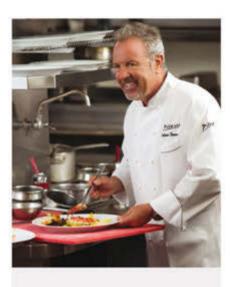
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Flexform San Francisco is celebrating its one-year anniversary with the launch of its ready-made program. The concept will allow customers to purchase select items from the displays and have them delivered to their home within days. The ready-made offerings include some of Flexform's best-selling designs by Antonio Citterio, such as the Groundpiece sectional sofa, ABC armchairs, and Fly cocktail tables, to name a few. The concept is a first of its kind for Flexform in the U.S.

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Above: The 2016 Mazda MX-5.

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LEADING MAN

After touring Giorgio Armani's breezy Saint-Tropez house on page 102, explore more of the fashion icon's stylish world with a behindthe-scenes look at his extraordinary life and career. archdigest.com/go/armani



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n design-magazine offices, the term spec house is an interior decorator's dark secret, grudgingly revealed only under pressure and, if then, usually in a whisper. This has been especially true at AD, which for decades has been publishing some of the world's most striking architect-designed residences. Yet in truth, large numbers of builder houses—as well as cookie-cutter condos—are being purchased every day. For many home buyers, spec isn't a dirty word but simply a convenient alternative to waiting on a custom construction project or an extensive renovation. And if houses like these have been inspiringly decorated, landscaped, and otherwise improved, sometimes you'll find them in our pages.

This month we feature a Georgian-style residence near Manhattan that was acquired mid-build and handed over to designer Vicente Wolf. Despite neoclassical moldings and coffered ceilings, the place was desperate for a dose of soulfulness, and Vicente delivered, de-emphasizing the busy millwork by painting it white and enlivening the rooms with furnishings that span centuries and cultures. He also rejiggered the floor plan, flipping the den and the dining room for better flow; added warmth to the kitchen with driftwood-tone cabinetry; and created an elegant master suite with layers and layers of shimmering silk taffeta.

Vicente didn't materially alter the house. Instead he expertly tweaked it, making it into just the right setting for his clients and their young children. His solutions can be applied in any home—be it in the city, country, or somewhere in between—

> that, though packed with every possible modern convenience, somehow still doesn't feel complete. Spec doesn't have to mean bland; if the bones are strong, you're off to a good start.



AD100 decorator Vicente Wolf with me at a design-industry dinner gala.

MARGARET RUSSELL, Editor in Chief editor@archdigest.com



PRADA EYEWEAR

LETTERS





From left: Designer Ray Booth and TV executive John Shea's home in Nashville, Tennessee. The April cover.

ESCAPE PLANS

I love my new subscription. I never realized that the magazine would bring me travel inspiration! In the February issue, I loved the story Gregorio Marañón, the Marquess of Marañón, wrote about his country house in Toledo, Spain ["State of Grace"]. What a wonderful steward he is of his family's idyllic property. The peek of its view of Toledo in the opening photo was enough for me to put this city on my wish list of beautiful places to visit. In the same issue, the feature on extraordinary recent architecture ["New Horizons"] introduced me to the Aspen Art Museum. I live in Colorado, so that is a much closer destination for me. Thank you for expanding the perspective of this new reader.

> MARTY MARSH Fort Collins, Colorado

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

Flipping through the April issue had me alternately slapping my knee with delight and wringing my hands with discouragement. Who wouldn't find fun in a Jasper sofa and chairs upholstered in Jasper fabrics pictured next to a dog named Jasper, found in the piece about interior designer Michael S. Smith and diplomat James Costos's residence in

Rancho Mirage, California ["Saving Grace"]? I was disappointed, however, to see California homes with big pools, big bathtubs, and exquisite real-grass lawns at a time when the state is experiencing a serious drought.

> MARGARET TYLCZAK Vashon Island, Washington

MOVING MOUNTAINS

Your April article about interior designer Ray Booth and television executive John Shea's home in Nashville ["High Definition"] makes reference to the views of the Great Smoky Mountains. You cannot actually see them from Nashville, as they are some 200 miles to the east. I still love the magazine, though, and read the issue from cover to cover.

> BRENDA WALDRON Murfreesboro, Tennessee

ON ANOTHER LEVEL

I cannot express how wowed I was by the February issue's Manhattan penthouse outfitted by Rafael de Cárdenas ["Village Vanguard"]. His choice of elements, the unexpected placement of items, and his own furniture designs make for a visual experience that can only be described as stepping inside a starship from Planet Chic. What seemed to be missing, though,

is a photo of the office, which is mentioned in the text as featuring a frieze made of studs inspired by those found on the client's Alexander Wang handbag. Regardless, thank you, Mr. De Cárdenas, for your inspired sense of modernity and sophistication.

> LOREN HENNING San Francisco

TIME OUT

Passion, design, and style are the main ingredients between the front cover and last page of Architectural Digest. When the toil of the day strips me of my sanity, nothing has the ability to recharge my creative energy like sitting back with a glass of Pinot Noir, soft music, and the latest copy of the magazine. I slip into a world of dreams and possibilities. I always appreciate the excellent taste that you impart on your readers.

> LOU SISBARRO Verona, New Jersey

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articulated details, artisanal finishes, and a materials palette heavy on alabaster, bronze, and brass. Fans will recognize reinterpretations of Wearstler's high-profile public commissions—the Strada series, for instance, takes its cue from the sunburst chandeliers at BG, the debonair restaurant she outfitted for Bergdorf Goodman. "The line goes in a lot of directions, but it's not too schizophrenic," Wearstler says. "It's more like a picture of all the things that inspire me." From \$390; circalighting.com and kellywearstler.com - MAYER RUS

Right: Among the table lamps from Wearstler's line are, from left, Marmont in burnt gold and white porous ceramic, Linden in plaster white, Melange in antique burnished brass with alabaster, and Sonara in ivory and chalk black pearl.



The dining room at Chevalier, the restaurant at New York's Baccarat Hotel & Residences.

RESTAURANTS

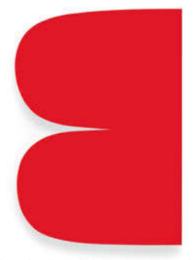
Shining Example

Midtown Manhattan got a serious boost of glamour with the opening of Chevalier at the new Baccarat Hotel & Residences New York, the premier property from hotelier Barry Sternlicht's recently launched brand. Named for the French crystal company's influential former creative director, Georges Chevalier, the restaurant offers expert riffs on French-brasserie classics, conjured by celebrated chef Shea Gallante and served under the watchful eye of beloved New York maître d' Charles Masson, previously of La Grenouille. As for the sophisticated interiors—walls inset with shimmering panels of cloud-patterned mirror, smartly tailored leather banquettes, dining chairs clad in silvery tweed—they are the work of AD100 designer Stephen Sills. "I adapted the warm grays and grand architectural details of Paris to fit the modernity of New York," says Sills. baccarathotels.com -alyssa bird

GALLERIES

SINGULAR SENSATIONS

Summer may be a slow time for the New York art world, but in the weeks leading up to it, galleries are pulling out all the stops with an array of major solo shows. Dealer Matthew Marks is giving over three of his Chelsea spaces to American master Ellsworth Kelly, spotlighting the living legend's recent explorations in color and form (May 13-June 20; matthewmarks.com). A dozen blocks uptown, Sean Kelly is mounting its muchanticipated first exhibition with German photographer Candida Höfer, juxtaposing the sumptuous large-scale interiors she's best known for with a bold new series of abstracted architectural details (May 8-June 20; skny.com). Meanwhile, crowds will be forming at David Zwirner's side-by-side 19th Street locations, where Japanese superstar Yayoi Kusama is unveiling her latest paintings, pumpkin sculptures, and more (May 9-June 13; davidzwirner.com). - SAMUEL COCHRAN



Ellsworth Kelly's painting Red Curves (2014) will be included in a multipart exhibition of the artist's work at Matthew Marks's Manhattan galleries.









HOTELS Catalan Chic

Barcelona's peak season arrives with a pair of stylish hotels. Part of the Autograph Collection, the Cotton House Hotel features luminous, layered spaces by designer Lázaro Rosa-Violán, including a stunning library and a serene rooftop terrace. Built in the 19th century as the Cotton Textile Foundation headquarters, the neoclassical property is situated in the architecturally rich Eixample district (from \$276/night; autographhotels.com). For a stay near the waterfront's lovely beaches, the Serras won't disappoint, with crisp, breezy rooms by decorator Eva Martinez and a Mediterranean tapas restaurant from acclaimed chef Marc Gascons. The Picasso Suite pays homage to the renowned painter, whose first studio was in the 1846 building (from \$252/night; hoteltheserrasbarcelona.com). -A.B.

From top: A guest room at the Serras hotel, just opened in Barcelona, Original woodwork graces the library at the Cotton House Hotel, another newcomer to the city. The Cotton House Hotel's bar.



Fashioned from butterfly wings and household paint, Damien Hirst's "Psalm" paintings combine the dizzying symmetry of a kaleidoscope with the radiant beauty of a rose window. Created in 2008, the full series now appears in a new book, *The Complete Psalm* Paintings (Other Criteria, \$100). Each of the 150 works is printed opposite the psalm it's named after, the biblical texts superimposed on swirling backdrops of veined marble. The result is a gloriously eccentric take on the age-old tradition of the illuminated manuscript. —JULIE COE

BELLISSIMA

Italian footwear brand Aquazzura has a resplendent new home befitting the appeal of its seductive sky-high heels. The four-yearold company recently opened its first shop, in Florence's grand Palazzo Corsini, the same building that houses its offices. The Portuguese design firm Casa do Passadiço has enhanced the historic interiors, restoring 17th-century ceiling frescoes, adding a black-and-white-striped marble entry, and installing jewel-tone furnishings in opulent velvets and silks. aquazzura.com — A.B.

Right: The Aquazzura flagship, set in Florence's Palazzo Corsini.



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EXHIBITIONS

NATURAL INSTINCTS

Painter Alex Katz may be best known for his portraits, but nature, as a new exhibition at Atlanta's High Museum of Art explores, has proved as potent a subject for him as people. "Alex Katz, This Is Now" surveys his interest in landscapes with 60 works, among them 15 massive canvases that offer a kind of sylvan sensory immersion (June 21–September 6; high.org). Katz's creative roots, meanwhile, are the focus of a show at the Colby College Museum of Art in Waterville, Maine. "Brand-new & Terrific: Alex Katz in the 1950s" spotlights the first decade of his career, hinting at the stylistic inventions to come (July 11–October 18; colby.edu). —s.c.



Alex Katz's 16-foot-wide painting 10:30 am (2006) is part of an upcoming show at Atlanta's High Museum of Art.



From top: The recently unveiled Thread artist residency and community center in Sinthian, Senegal, designed by the firm Toshiko Mori Architect for the Josef and Anni Albers Foundation. Mori with locals at the site's opening in March. An oculus in the building's thatched roof frames a courtyard.



GOOD WORKS TEAM BUILDING

Five years ago AD100 architect Toshiko Mori, a professor at Harvard's Graduate School of Design, gave her class an assignment: create a mixed-use building for a remote stretch of eastern Senegal. The project was born in part from conversations she'd had with friend and past collaborator Nicholas Fox Weber, who heads the Josef and Anni Albers Foundation, a non-profit dedicated to promoting the legacy and ideals of the modernist couple. Mori and Weber shared an interest in the West African region, and what had originated as an academic exercise for her students became reality when he approached her about build-

ing a community center and artist residency in the tiny Senegalese village of Sinthian.

Offering her firm's services pro bono, Mori worked with Jordan MacTavish, a former pupil, whom she had hired as an associate, to adapt the structure he had designed for the class. Among the features they added were masonry based on a Josef Albers fireplace and a

thatched roof, inspired by Anni's textiles, whose sloping surfaces collect rainwater, a precious commodity in the arid climate.

During construction MacTavish made multiple trips to the site, consulting with villagers to erect the building, which was named Thread and unveiled this March with accommodations for two artists plus other spaces for community gatherings. The hope is that the visiting talents will continue to work with locals, emulating in their projects the collaborative spirit that helped this building come to be. *thread-senegal.org*—FRED A. BERNSTEIN





École Ferrières, a deluxe hotel-and-

restaurant-management school ...

that Lisa Perry-designer of mod

fashions and collector of contempo-

rary art—is adding a Yayoi Kusama

to the grounds of her Long Island

beach house. —MITCHELL OWENS

polka-dot pumpkin sculpture

HEARS

... that architect **Peter Marino** has donated nearly \$250,000 to the **Venetian Heritage Foundation** to restore a trio of 15th-century marble



"The turquoise sea, the yellow sun—these have always been the protagonists of our fabrics," says Benedetta de Simone, creative director of the Neapolitan textile brand Livio de Simone. Known for its splashy 1960s and '70s prints, the firm has forged a new collaboration with design source Flair, which is covering an array of furnishings in the classic patterns. Among the motifs is the groovy Cubi 3D, shown above on a vintage love seat (\$6,800 as pictured). flairhomecollection.com—наплан мавтіп

CHINA CALLING





One of China's most spectacular settings is now home to Amandayan, the latest Amanresorts hotel. Overlooking the remote 800-year-old town of Lijiang-a UNESCO World Heritage Site in the Yunnan province-the lodgings were inspired by the traditional architecture of the area's indigenous Nakhi people. For the interiors, designer Jaya Ibrahim employed intricate wood carvings, embroidered Nakhi textiles, and furnishings crafted from local pine and elm. In addition to the ancient village, the breathtaking scenery includes verdant mountains and dramatic gorges. From \$805/night; amanresorts.com -A.B.

Left, from top: A view of the ancient town of Lijiang, China, from the new Amandayan resort. One of the hotel's suites.







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Madeline Weinrib takes her dashing, worldly motifs to the terrace and poolside in her debut line of outdoor fabrics. Shown, from top, are the Daphne, Moroccan Embroidery, Collins, and Luce patterns; \$135 per yard. madelineweinrib.com, 212-414-5978



enchanted Asian garden. As pictured, in emerald silk taffeta with a hand-painted pattern, the piece measures 6.5' w. x 7' h. and costs \$16,500; it is part of a new collection of fabric screens available in any of de Gournay's signature designs. degournay.com, 212-564-9750



Samuel & Sons' 2.5"-w. Labyrinth cotton-blend trim riffs on the classical Greek-key pattern in 19 vibrant hues. From top are the goldenrod, camellia, palm, Aegean-blue, and azure colorways; to the trade. samuelandsons.com 212-704-8000

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DEBUT

DYNAMIC DUO

A midcentury master teams with a new luminary on a chic storage system for Design Within Reach

hen Design Within Reach (DWR) approached Chris Hardy about collaborating with Danish-born furniture legend Jens Risom on an update of one of his classic pieces, the young Atlanta-based talent felt some trepidation. Hardy, who had previously created a pair of tables for DWR, wasn't exactly put at ease by his first meeting with the opinionated nonagenarian designer. "It was at a DWR showroom," Hardy recalls, "and Jens walked up to a famous plastic chair, smacked it with his cane, and declared, 'I do not like this.'"

Any apprehension faded during their follow-up sessions at Risom's Connecticut home, as the pair pored over old catalogues of his furniture. Inspired by a multifunctional cabinet he produced in the 1960s, they devised a new collection of modular storage, called Ven, which DWR is unveiling May 8. Several preconfigured pieces will be available, in walnut or oak, but shoppers will also have the option to custom configure components—cabinets, drawers, open shelves—to suit the needs of their space. While sporting hallmarks of vintage Risom, such as thin horizontal pulls (in brass or stainless steel) and distinctive red-laminate drawer linings, Ven is decidedly 21st century, precision-crafted so its pieces fit together perfectly off-the-shelf.

Hardy's contributions included adding a metal scallop at the top of the legs, a flourish that steps them elegantly outward, giving them more prominence while also making the cabinetry seem to float above. "The final design," notes Risom, "is a fascinating blend of our styles." dwr.com — MONICA KHEMSUROV



BRIGHT SPOT

Commune's collection for Remains Lighting channels Viennese-modern flair

emains Lighting represents all that we stand for-American craftsmanship, environmental consciousness, and embracing diverse styles," says Roman Alonso, a founder of the Los Angeles design firm Commune, which worked with Remains on a line of lamps, sconces, and ceiling fixtures. Reflecting Commune's sophisticated eclecticism, the collection takes cues from the Vienna Secession as well as French and Milanese modernist design. "We like to mix and mash historical references-it's a California thing," says Steven Johanknecht, another Commune partner. Handcrafted in Remains' LEED-certified Brooklyn factory, the ten pieces come in polished-brass, nickel, or waxed-bronze finishes, and most are available with optional detailing based on Commune's signature Slash pattern. "The finishes aren't lacquered," says Alonso. "We welcome a natural patina." communedesign.com and remains.com — MALLERY ROBERTS MORGAN



From top: Commune's Triple Dome chandelier for Remains Lighting. Commune founders, from left, Roman Alonso, siblings Pamela and Ramin Shamshiri, and Steven Johanknecht











SHOPS

TRIUMPH OF ARTISTRY

Bottega Veneta opens its first home furnishings boutique and spotlights its commitment to craft—in an exquisite 18th-century Milanese palazzo

trolling through Milan's Golden Triangle, past the enclave's patrician edifices, one could be forgiven for not immediately noticing a new neighbor. Discreetly tucked within the Palazzo Gallarati Scotti, a handsome 18th-century townhouse built by a princely local family, is Bottega Veneta's latest retail outpost: the fashion and lifestyle brand's first location devoted exclusively to its elegant line of home furnishings. "The building's façade is stately yet unassuming," says the company's creative director, Tomas Maier, who designed the 2,200-squarefoot store. "Step inside, though, and you're greeted by something unexpected. It's like discovering the luxurious lining of a handbag,"

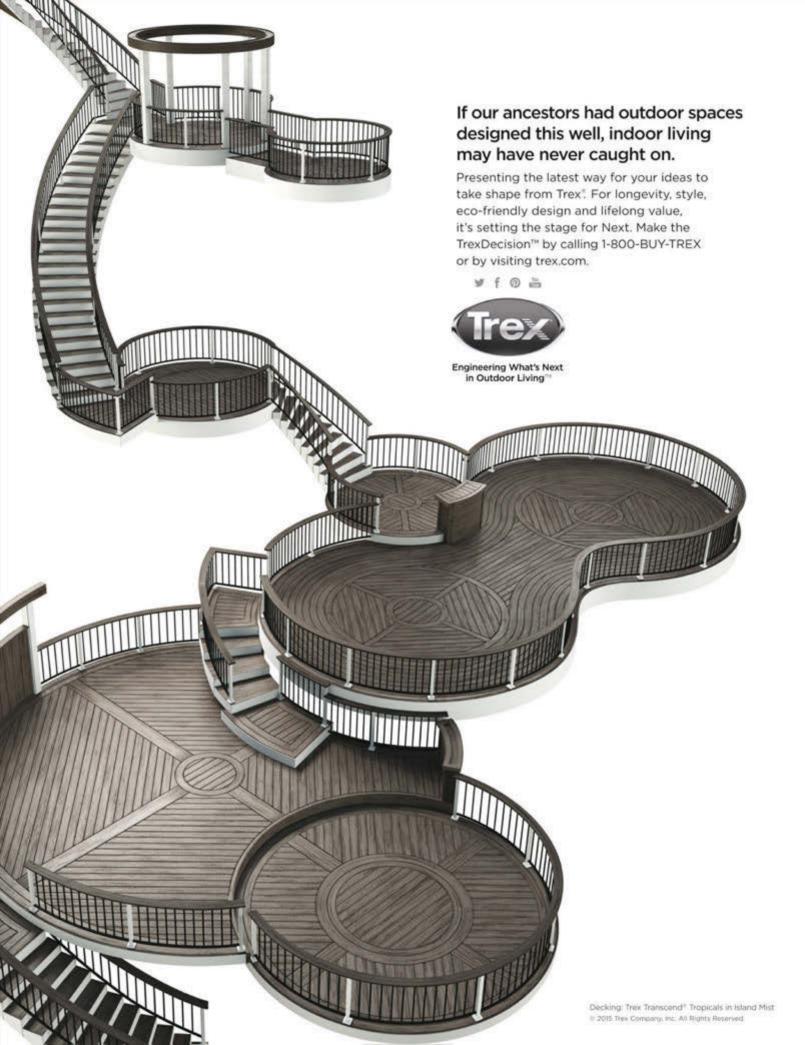
The interiors are indeed a pleasant surprise, comprising a series of glorious double-height rooms with original frescoes by Italian Old Masters Carlo Innocenzo Carlone and Giovanni Battista Tiepolo, coffered ceilings, and cotto lombardo floors. A far cry from the typical white-box store, these historic spaces wrapped around a courtyard—serve as grand backdrops to the company's graciously understated offerings, which Maier has

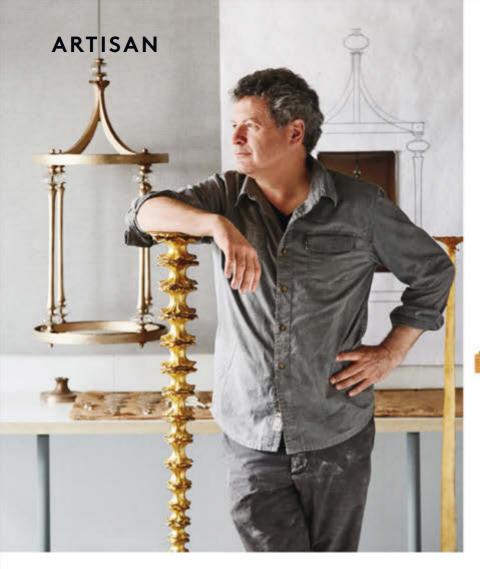
arranged in scenes that convincingly conjure domestic narratives. "This can be a challenge to pull off,

but here it came together quite naturally," he says.

To create a sitting room, Maier grouped minimalist oak bookcases with sofas produced in collaboration with the Italian firm Poltrona Frau (which has its own new showroom in the building). Elsewhere, a dining table topped with richly veined Tunisian marble has been set for a fashionable gathering, with smoky wineglasses plus cutlery and tableware embellished with the brand's signature intrecciato woven pattern. The motif appears in its original leather throughout the boutique, in everything from the shade on a gunmetal floor lamp to a console's drawer front to an array of stylish desk accessories.

Maier's goal for the new space, consistent with the brand's philosophy in general, was to respect its past while adapting it for contemporary sensibilities. One can only imagine that the palazzo's aristocratic former residents would approve of the result, with its distinct character so wonderfully retained. Certainly shoppers are encouraged to feel right at home. At Via Borgospesso 5, Milan; bottegaveneta.com — KERRY OLSEN







From fanciful lamps to undulating frames, William P. Sullivan's baroque creations are a magical departure from the norm

illiam P. Sullivan is a low-key guy with a big reputation, sought after by leading decorators and architects like Daniel Romualdez and Robert A.M. Stern for furniture, lighting, and mirrors that are organic yet formal. Gilded mirror frames are studded with porcelain fragments, while graceful bronze chandeliers bear lyrical flourishes of plaster, rock crystal, and white marble. "You can really sense his fingers shaping the metal," says interior designer Brian J. McCarthy, who compares Sullivan's bravura work to that of Diego Giacometti and once enlisted him to fashion bronze branches and foliage for a bath in a client's Swiss chalet.

The New York–based talent, known as Bill, began making ships out of wood at age ten. At 19, he was restoring and replicating furniture for a San Francisco antiquarian—"I learned to carve the classics," Sullivan says—and working with John Dickinson on the tastemaker's signature collection of bone-shaped lamps and tables. Commissions from the Metropolitan Museum of Art soon followed, and one of his tasks there was to reproduce, from





nothing more than an indistinct old photograph, an oak mantel by Arts and Crafts deities John La Farge and Louis Comfort Tiffany.

Sullivan's big break came in the 1980s, when he dropped in, unannounced, at the influential decorating firm Parish-Hadley to show some of his furniture sketches. Partner Albert Hadley was stunned by the young man's genius and took him under his wing. It's an association with almost daily reminders: Not only do Parish-Hadley alums McCarthy and David Kleinberg keep Sullivan on speed dial, but the artisan's Long Island City studio was formerly a Hadley storage space and features a door that once graced the entrance to Parish-Hadley's Manhattan offices.

Future plans, Sullivan says, include artistic pursuits. He will continue to create his distinctive furnishings—sold through Manhattan dealers Maison Gerard and Liz O'Brien—but he also wants to explore limited-edition work and, perhaps, sculpture. "I've always made everything functional as a default," he admits. "But I want to see what's on the other side." wpsullivan.com

-RAUL BARRENECHE



GOOD WORKS







COMMON CAUSE

An extraordinary collaboration between American artists and Afghan weavers highlights the universal virtues of craftsmanship and creativity

os Angeles artist Meg Cranston wasn't sure what to expect when she signed on for a visit to Afghanistan last year. "My first impression of Kabul was that there were a lot of guns," she says. "But then I saw a functioning city, with beautifully dressed people doing normal things." That juxtaposition of conflict and quotidian rituals symbolizes the crossroads now facing the Afghan people as they try to move beyond the long succession of wars that has ravaged their society.

Joining Cranston on the trip were five other artists-Lisa Anne Auerbach, Liz Craft, Francesca Gabbiani, Jennifer Guidi, and Toba Khedoori-all from L.A. They'd flown in to meet with carpet weavers as part of a project initiated by AfghanMade, a nonprofit dedicated to revitalizing the country's traditional industries and facilitating exports. A year earlier, the organization's CEO, Lisa Sanchez, had reached out to Matthew Bourne, the London-based business partner of contemporary-carpet guru Christopher Farr, hoping to enlist their company as a high-profile collaborator in a venture that would spotlight the artistry of Afghan weavers. Farr, who lives in Southern California, then contacted L.A.'s Hammer Museum and, with the guidance of director Ann Philbin and curator Ali Subotnick. assembled the all-female team of artists to interface with the Afghan weavers, the majority of whom are women.

After returning home, each artist created a single design and worked closely with Farr's eponymous firm to realize the concept. Cranston based her pattern on a color chart she spied on the wall of a children's classroom. Guidi's design is an abstraction of the blue burkas worn by Afghan women. Khedoori riffed on paintings she had made of the chiseled mountains of the Hindu Kush.

The rugs, produced in editions of five, will debut at "The Afghan Carpet Project," a Hammer exhibition that runs from June 13 to September 20, after which they will be offered for sale by Christopher Farr. A portion of the proceeds will go to Arzu Studio Hope, a groundbreaking entrepreneurship initiative that provides female Afghan weavers with a steady income and access to health care and education. "This not only showcases the remarkable talent of these artisans but also gives back to Afghanistan in a very direct way," Sanchez says. "It's one small but meaningful step." afghanmade.com and arzustudiohope.org—MAYER RUS





Above: Afghan carpets designed by (clockwise from top left) Francesca Gabbiani, Meg Cranston, Jennifer Guidi, Liz Craft, and Lisa Anne Auerbach will be exhibited at the Hammer Museum in L.A. as part of a project benefiting Arzu Studio Hope.











ROOMS WITH AVIEW

With architectural lines and custom-made furnishings. Luciano Giubbilei's grand gardens bring the indoors out

ack in the 1930s, English architect Cecil Pinsent wrote that contemporary gardens "should give the impression of a house extended into the open air." The exemplar, he argued, was Tuscany's illustrious Villa Gamberaia, where virtual rooms—enclosed by dense hedges, carpeted with emerald turf or inset with shimmering pools, and punctuated by majestic topiaries-roll out from the façades. Few landscape designers working today have heeded Pinsent's directive quite as magnificently as Luciano Giubbilei, the London-based mastermind of sculptural yet sybaritic environments as far afield as Morocco and Idaho, many of them conceived to encourage relaxing, dining, and entertaining from dawn's early light until well after sunset.

"When I started out designing gardens, I always had community in mind, creating places that are fundamentally connected to your living space, where you share food and gather with loved ones," says the Siena, Italy, native, who spent six months in his 20s working at Villa Gamberaia as a volunteer groundskeeper. More than two decades on, he heads a five-member studio with offices at London's Imperial Laundry, a Victorian complex where royal unmentionables were once washed. The firm's output is prodigious and diverse, rang-

ing from vest-pocket urban parcels to rural expanses. A dozen creations are explored in The Gardens of Luciano Giubbilei (Merrell, \$70), a 2010 book by garden designer and writer Andrew Wilson that is now being rereleased. Manifest in its pages are such Giubbilei hallmarks as green palettes, layouts drawn from a building's architectural lines, and monumental special effects. It's a recipe that Avery Agnelli-she and her partner, hairstylist John Frieda, are longtime clientssays results in Edens that are "pure and beautiful, very calming, and easy to maintain."

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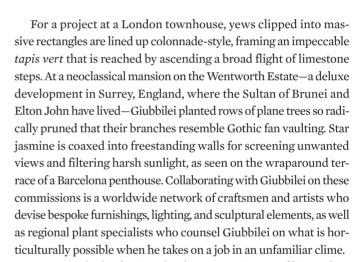
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GARDENS

From top: Arranged around a snowy mespilus in full flower, custom-made furniture by Giubbilei & de Leval turns a London terrace into an elegant living area. Mounds of artificial boxwood grace a Geneva rooftop covered in Carrara-marble gravel. A travertineand-bronze fountain melds with a hedge in Giubbilei's 2009 Chelsea Flower Show garden.







Increasingly the designer has been stepping out of his verdant comfort zone. One reason, he admits, is that "for a long time I never felt confident working with flowers." In 2012 Fergus Garrett, head gardener at Great Dixter, the acclaimed East Sussex estate, gave Giubbilei a border so he could toy with color combinations and broaden his cultivation skills. That experiment has been a game changer. Last June at the Chelsea Flower Show in London, Giubbilei unveiled an exhibition garden that was a startling personal departure, its geometric greenery romanced by 20.5-foot-long beds foaming with milky lupines, purple irises, acid-yellow spurge, and more. "I wanted to pick up the whole flower border and take it home," raved garden correspondent Anna Pavord in The Independent. The installation was named Best in Show and received a gold medal-Giubbilei's third Chelsea gold and, he says, a most gratifying one.

"We don't want to continue doing gardens as a formula," explains the designer, who is preparing a new book ("it's more about process and will focus on two very different projects") to be published next year. "We love what we've done and feel proud of it but also want to improve what we do in a way that's authentic. It's all about employing the same vision and amount of control to create a garden that belongs to its location." lucianogiubbilei.com—MITCHELL OWENS



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Left: Johannesburg artist Serge Alain Nitegeka with recent paintings in his temporary Brooklyn studio this past winter; he is represented in the U.S. by New York's Marianne Boesky Gallery (marianneboeskygallerv.com). Below: Structural-Response II, a site-specific work he created for the SCAD Museum of Art in Savannah. Georgia. The installation, which runs almost the length of a football field, is on view through July 19 (scadmoa.org).

CROSSING BORDERS

Emerging art star Serge Alain Nitegeka evokes the traumas of his refugee past in a bold body of work that spans painting and installations

hen Johannesburg-based artist Serge Alain Nitegeka was 11 years old, an ethnic civil war drove him and his family to flee their native Burundi for neighboring Rwanda, which in short order fell victim to the same fate. "Nothing is ever normal once you're forced out of your home," says Nitegeka, during a visit to his temporary Brooklyn studio. That he is still haunted by his harrowing years as a refugee is made acutely clear in his imposing installations-tangles of black wood planks resembling makeshift barriers that require viewers to duck under or step through them, palpably channeling the fear and uncertainty of border crossing.

While artists from Richard Serra to Anish Kapoor to Olafur Eliasson have long invited people to interact physically and sensorially with their monumental sculptures, few have endeavored to evoke such personal and specific emotional responses. Working through his own traumas, Nitegeka

wants his creations, constructed extemporaneously on-site, to elicit a sense of insecurity and discomfort. "I make each look and feel as if it's about to collapse," he says. "Like a bunch of matchsticks."

Nitegeka already has some of the art world's most astute predictors of success on his side: Marianne Boesky, his New York gallerist, and Miami megacollectors Mera and Donald Rubell. Last November the influential couple went to see the artist and asked him to make a piece for their namesake museum's annual winter show (closing May 30). "It was an electrifying moment," Nitegeka says. Though he was busy preparing for other exhibitions, including

a major installation at Savannah's SCAD Museum of Art (on view through July 19), he hightailed it to Miami and completed the commission in a few days.

To document his ephemeral structures, Nitegeka makes paintings of them, a process he considers a reprieve from the mental intensity of building those massive works. (The canvases are often incorporated into the installations themselves.) He also paints piercing images of himself and his family, though he calls all of these figurative pieces self-portraits. "Identity is accumulated through experience," he says. "It's not just genes but also the myth of who you are." —JULIE L. BELCOVE

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ARCH REVIVAL

For its new Rome headquarters, Fendi adopts and revitalizes a modern masterpiece as iconic as the brand itself

stark travertine cube perforated by 216 arches, Rome's Palazzo della Civiltà Italiana is a sixstory vision of loveliness with a freighted past. Fascist dictator Benito Mussolini commissioned the structure as an exhibition hall for a 1942 world's fair that was canceled after he declared war on Britain and France, and it had languished ever since. But come fall, the magnificent white elephant, a midcentury take on the ancient Colosseum, becomes the headquarters for Fendi after an 18-month renovation. The move marks the fashion house's 90th anniversary, as well as creative director Karl Lagerfeld's 50th year with the company.

"Karl told me that when he's here, he feels like he's on a spaceship being

transported into the future," says Fendi

chairman and CEO Pietro Beccari, elated at taking possession of the landmark, which was concocted by Rationalist architects Giovanni Guerrini, Ernesto Lapadula, and Mario Romano and anchors the EUR district in southern Rome. (The palazzo is one of several Fendi-financed historic restorations-among them the Trevi Fountain-being finished this year.) Lagerfeld has been busily channeling the haunting architecture into the label's latest collections and runway sets, while the creative studio Analogia Project has translated the arches into Fendi window dressings around the world.

Since Beccari joined the company three years ago, one of his goals has been to unify its offices and design studio, which have long been separated in different parts of the city, under a single roof. When the careful rehab, led by architect Marco Costanzi, is complete, the 204,500-square-foot edifice will accommodate hundreds of employees and offer a ground-floor bookstore and gallery, both open to the public. Ceilings will host original chandeliers retrieved from the basement, where the fur atelier will be housed (Fendi's first couture fur collection debuts in Paris in July). A rooftop restaurant is also under discussion.

"The palazzo is only about 15 minutes from the airport, so we're one of the first things that visitors see when they arrive in the city," Beccari notes with pride, adding that the prominent site in the capital was too irresistible to pass up. "It's symbolic: We're not just Fendi-we're Fendi Roma." fendi.com —KERRY OLSEN





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Clockwise from left: The lobby of the 1929 Guardian Building, a restored city landmark. Diego Rivera murals at the Detroit Institute of Arts. A guest room at the new hotel Aloft Detroit at the David Whitney.

March. "The city is evolving rapidly, and I have no doubt it will once again be a mustvisit travel destination."

A prime symbol of these shifting fortunes is the 130-year-old Beaux Arts Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA), whose iconic Diego Rivera murals join masterpieces by Caravaggio, Degas, and Van Gogh-treasures that, theoretically at least, faced the threat of forced auction to cover municipal debts. The works escaped this fate last year, when the DIA became a private nonprofit. "A British journalist asked me, 'Wouldn't selling the collection be like Detroit saying, "We give up"?'" recalls Graham W.J. Beal, the retiring director of the institute. "So geographically, philosophically, and morally, the DIA is now at the center of the Detroit revival."

Indeed, the DIA's midtown surroundings, long the city's cultural hub, are now in the midst of a commercial renaissance. Helping lead the way is Shinola, a manufacturer of watches, bicycles, and leather goods founded in 2011. "In a very short time, Shinola has created more than 350 jobs that teach new skill sets," says Richard Lambertson, a recently appointed design director at the company. "When I tell people I work there, it's as if I'd said NASA. They're so impressed." Shinola opened its retail flagship in midtown two years ago and has since added a sister shop, the indie-fashion boutique Willys. The firm's presence has attracted neighbors such as the conjoined design depots Hugh and Nora, where you can find everything from vintage-style Braun timepieces to elegant furniture by local Hugh Acton. "A shopper's paradise" is how Motor City-born, New York-based fashion designer Tracy Reese describes the Shinola store. "For Detroiters it's a point of pride," she says. "I recently had dinner with Anna Sui-she's also from Detroit-and we were both wearing the same Shinola watch."

Though the DIA is typically Reese's first midtown stop, she's also a fan of the Cass Gilbert-designed Detroit Public Library, which features John Stephens Coppin's vivid 1964 fresco Man's Mobility. Down the street, the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit (MOCAD) is boosting the area with an education, outreach, and research initiative it has dubbed Detroit City; the museum also has a first-rate in-house restaurant, Café 78, run by chef Marc Djozlija and mixologist Dave Kwiatkowski, the duo



behind downtown's hopping gastropub Wright & Co. A block north of MOCAD, the N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art, established in 2010 by veteran gallerist George N'Namdi, has one of the world's premier collections of work by African-American artists. For lodgings in midtown, Beal recommends the DIA-adjacent Inn on Ferry Street, comprising six restored Victorian-era homes and carriage houses.

Another midtown anchor is Selden Standard, a buzzy eatery whose rustic fire-roasted cuisine nabbed a 2015 James Beard nomination for chef Andy Hollyday. He previously ran the kitchen at *Iron Chef* America winner Michael Symon's Roast, which opened downtown in 2008 and,

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TRAVELS







Clockwise from top left: The 78-acre residential development Lafayette Park, devised by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe in the 1960s. The main branch of the Detroit Public Library, designed by Cass Gilbert. Shinola's flagship store.

transformed into residences and a hotel, the Aloft Detroit at the David Whitney, bringing a needed dose of chic hospitality to the area. Along with the marble-splashed Westin Book Cadillac nearby, it's ideal for style-minded visitors.

Farther afield, across the MacArthur Bridge, is Frederick Law Olmsted's Belle Isle Park, a 982-acre island in the Detroit River frequented by locals such as designer and 2014 AD Innovator Christopher Schanck. And in suburban Bloomfield Hills, architect Eliel Saarinen's Cranbrook Academy of Art, which launched the careers of midcentury design stars from Florence Knoll to Harry Bertoia, is not to be missed. En route, be sure to stop in Ferndale at the Susanne Hilberry Gallery, which is reportedly contemplating opening an outpost downtown. The David Klein Gallery, based in neighboring Birmingham, is set to do just that, debuting a branch next door to Aloft Detroit this spring. Meanwhile, New York's Galapagos Art Space is relocating to the Motor City altogether. "It'll be great for Detroit's young artists to see the work these venues bring," Schanck says. "In a way, everybody here is still just starting out. It's all proof of concept right now." - MICHAEL SLENSKE

Hollyday observes, "really elevated the food game in this town." Stellar meals can also be had at the new Gold Cash Gold, occupying a converted pawnshop in the Corktown neighborhood and serving refined Southern classics. And in the Eastern Market area, the black-and-brass-accented Antietam is earning raves for its French-inspired menu, while Trinosophes, a café and art gallery, offers fresh fare from Detroit's urban farms.

A flurry of activity is also afoot in the adjoining downtown district, the city's grand historic center. "We just went downtown on a Saturday night and couldn't get into the first five restaurants we tried," says Andrew Smith. "A few years ago there weren't even five to choose from." The best is Republic Tavern, which has been drawing crowds with its seasonal nose-to-tail cuisine and artfilled dining room in the renovated Grand Army of the Republic building. Another notable downtown rehab is the 1915 David Whitney Building, a skyscraper recently

DETROIT DOSSIER

MUSEUMS AND CULTURAL SITES

Belle Isle Park 844-235-5375: belleisleconservancy.org

Cranbrook Academy of Art

39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills; 248-645-3300; cranbrookart.edu.

David Klein Gallery 1520 Washington Blvd.; dkgallery.com.

Detroit Institute of Arts 5200 Woodward Ave.; 313-833-7900; dia.org.

Detroit Public Library 5201 Woodward Ave.; 313-481-1300; detroitpubliclibrary.org.

Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit (MOCAD) 4454 Woodward Ave.;

313-832-6622; mocadetroit.org. N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art

52 E. Forest Ave.; 313-831-8700; nnamdicenter.org.

Susanne Hilberry Gallery

700 Livernois St., Ferndale; 248-541-4700; susannehilberrygallery.com.

SHOPS

Hugh 4240 Cass Ave.; 313-831-4844; lovehughlongtime.com.

John Varvatos 1500 Woodward Ave.:

313-437-8095; johnvarvatos.com. Nora 4240 Cass Ave.; 313-831-4845; noramodern com

Shinola 441 W. Canfield St.; 313-285-2390; shinola.com. Willys 441 W. Canfield St.; 313-285-1880; willysdetroit.com.

RESTAURANTS AND BARS

Antietam 1428 Gratiot Ave: 313-782-4378: antietamdetroit.com. Café 78 MOCAD, 4454 Woodward Ave.; 313-784-9636; mocadetroit.org. Gold Cash Gold 2100 Michigan Ave.; 313-242-0770: goldcashgolddetroit.com. Republic Tavern 1942 Grand River Ave.; 313-446-8360; republictaverndetroit.com. Roast 1128 Washington Blvd.; 313-961-2500; roastdetroit.com. Selden Standard 3921 Second Ave.; 313-438-5055; seldenstandard.com. Trinosophes 1464 Gratiot Ave.; 313-737-6606; trinosophes.com. Wright & Co. 1500 Woodward Ave.; 313-962-7711; wrightdetroit.com.

HOTELS

Aloft Detroit at the David Whitney

1 Park Ave.; 313-237-1700; rooms from \$179/night; aloftdetroit.com.

The Inn on Ferry Street 84 E. Ferry St.; 313-871-6000; rooms from \$179/night; innonferrystreet.com.

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ON THE MARKET

AD editors select extraordinary homes for sale around the world written by asad syrkett



Beverly Hills. California

6 BEDROOMS 5 BATHS 11,000 SQ. FT. \$39 MILLION

PEDIGREE: A true piece of Hollywood history, this Georgianstyle residence was commissioned in

1934 by legendary movie mogul Samuel Goldwyn. The estate is being sold after the recent death of his son, producer Samuel Goldwyn Jr. Inside, touches of Tinseltown glamour still prevail.

PROPERTY VALUES: Occupying two acres in the highly sought-after 90210 zip code, the verdant grounds include a dramatic forecourt, a pool, and a sunken tennis court. TALKING POINT: The plush screening room upholds the home's cinematic legacy. **CONTACT:** Coldwell Banker Previews International, 310-285-7529



Chicago

9 BEDROOMS 6 BATHS **3 HALF BATHS** 15,000 SQ. FT. \$8.7 MILLION

PEDIGREE: Built by architect Richard E. Schmidt for brewing tycoon Joseph

Theurer, this 1896 Italianate manor was later bought by William Wrigley Jr. (of chewinggum and baseballstadium renown). The dwelling's handsome terra-cotta façade gives way to renovated rooms brimming with Arts and Crafts woodwork.

PROPERTY VALUES: The quarter-acre plot also has a carriage house. TALKING POINT: The residence overlooks Lincoln Park and boasts views of Lake Michigan. **CONTACT:** Berkshire Hathaway Home Services, 312-893-3551



5 BEDROOMS 5.5 BATHS 6,000 SQ. FT. \$4 MILLION



Bellport, New York

PEDIGREE: In 2004, husband-and-wife art consultants Arnie and Elizabeth Lizan tapped

AD100 designer Jamie Drake to revamp this 1838 Greek Revival gem, known as Nearthebay. Drake restored the Long Island house's colonnaded exterior and modified its interiors to suit the owners' cache of contemporary works while preserving period details. PROPERTY VALUES: Gracing the one-and-a-half-acre parcel is a pool surrounded by clipped boxwood hedges.

TALKING POINT: Birdsall Otis Edey, an early champion of the women's suffrage movement, once made her home here.

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Wright auction affords unique insight into rugs at Doris Leslie Blau

A landmark event for the decoration market heads to Chicago on June 12. The 20th Century Carpets sale at Wright Auction will feature 100 lots, each a singular, masterful representation of 20th-Century design and craftsmanship from around the globe.





With demand for midcentury-modern décor and Scandinavian rugs at an vintage Moroccans, and a wider assemblage of weaves will be presented.

all-time high, it's only right that the auction house will highlight pieces signed by era-defining artisans such as Barbro Nilsson and Märta Måås Fjetterström. The latter founded her influential workshop in 1919. Now, the auction will host the largest collection of room-sized carpets from the MMF workshop available at one sale since the pieces were created. Additionally, signed French Deco,

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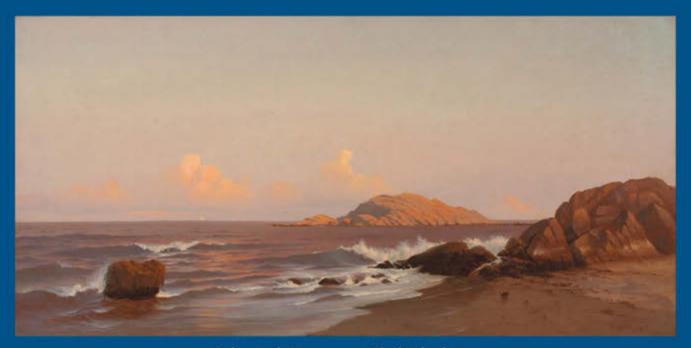
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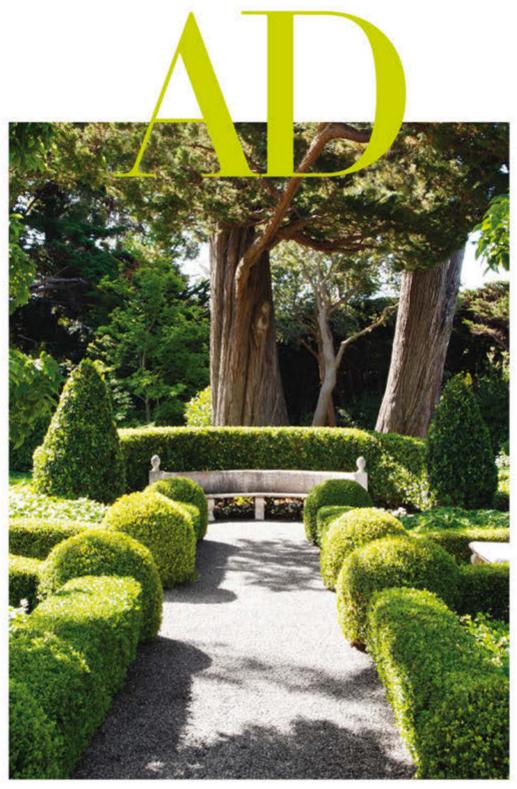


JANUS et Cie°









Emerald aisle: Boxwood hedges and topiaries border a garden path at a Bay Area residence.



THE LONG VIEW



Architects Bohlin Cywinski Jackson and Shelton, Mindel & Associates join forces to create an Aspen home that showcases both its stunning valley setting and vistas of majestic mountains



Left: Joseph Paul D'Urso chairs by Knoll and a custommade sofa anchor the living area of an Aspen, Colorado, house designed by the architecture firm Bohlin Cywinski Jackson, with interiors by Shelton, Mindel & Assoc.; the Poul Kjærholm daybed (used as a table) and stools are by Fritz Hansen. For details see Sources.



rguably the most eloquent architect in American history, Frank Lloyd Wright once defined organic architecture as "the strength and lightness of the spiders' spinning, buildings qualified by light, bred by native character to environment, married to the ground." Although he was notoriously stingy with praise for his fellow practitioners, even he would be hard-pressed to deny that his lyrical description is matched with confidence and grace by an Aspen, Colorado, home fashioned by the architecture firm Bohlin Cywinski Jackson (BCJ), with interiors by Shelton, Mindel & Associates. Conceived for husband-and-wife philanthropists who live in Connecticut most of the year, the residence brokers an elegant rapprochement with its magnificent site by taking cues from the rugged topography of the Rocky Mountains and the earthy tones of the paradisiacal setting.

"The house actually looks as if it grew out of the land," observes the husband, a financier. "It's definitely modern-but not so severe that it feels like an intrusion on the beauty all around it." BCJ principals Peter Bohlin and Ray Calabro sensitively nestled the dwelling between two knolls and directed the views out to an adjacent meadow, down through the valley's nature preserve, and onto a staggering panorama of

snowcapped peaks in the distance. "It's really a dreamlike place," Bohlin marvels. "Our goal was to create a rich and emotionally powerful home that gathers strength from the surroundings."

The exterior of the linear two-story structure is partially clad in split-faced Valser quartzite hand-selected by Bohlin, Calabro, and their clients at a quarry in Vals, Switzerland—the same stone that architect Peter Zumthor used for his famous Therme Vals resort. Sections of complementary mahogany and cedar modulate the rhythm and texture of the façade. Those hearty materials penetrate the house in certain spots to emphasize the holistic integration of architecture, interiors, and terrain in a family retreat that is used year-round. Similarly, protruding planes of quartzite extend perpendicularly from the house into the surrounding meadow in a literal embrace of nature. "Those long walls root you in the landscape," Calabro says. "They're essential to our approach of moving beyond the idea of architecture as mere enclosure to a structure that is intimately woven into the land."

An expanse of stained cedar originating in the forecourt slices through the ground floor-which contains the entrance hall, a large guest suite, and a trio of bedrooms used by the clients' three grown

Above: Quartzite walls extend from the house and ground it in the landscape, which was devised by the Aspen firm Bluegreen. Opposite, clockwise from top left: African mahogany siding (upper level), stacked quartzite (left), and red cedar (right) intersect at the main entrance; Pietra del Cardoso sandstone paves the porch and fover. A staircase featuring American walnut treads ascends from the ground floor to the main level, where the public rooms are located. A quartzite chimney breast defines one end of the open-plan living/ dining/kitchen area.







children—and terminates in the tall grass out back. Opposite the cedar in the entrance hall, a quartzite wall rises to the second level, where it becomes the living area's fireplace surround and chimney breast. This level, the main floor, feels like a refined modernist pavilion due to its glass walls and sliding doors as well as an open-plan layout in which the living, dining, kitchen, and family areas are unified by a continuous Douglas-fir ceiling. Bracketing those sunny communal spaces are a master suite and a courtyard; framed by more

projecting quartzite, the latter spot is partially sheltered by a broad roof overhang.

The building's mountain-modern attitude inspired architect and designer Lee F. Mindel, who devised the furnishings scheme and worked closely with Calabro and Bohlin on the interior finishes and other details. Lauding the structure as "a combination of the organic quality of Frank Lloyd Wright's Prairie style with the rigor of Le Corbusier," Mindel explains that his interior design work here reflects the natural environment.

















Clockwise from left:
A photographic work by Edward Burtynsky overlooks the master bedroom's custommade Douglas-fir bed. The master bath's shower and Agape tub are equipped with Dornbracht fittings. Zanotta lounge chairs from M2L flank a Cappellini table in the master bedroom; the bespoke carpet is by V'Soske.



"This place celebrates Aspen in all its seasons and moods," the architect and designer says, referring to his palette of greens, grays, and taupes. In the social zone on the second floor, Mindel deployed bespoke furniture, textiles, and floor coverings-including cashmere-soft carpets by V'Soske-along with lowkey modern classics by the likes of Poul Kjærholm, Ward Bennett, and Jean Prouvé to create an air of subdued yet sumptuous minimalism.

Backing up all the talk about paying homage to the landscape, the team's respect for the environment was not simply a matter of aesthetics. At the behest of the

clients, who were intimately involved in every aspect of design development and articulation, the house is LEED certified, thanks to a combination of geothermal heating, solar panels, native plantings, and other systems for water and energy conservation.

"We're outdoor people, so we are serious about our stewardship of this incredible place," says the financier. "My wife and I love the house so much that we're honestly thinking about giving up Connecticut and making this our home base. Aspen has come a long way culturally and socially, so why shouldn't we enjoy this bliss all the time?"







finding days throughout the year to spend at each of those residences can be challenging—especially for an in-demand, workaholic fashion magnate. Yet no matter how stretched he gets, Armani always manages to make time to escape to his pistachio-shuttered stucco house in the leafy hills above Saint-Tropez, just a short stroll from the Mediterranean's turquoise waters.

"I go four or five weekends in late June and July," says the designer, who carves out his time in Saint-Tropez with his usual exactitude. Mornings begin with a walk or a workout, followed by a visit to the beach for a swim with the locals. He typically has lunch at home, or, when he's feeling more social, he'll head to the sceney, Champagne-soaked Cinquante Cinq beach club and then spend the late afternoon winding around the charming Place des Lices open-air market. "I love to go into the town, take my walks around, see all of the flowers, food, and bars. I find it very fun, even though it's touristy."

Modest in comparison to some of Armani's other homes such as his cliff-hanging retreat in Antigua (Architectural Digest, November 2006) or sprawling compound on the rocky Sicilian island of Pantelleria-his two-story house here is sheltered by a forest of palms, eucalyptus trees, and cypress hedges and doesn't look directly onto the water. "I didn't want the sea in my face," remarks the designer, who relishes the property's unobtrusive, laid-back quality. "When people come to visit me, they are always very surprised," he says. "It isn't a house to show off in-it's to live in."

Armani's principal residence is a grand four-story palazzo in Milan, the city where he presides over a lifestyle empire with annual revenues topping \$2 billion. It's also where he has built a museum, called Armani/Silos, to showcase and preserve his body of fashion work. Located in the Zona Tortona district, across the street from the Tadao Ando-designed theater where he holds his runway shows, the 48,000-squarefoot museum just opened with an exhibition of Armani's most iconic ready-to-wear creations-timed to the company's 40th anniversary and coinciding with the start of the Milan Expo.

While the world's attention turns to Milan this summer, the lure of Saint-Tropez will be as irresistible as ever for Armani. He was persuaded to buy his retreat here in 1996 by his younger sister, Rosanna, who owns a home in the area. "I was also shown a very big American-style house with great views of the Mediterranean," the designer recalls. "But I wanted something cozier, something that felt like a country house by the sea."

Initially Armani did only modest updates to the dwelling, which he believes was built in the late 19th century. Though he has hired celebrated architects like Peter Marino and Massimiliano Fuksas for his stores and for some of his residences, he takes pride in personally overseeing the interiors of many of his homes, including this one. "I like to do my own things. I don't have anything against architects," Armani says, "but if you can design yourself, it's better."

Immediately following a health scare in 2009, he decided to undertake an ambitious renovation, which involved adding guest quarters and a swimming pool and creating a glass-enclosed loggia along the back of the house. "I got out of the hospital, and in the arc of about four days the plans were all done, in every detail," he says. "It was a big stimulation for me. I did the Saint Moritz house [AD. March 2012] at the same time. But I think that's enough, no? Otherwise, every time I have a headache, I'll design a new palazzo!"

Though he left the traditional façade and Portuguese tile roof intact, Armani redid the interior walls with the same blond-hued Saint-Maximin limestone that lines his Giorgio Armani boutique in Milan. He also installed polished floors and beamed ceilings of dark African teak. The rooms here have a decidedly sleek, Asian-tropical feel that's in keeping with the aesthetics of a designer whose name is synonymous with a minimalist style deeply influenced by the Far East.

Softening the spaces is an array of colorful pillows and traditional carpets. Silk wall coverings sheathe the bedrooms, and cotton sheers are elegantly swagged across the glass ceiling of the loggia. For the house's furnishings, Armani chose a mix of antiques found at the Saint-Tropez flea market and pieces from his own Armani/Casa label, most clad in muted, monochromatic upholstery.

One spirited exception to the visual serenity is a pair of vintage armchairs in the entrance hall that he fished out of a warehouse and covered in a spicy tiger-striped velvet. "This is the great folly of the house," he says with a laugh. "It's a bit kitsch, but I can have a little fun with exotic things."

And what of the Armani/Casa desk sitting in his tranquil studio? "I put it there thinking, I like this corner," the designer explains. "Who knows, maybe one day I'll want to sit down and write something." For now, however, any autobiography is on hold, though the first monograph on his brand will be published by Rizzoli in the fall.

"People always ask me how I have fun," Armani says, alluding to his unrelenting schedule. "I have fun with my homes, which have been my greatest investments. I don't buy Picassos, I buy houses. This is a passion I've had since I was youngcreating ambiences that make you want to stay."



















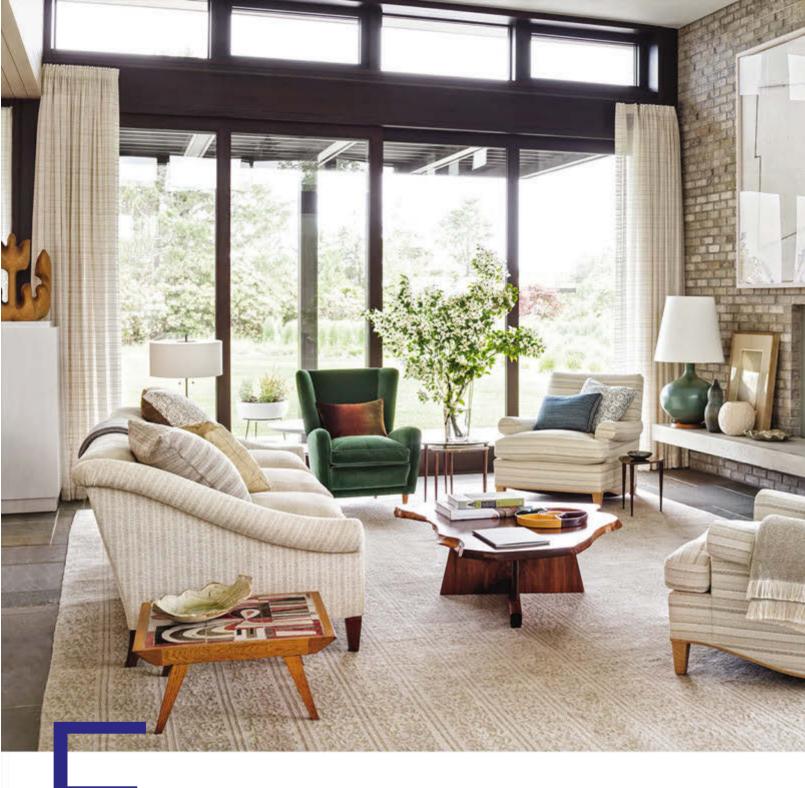
ON A BUCOLIC HAMPTONS PROPERTY, ARCHITECT
DEBORAH BERKE AND DESIGNER THOMAS O'BRIEN
INGENIOUSLY REIMAGINE AN INVITING FAMILY GETAWAY

TEXT BY WILLIAM L. HAMILTON PHOTOGRAPHY BY LAURA RESEN
PRODUCED BY ANITA SARSIDI



VISION



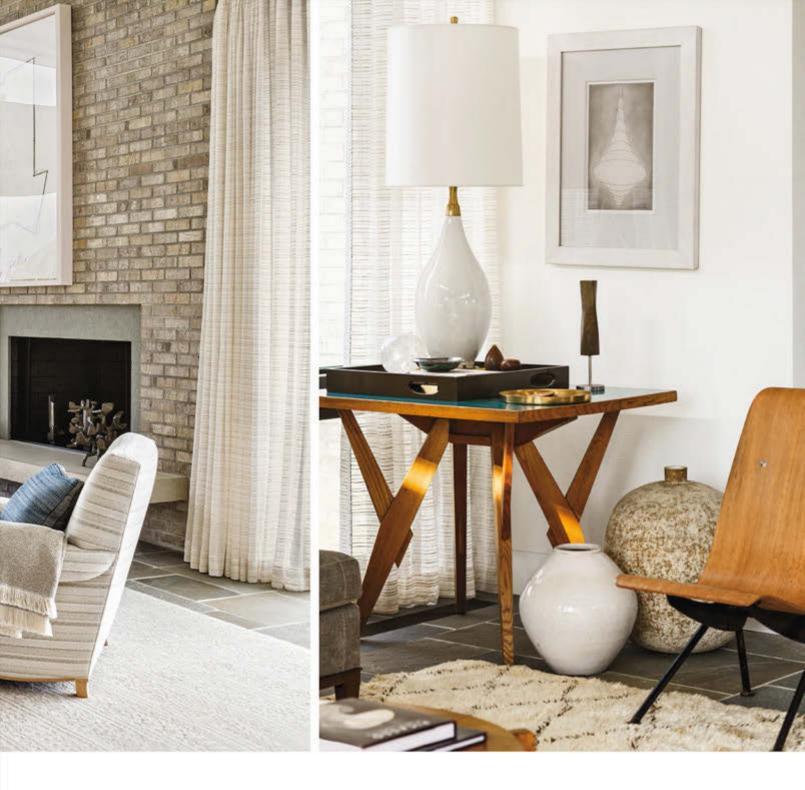


ew things are simpler than the pleasures of a summer day: golden sun, rustling breezes, kaleidoscopes of shade. When the location is the South Fork of New York's Long Island, add ocean-salted air to those attractions. But that

atmosphere can be as elusive as a butterfly to capture and enjoy to the fullest. What one requires is a well-designed net, such as the seven-acre compound in Bridgehampton that was created a few years ago for a Manhattan psychologist, her investor husband, and their two daughters. It's a getaway that the couple says "lives the way we like to live," meaning easily but with loads of style.

Alternating pale-gray brick walls with weathered tongueand-groove cedar siding, the single-story, 4,500-square-foot main house seems to rest quietly amid tall grasses, as attuned to the natural world as it is respectful of it. (The building has been certified LEED Gold.) Its understated beauty comes as no surprise considering that the homeowners worked with a team of professionals who are masters of low-key elegance: architect Deborah Berke, interior designer Thomas O'Brien of Aero Studios, and landscape architect Alec Gunn, all based in New York City.

"Early in the process with the clients, we did a significant amount of site planning," Berke recalls, noting that a primary



concern was, "How do we nestle the house into this property so that it feels completely right?" The clients had been vacationing here for nearly 20 years, in a 1970s dwelling by Norman Jaffe, the late East End modernist, and though they loved the home—they were married there-it could no longer accommodate them and the multitude of relatives who make frequent visits. "I'm one of five siblings, and my wife is one of four," the husband explains. "So in the summer, it's all about family."

Thus was born the idea of a compound, an inviting assortment of buildings of varying sizes, shapes, and uses, all spread out and strategically placed. Berke thought a bigger house should be built Above, from left: A large Richard Prince artwork surveys the living room, which also includes a pair of club chairs (clad in a Great Plains fabric) and a Jonas sofa facing a George Nakashima cocktail table; the rug is a Thomas O'Brien design for Safavieh. In a corner of the room, a Louise Bourgeois work hangs next to a Carlo Mollino table hosting an O'Brien lamp from Aero and an Isamu Noguchi standing sculpture.

where the Jaffe structure had long stood, close to the property's largest tree, a towering maple estimated to be up to 125 years old. Shifted and repositioned, the Jaffe is now used for visitors, joining a Berke-designed greenhouse, pool pavilion, and two guest cottages.

Responding to the couple's desire for an indoor-outdoor lifestyle, Berke made the new main house open in every direction,



with mahogany-framed glass doors and sliding walls taking in curving beds of ornamental grasses, flowering shrubs, and perennials that give way to a clipped lawn, a fescue meadow, and thick woodlands. The master bedroom faces east so the rising sun can be the couple's alarm clock. Bluestone floors extend outside to become terraces and in-between places—a screened porch and exterior dining areas—while clerestory windows provide air circulation without buffeting winds. "It's almost like the house breathes," observes the wife.

Just as Berke incorporated summer pleasures into the building's elements, O'Brien translated the experience into furnishings. The decorator had worked with the clients on previous residences and has guided their aesthetic evolution. In the beginning they were committed to French modernism and the work of

Charlotte Perriand and Jean Prouvé. O'Brien introduced them to other midcentury Europeans, namely Italians Paolo Buffa and Carlo Mollino, and roughly contemporary Americans like Harry Bertoia, several of whose sound sculptures are on display, and George Nakashima. Significant pieces are paired with lively but less dear companions (the study's Luisa and Ico Parisi executive desk topped by a driftwood lamp, for example), in the manner of disparate guests seated next to each other to encourage unexpected conversation. "I like rooms to be weighted with important stuff, but it's really about what's good and what's handsome," the designer says.

Gestures familiar to anyone who has spent summers by the sea bring additional depth to the interiors: Walls are covered in hemp or in woven silk that recalls grass cloth, and kitchen stools







Clockwise from above: The dining room's circa-1963 Arteluce pendant light is from Bernd Goeckler Antiques, and the table and chairs are vintage Hans J. Wegner; atop the midcentury sideboard from Aero is a Harry Bertoia sculpture. Aero Studios created the oak cabinetry in the kitchen; the billiard light is a Thomas O'Brien design from Aero, the range and hood are by Wolf, and the barstools are by Soane Britain. A Laura Resen photograph is propped next to the kitchen's wall clock, both from Aero.

Kantan lounge chairs are positioned alongside the pool. *Opposite, from top:* A table is set for alfresco dining. Astilbe, peonies, and salvia bloom in the garden.







resemble seats on sport-fishing boats. Collected over decades by the clients, the art follows tonal and textural suit, from sepia-tone Louise Bourgeois engravings in the living room to the entrance hall's chunky mahogany Alexandre Noll sculpture.

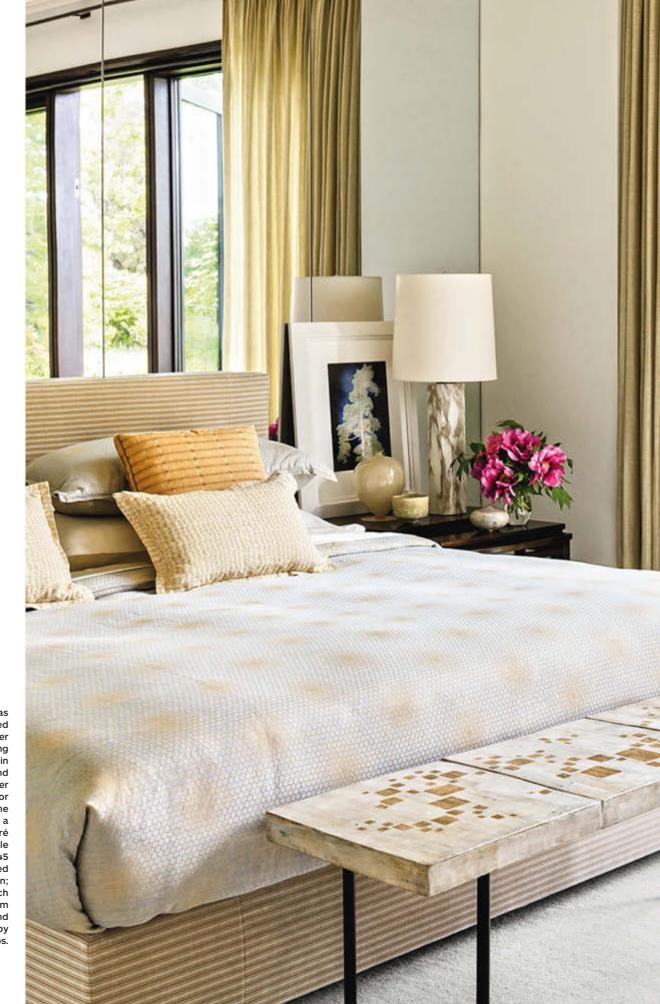
The grounds have a similarly casual attitude. "Not too precious," Gunn, the landscape architect, says, noting that the clients wanted the property to have a generous spirit and be low maintenance. The site meanders, with only gentle directives to encourage what Gunn calls "a sense of wonder." The plantings were carefully considered, in part to satisfy the LEED requirements, and they include drought-resistant wildflowers and meadow grasses; a purple-flowered wild bermagot grows close to the house, its citrus scent wafting in through the open windows.

"Soulful" is how the wife describes this familial getaway, and she points out that though the new house is only three summers old, its rooms and the land they reach out to seem to have matured together over generations. Given today's culture of impatience, O'Brien observes, "It's more common that someone just wants a house done quickly"—but as proved so appealingly here, a contemplative approach can result in a family retreat of rare distinction. \square

Right: Antique Japanese stencils are displayed with a vintage stool and chest in a guest room; all are from Aero. **Below:** The master bath's vanity was custom made by Aero Studios.







Right: Thomas O'Brien designed the bed in the master suite, upholstering the headboard in a Donghia fabric and using a Christopher Farr Cloth textile for the coverlet. At the foot of the bed is a vintage André Borderie table, while the circa-1945 armchair is attributed to Mogens Lassen; the '60s French floor lamp is from ReGeneration, and the carpet is by Crosby Street Studios.









TRADING PLACES

When a pair of his longtime clients moved from New York City to Westchester County, designer Vicente Wolf ensured that the change of scenery didn't mean a change of style



hen Jonathan and Allyson Simon decided to move from the Upper East Side of Manhattan to one of Westchester County's oldest and most refined villages, the real-estate developer and his wife were prepared to make certain trade-offs. In exchange for being able to

raise their two young sons in a house with trees and a garden, they would happily part with the snap and crackle of life in the city. What they refused to sacrifice, however, was their shared cosmopolitan style, which they quickly set about imparting to their newly purchased Georgian-inspired house.

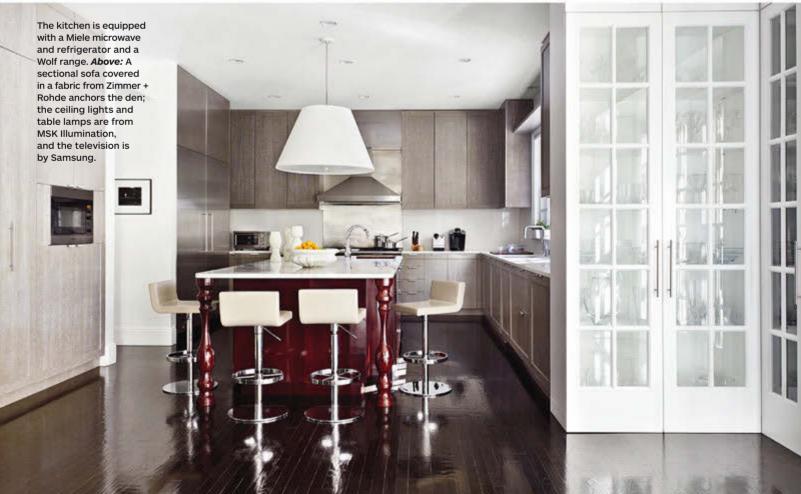
"We happened to buy a very traditional home, even though our taste isn't traditional at all," Allyson, a former entertainment lawyer, says of the 8,500-square-foot residence, which was being built on spec. To gracefully bridge that aesthetic divide, they turned to their longtime decorator, Vicente Wolf-a talent renowned for minimalist interiors that are invigorated by choice antiques and exotic objets d'art. "This is the most classic house I've ever done," reflects the designer, who immediately took to the challenge. "Clients typically ask me for something purely modern, but here I could exercise a different perspective." As Allyson recalls, "I knew he'd put his spin on it."

At the time Wolf arrived on the job, the house was entering the final stages of construction, its bones already in place. He kept the existing architectural details—neoclassical moldings, coffered ceilings-combining them with warm, neutral finishes and a judicious mix of century- and continent-spanning furnishings. Nowhere is that approach better embodied than in the living room; Wolf incorporated its carved mantel into a scheme in which a lemon-hued abstract painting by Andrew Bick overlooks an eclectic constellation of Indian and African pieces, vintage 1960s finds, and custom-made chairs in a wide variety of styles. "Leaving the fireplace as it was made the room feel as though it had evolved over time," he explains. Because the space gets a lot of foot traffic, doubling as a corridor to Jonathan's study, Wolf kept its center largely open, with a curvaceous fringed sofa on one side and a clean-lined

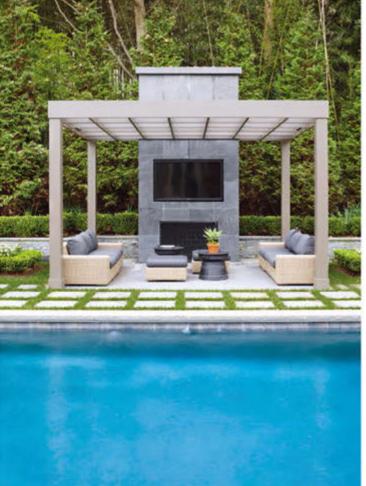












Left, from top: In the breakfast area, an antique Chinese screen from VW Home presides over an Eero Saarinen table and Harry Bertoia chairs, all by Knoll; the chairs' seat cushions are made of an Edelman leather, and the bespoke banquette is covered in a Stark fabric. The poolside pergola features a Samsung outdoor television, sofas and ottomans by Crate and Barrel, and Pottery Barn tables.

counterpart on the other. Despite the presence of a few antiques, a spiraling Artemide light fixture by Giuseppe Maurizio Scutellà tips the balance from classic to contemporary.

For the Simons, the goal was to create a home that was sophisticated enough for formal entertaining but also easygoing and family-friendly. To that end Wolf adapted the designated dining room as a den, where he installed a deep sectional with sculptural lumbar supports. Says Allyson, "It's supercomfortable, and we can seat more than 15 people," making it an ideal spot for watching movies and sports. The dining area, meanwhile, set in what was originally meant to be the den, is decidedly extroverted, with an array of statement pieces that shimmer day and night. "Practically everything has a sheen to it," says Wolf, pointing out reflective touches such as the gilt detailing on two crimson Chinese cabinets, the stainless-steel frames on a suite of Mies van der Rohe chairs, and a Sputnik-style chandelier. That fixture, he observes, completes the room "almost like a piece of jewelry." Embellishing the ceiling is a gilded wallpaper that heightens the flicker of candlelight during formal dinners.

More often than not, the family takes meals in the kitchen, which hits its own bravura notes. "I didn't want a standard allwhite space," Allyson says. The decorator was happy to oblige, complementing handsome driftwood-color oak cabinetry with white quartz counters, a Carrara-marble-top mahogany island, and a Saarinen table that he grouped with Bertoia side chairs and a taupe custom-made banquette.

The palette of grays and creams continues in the master suite, where voluptuous silk-taffeta curtains dress both the windows and the canopy bed, lending a chicly cosseting quality to the space. Its sitting area is similarly cocoonlike, with walls upholstered in blue satin and a button-tufted chair bearing a playful fringe hem. "There's a story to the chair-it's a copy of one my mother had in her living room in Cuba in the late 1940s," Wolf says. "I've always wanted to re-create it, and this was the perfect opportunity."

"Vicente made each room better than the last," says Jonathan, who marvels that he and his wife rarely miss the city-and never during the summer, when family and friends routinely gather under the poolside pergola, watching baseball games on the allweather television. "Allyson is from California, so outdoor living is very important to her. We can sit here for hours."

Wolf credits the couple's satisfaction to the successful synthesis of traditional and contemporary styles, a delicate fusion one could well call his Suburban Solution. "This combination gives a space longevity that it might not have if everything was executed in the same mode," he says. "Mix things the right way and you end up with something special, something you can't quite put in a box."



The master suite's Queen Anne-style bed is upholstered in a Zimmer + Rohde linen, and its curtains are made of a Champagne-hued silk by J. Robert Scott; the artwork above the mantel is by John Baldessari, and the chair and neighboring side table are from VW Home.







"CLIENTS TYPICALLY ASK ME FOR SOMETHING PURELY MODERN," SAYS VICENTE WOLF. "BUT HERE I COULD EXERCISE A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE."



ANEW TRADITON

Set on a pristine oceanfront site, the charming Martha's Vineyard summer home of Lynn Forester de Rothschild and her husband, Sir Evelyn, conjures the character of an old house expanded over generations

TEXT BY BRAD GOLDFARB PHOTOGRAPHY BY OBERTO GILI PRODUCED BY HOWARD CHRISTIAN

TWO CENTURIES AGO, ON 15 BUCOLIC ACRES OVERLOOKING THE SOUTH SHORE OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD, a farmer built a simple cottage, a barn, and a stone larder for milk and cheese. Several decades later, in the 1870s, as the island started developing a summer colony, the farm was purchased by members of the Rothschild family, the great European banking dynasty. Over the ensuing decades they made a variety of changes and additions to the property, substantially enlarging the house, converting the adjacent barn into a vast common room, and erecting a series of new structures—all of which were joined together to make the rambling residence that now serves as a vacation home for Lynn Forester de Rothschild and her husband, Sir Evelyn.

It's the sort of story that is familiar on Martha's Vineyard, of course. Except in this case it is actually a playful fabrication, contrived as the conceit behind a new house that would suit the couple's space requirements while also being sensitive to the island's architectural traditions. "A very clever fiction" is how Lady de Rothschild, an entrepreneur who, along with her husband, runs the private investment firm E. L. Rothschild, describes the elaborate history.

The tale was the invention of New York City-based architect Hugh Weisman, a longtime Vineyard summer resident whom the Rothschilds enlisted a number of

years ago to create a house on the island, which has been their summer getaway for nearly two decades. Rather than design a single grand edifice, the architect envisioned a residence that seemed to have expanded organically over time. The fanciful backstory helped both Weisman and Manhattan decorator Mark Cunningham, who was brought in to oversee the interiors, lend an air of authenticity to the home, which—while huge, to be sure—manages to meld modestly into the landscape. "You don't really see the house from the beach or the road. It's big but discreet," Lynn says. "We wanted something rustic, cozy, unpretentious."

Lynn notes that she and Sir Evelyn—who also own homes in New York, London, and Bedfordshire, England—host family and friends on the island "all summer long." Their extended brood includes five grown children (from their previous marriages), three grandchildren, and everyone's assorted partners and pals. What's more, they're avid hosts and active in politics (Lynn is an ardent Hillary Clinton supporter), so the house needed to be both spacious and flexible, as comfortable for just the two of them as for entertaining a large group.

Throughout the compound, which features separate guest quarters and a poolhouse with a gym, the historical conceit can be seen in everything from the varying sizes of the baseboards (larger in the common

Opposite: Reclaimed timber beams accent the barnlike common room at Lynn and Sir Evelyn de Rothschild's Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, home, which was built by Rivkin/Weisman Architects and decorated by Mark Cunningham; the landscape design is by Horiuchi Solien. Circa-1930 lanterns (one is pictured) from Ann-Morris hang from the ceiling, and an artwork by Callum Innes is mounted above the fireplace. For details see Sources.







Clockwise from top *left:* Lynn Forester de Rothschild relaxes on a poolside terrace; her hair and makeup are by Vincent Roppatte. In the common room, a quartet of Mark Cunninghamdesigned club chairs joins a custom-made sofa by Rose Uniacke, all of which are upholstered in a Loro Piana linen; the walls are coated in a Ralph Lauren Paint white. Greeting visitors in the entrance hall is a bronze elephant sculpture atop a 19thcentury English country table from Yew Tree House Antiques; on the wall is a series of Richard Diebenkorn lithographs.



room, smaller in what was conceived as the farmer's cottage) to the multitude of reclaimed materials. The old timbers used extensively in the common room and kitchen were salvaged from New England farms, while the antique terra-cotta tiles paving the breakfast area hail from Italy. "Lynn insisted the materials be old or look old and that things shouldn't feel artificial," Weisman says. Even the name they gave the place, Bagehot Backs, has the ring of an earlier era. In fact, it's a tribute to Walter Bagehot, the legendary editor of The Economist—which is partly owned by the Rothschilds-and to an area known as the Backs at Cambridge's Trinity College, where Sir Evelyn studied.

When it came to the decor, Cunningham installed a mix of furnishings that convey both warmth and

Yankee restraint—all in perfect harmony with the rustic nature of the residence. It's the kind of meticulously curated array Cunningham mastered during his years working in store design at Ralph Lauren. "It was my stepdaughter who suggested we think Ralph Lauren-homey and relaxed," Lynn recalls.

In the entertaining spaces, richly burnished antiques, such as the common room's rare ladder-back chair or the breakfast area's pine lazy Susan table, mingle with bespoke pieces upholstered in summery shades of wheat and blue, with splashes of greencolors that prevail throughout the house. (One striking exception to this earthy palette is a powder room where a specially made crimson framework lining the walls is inset with covers from *The Economist.*)



Above: In the family room, a bespoke De Angelis sectional sofa in a Rose Tarlow Melrose House linen blend is grouped with antique English armchairs clad in a Jasper fabric and a cocktail table custom crafted from reclaimed oak; the curtains were made by Anthony Lawrence-Belfair using a Chelsea Editions linen. Opposite: Vintage copper pots shimmer in the kitchen, where an Ellsworth Kelly lithograph overlooks a 19th-century tayern table and two antique chairs.

The overall feeling of the interiors—which are enlivened by a small selection of contemporary artworks by the likes of Richard Diebenkorn, Callum Innes, and Ellsworth Kelly-is at once traditional and modern, or, according to Cunningham, "like Martha's Vineyard but without being too literal."

This quality carries through to the private quarters, where one of the two master bedrooms features a tranquil Kelly lithograph overlooking a four-poster of almost Shakerlike simplicity, with an antique blanket stand and papier-mâché owl decoy serving as distinctive accents. It's a signature Cunningham momentcasual yet serenely beautiful and, as the poet Jorie Graham, a friend of the Rothschilds', once described the house, "democratic." With a small *d*, jokes Lynn, adding, "Mark made sure all the spaces were special. I would never do a house without him or Hugh again."

Landscape architect Kris Horiuchi of the Falmouth, Massachusetts, firm Horiuchi Solien oversaw the grounds. At the rear of the house, beyond an expansive lawn used for family football games, she created a delightful—and poignant five-acre meadow of native flowers in honor of the late scientist Miriam Rothschild, a cousin of Sir Evelyn's and an early leader of the wildflower movement. And around the perimeter of the house, Horiuchi planted ferns and huckleberry bushes, including many that were original to the site but had been temporarily removed during construction. Framing it all, meanwhile, are the scrub oaks that have long defined this terrain. "When you turn down our road, you have a ten-minute drive through those beautiful oaks, with the sunlight streaming through," Lynn says. "You can't help but arrive here happy."





Above: The kitchen's pot rack is from Ann-Morris, the reclaimed-oak open shelves feature brackets by Rocky Mountain Hardware, and the backsplash tile and farmhouse sink are by Waterworks; a Ralph Lauren Paint white was used on the Rivkin/Weisman-designed cabinetry, and the antique granite flooring is from Exquisite Surfaces.

Below: Under the terrace pergola, a zinc-top reclaimed-oak table by Mecox is surrounded by Janus et Cie chairs cushioned in a Perennials fabric; the chaise longues beside the pool are by Sutherland.









Above, from left: A guest room is outfitted with twin beds designed by Mark Cunningham; the curtains are of a Robert Kime fabric from John Rosselli & Assoc. and were made by Anthony Lawrence-Belfair. One of the house's two master bedrooms opens onto a terrace furnished with a Janus et Cie wicker chair and ottoman.

Below: The room is anchored by a Rose Tarlow Melrose House four-poster; the Portland limestone mantel is by Chesney's.



















REVIVALIST ARCHITECTURE CAN BE A FUNNY THING,

revealing as much about contemporary tastes as it does about the era it aims to evoke. Just take the current interpretations of Shingle Style, a genre that originated in the 1880s and served as a transition between Queen Anne and Arts and Crafts. Today's version, as commonly practiced in East Coast summer enclaves, has produced many lovely houses, but most are not, architecturally speaking, Shingle Style at all. Stately, restrained, and symmetrical, they're more like Colonial Revivals in cedar-shingle clothing.

So it's refreshing to see a house like the one architect Joel Barkley designed in Southampton, New York, for Manhattan couple Kristen and Matthew Stein and their four children. In creating the beach retreat, Barkley, a partner at the New York- and San Francisco-based firm Ike Kligerman

Barkley, paid authentic homage to the asymmetrical lines and inventive quirks that, in addition to those little squares of cedar, are Shingle Style's hallmarks. Likewise, it's heartening to hear him extol a true hero of the form, the Bay Area's Ernest Coxhead, whose idiosyncratic designs used shingles as a way to unify disparate and unusual elements into a harmonious whole.

The Steins' house features a profusion of angles, gables, and dormers, all massaged into respectable synthesis by expanses of western-red-cedar shingles, balanced with swaths of lightgray Colonial Revival-style siding (a gesture that Coxhead was himself fond of). There are porthole windows, an English cottage-inspired front gate, flared eaves, curved outer walls, a narrow belvedere, a streamlined band of modern windows,



a pergola of square columns, and, most striking of all, a witchy, muscular chimney that serves as a sculptural anchor.

"I often compare these projects to salads," says Barkley, coauthor of The New Shingled House: Ike Kligerman Barkley, to be published this fall by the Monacelli Press. "We're tossing together a mix of ingredients that don't need to be totally reconciled, and the shingles are like the dressing that brings all these things together-they contextualize everything else as part of one style, one tradition."

The house's airy, minimalist interiors, however, stand in strong contrast to the façade, especially the main floor, which feels as breezy as one of Richard Neutra's Hollywood Hills creations. As a nod to the seaside scenery (the ocean is just a few hundred yards away), there is a theme of shipshape woodwork throughout, whether in the mitered angles that recall a boat's tapered prow or the prevalent bald-cypress shiplap paneling. The precision and quality of the carpentry lend the house an almost Arts and Crafts feel-if Arts and Crafts got tired of being the dusky brunette and decided to go blond.

"Joel beautifully achieved the one directive I had-that everything be very open and light," Kristen says. "The way the kitchen and sunroom open onto the pool and terrace is amazing. We just live in and out all summer."

The midcentury-inflected decor by designer Lauren Muse of Connecticut-based Muse Interiors complements it all perfectly,

with the right dose of personality and pale color. "I wanted to amplify what Joel did with the architecture," Muse says. To make the home family-friendly, meanwhile, the couple decreed that none of the furnishings be too precious. So the majority of pieces, from Design Within Reach, RH, West Elm, and Pottery Barn, can take a certain amount of abuse or be easily replaced if need be. Still, the custom-made sofas and rare vintage finds, like the living room's pair of 1940s French rope chairs and footstools, give the impression that the place is filled with unique furnishings. "What I like best is that the spaces are modern, but it's not a modern house," Matthew says. "It's an incredibly imaginative design that works really well for us."

The playfully elegant setting does seem ideal for how

the Steins use the house—that is, as a family that spends as much time together as possible. So while the 19th-century model of Shingle Style might summon fantasies of lawn parties and children entrusted to nannies, the freer-form Barkley version feels designed for today, as beguiling and inviting to kids as to their parents. And considering that the sunny days of childhood leave such a sweet lifelong imprint, why not give the younger generation a summer house to remember?

Opposite, clockwise from top: A Massimo Vitali lithograph overlooks the dining room's Clubcu table: the Niels Otto Møller chairs and stools are from Design Within Reach. Channels of grass form a geometric pattern in the bluestone entry court. Bald-cypress paneling lines one side of the dining room.



















rthur Brown Jr. may not be mentioned quite as frequently in design circles as renowned contemporaries like Frank Lloyd Wright or Louis I. Kahn, but aesthetes of all stripes praise the San

Francisco architect's local masterworks, including City Hall, a 1916 downtown extravaganza topped by a breathtaking gilded dome, and Coit Tower, a 1932 fluted shaft rising atop Telegraph Hill. Both of those prominent commissions embody Brown's rigorous training at the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris, so it stands to reason that

when the architect-who also advised on the extension of the U.S. Capitol's East Portico in the '50s-created private homes, European classicism often reigned.

One notable 1920s Brown-designed residence in the Bay Area is a distinctly Gallic pavillon, replete with mansard roofs, wrought-iron railings, and French doors opening to romantic gardens. "It feels like you're in the countryside," says San Francisco decorator Douglas Durkin, who recently completed a renovation of the place for its owners, a venture capitalist and his wife, who have lived in the house for 25 years and raised their children there.

Once loyal inhabitants of the city's luxe Marina District, the couple decided to relocate after the neighborhood was ravaged by the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake. They considered





heading south to safer territory but were hesitant to move too far away. Then they came across the five-bedroom house and pounced, being bowled over by the thick cypress hedges that enclosed the two-acre property as well as by the architect's attention to symmetry, proportion, and atmosphere. Particularly impressive is how Brown took advantage of the sun's path. Morning light warms the entrance hall and kitchen, and afternoon's golden glow spills into the south-facing public rooms before sunset reaches the library, a favorite spot for the husband and his friends to play dominoes, backgammon, or bridge.

"This house has a wonderful charm and gentleness to it," says Durkin, who oversaw an extensive refresh that took eight years. ("We'd do a chunk and then take a break," he explains.) In addition to Brown, there was another talent whose work

the designer felt compelled to honor: the late San Francisco decorator Anthony Hail, a high-society stalwart who was hired by the couple in the early '90s and had selected a number of the existing antiques. "He was a classicist interested in proper European decorating," Durkin notes. "I have a much more relaxed way of handling an interior." His goal was simple: "Formality you can really live with."

Monochromatic schemes and bright-white ceilings were replaced by a soft palette keyed to Hail's original but rendered in more complex fashion. Hand-glazed surfaces, such as the linen-textured apricot walls in the elliptical dining room, lend a subtle artisanal touch, while discreet shadowing gives moldings more depth and "a little bit of age," the designer says. The library's woodwork, formerly a vivid cherry-red,





has been toned down to a deep Chinese vermilion. "I like colors that look slightly deadened," Durkin says. "Tony Hail's palette was clearer than mine. If he wanted peach, it was peach. If he wanted yellow, it was definitely yellow."

Rather than rolling out conventional Persian carpets, Durkin tinkered with timeless motifs to create custom-made floor coverings that have, as he puts it, "the spirit of old rugs without being reproductions." A 17th-century Polonaise carpet, for example, inspired the living room rug's vibrantly overscale leaf pattern. Asymmetrical furniture arrangements introduce a friendly air to the room, as do pastel tonesyellow, cream, rose, pale blues, lavender-that mirror the flowers that grow in the garden. The sofas are upholstered in silk velvets whose striations give the fabrics "a bit of a motheaten look," Durkin says. Which is perhaps a good thing since the owners' beloved Labrador retriever can't resist rubbing against them. Observes the designer philosophically, "The things that happen to a room over time are part of it."

Multiple hands have reshaped the surrounding grounds, too, including those of Bay Area designers Robert Frear-who conceived the elegant pool pavilion—and Todd R. Cole of Strata Landscape Architecture. One of Cole's projects was to refine the neglected, overgrown rose parterre, centering it on an old stone birdbath relocated from elsewhere on the property and adding a sculpture of a reclining Apollo that had been owned by Brown. Similarly noble accents can be found throughout the lush gardens, from a 19th-century limestone bench tucked against a bank of shrubbery to a sandstone banquet table placed beside the swimming pool.

The house has presented a stately first impression for nearly a century, yet the life it now accommodates is anything but stuffy. Memorial Day, for instance, finds dozens of friends and family members playing volleyball on the rear lawn or crowded into the kitchen for a pie-baking contest all proof that the house is, as Durkin and his clients intended, truly a formal home with an easygoing attitude.

Above: An Ann-Morris light fixture presides over the island in the kitchen, which also includes a Waterworks-tile backsplash, a Wolf range, and Erika Brunson chairs upholstered in a Rose Tarlow Melrose House fabric. Opposite: A 19th-century Portuguese tapestry graces the dining room, whose walls were given a faux-linen paint treatment by Stancil Studios; the chandelier is a Russian antique, and the chairs are Louis XVI.



Counterclockwise from above: The master bedroom is outfitted with a 19th-century chandelier from Bernd Goeckler Antiques and curtains made of a Pierre Frey cotton blend; the carpet is by Stark. Chinoiserie panels are displayed in the master bath. Strata Landscape Architecture restored the rose parterre, which is highlighted by a reclining Apollo sculpture. The pool area, designed by Strata, features McKinnon and Harris chaise longues with cushions in a DeLany & Long fabric; the table is from Axel Vervoordt.







SOURCES

For a more detailed version of Sources go to archdigest.com/sources/iun15

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(T) means item available only to the trade

THE LONG VIEW

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