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LEFT: PRINT RAYON WRAP DRESS FOR 2 TO 14, \$285 (95-103), COTTON LACY BODYSUIT FOR P,S,M,L, \$56 (95-102), COTTON DENIM JACKET FOR P,S,M,L, SHIRT FOR P,S,M,L, $\$ 225$ ( $95-109$ ), COTTON DENIM JEANS FOR 4 TO 14, $\$ 95$ ( $95-108$ ). RIGHT: MINI-CHECK RAYON AND ACETATE JACKET FOR 2 TO BODYSUIT FOR 2 TO 14, \$110 (95-117). ALL ACCESSORIES, HOSIERY AND SHOES BY DKNY. TO ORDER, CALL 1-800-345-3454. TO RECEIVE A WE ACCEPT AMERICAN EXPRESS, DINERS CLUB, MASTERCARD, VISA AND DISCOVER CARD.

B


## \#

## The men never asked, the women never told,

## and martinis were their passion.

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Paintings and drawings from the 19th century line the shelves of Fischer and Kiener's Paris gallery. Page 92.









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HOUSE \& GARDEN is published by The Condé Nast Publications Inc. Condé Nast Building, 350 Madison Avenue, New York NY 10017 Chairman S. I. NEWHOUSE JR.
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Martin Filler, an editor of House \& Garden since 1979, has now become a consulting editor of HG and a contributing editor of Condé Nast Traveler and Vanity Fair. Though his range as a writer is wide, his "Architecture" column on Samuel McIntire in this issue reflects his chief interest, the interpretation of design history in contemporary terms. "Because it's the most social of all the arts, I'm particularly concerned with the human component in architecture," he explains. "As a critic, I find that the way a building looks is less important than what it can reveal about the people who made it."


David Wheeler is editor and publisher of Hortus, a quarterly journal published in Wales that is "aimed at the literary-minded gardener whose interests extend beyond the mere practice of gardening." Wheeler journeys to southwest England in this month's "Travel" column to report on and photograph the luxuriant gardens of Cornwall. Currently he is working on Gardens of the Cotswolds, an illustrated book about another region of his native country.

Joan Juliet Buck reveals her passion for flea markets and relates how her apartment is decorated with her finds. A contributing editor of Vogue and Vanity Fair and author of the novel Daughter of the Swan, Buck is fascinated by flea markets because "they offer the opportunity for some sort of triumph every week." Her favorite haunt is Paris's Marché aux Puces, but Buck decided to live in New York when she realized the advantages-"diners deliver, bookstores are open late, and phone rates are cheaper."




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## Contributors Notes



Camille Glenn believes it is important for people to know how life-enhancing good food can be. Glenn, who taught French cooking classes for nearly thirty years, is a gourmet-food writer for the Louisville Courier-Journal and author of The Heritage of Southern Cooking. In the "Food" column, she focuses on Bibb lettuce but claims to savor all varieties: "I've always been crazy about fresh foods, lettuce especially. I'm sure it grew in the Garden of Eden and the sacred couple feasted upon its goodness."

Ann Beattie, whose stories appear in The New Yorker, recently finished her fourth novel, Picturing Will. For HG's "Workroom" column Beattie celebrates the talents of her favorite ceramist, Scott McDowell, one of whose bowls inspired her to write the short story "Janus." "His pieces rivet your attention," she says. "They're paintings you can rub your hands over, sculpture you're urged to touch, suggestions to excite your imagination."





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## Notes

HG REPORTS ON THE NEW AND THE NOTEWORTHY By Amy Abrams and Eric Berthold

Michael Spiteri has been helping to resuscitate the dying art of stone carving since he was fifteen. After working as an apprentice to his father in Rome, Spiteri (right) came to New York City five years ago, discovered a stateside demand for his craft, and set up shop. With his hands and a few tools the artist conjures Attic columns, capitals, garden ornaments, and fireplace mantels (below) from blocks of crude stone. Italian limestone is his medium of choice because "it allows for more freedom of expression," although he also expresses himself in marble and granite. Spiteri's work can be seen at his showroom. By appointment only, (212) 421-2830.







Karl Lagerfeld, like our editors (see "Reading Rooms"), finds inspiration in the library for accessories (above), including a silk scarf, $\$ 210$; Open Book earrings, $\$ 95$; and Library bracelet, $\$ 350$. At Bergdorf Goodman, NYC, and selected Nordstrom's.

British decorator Nina Campbell's tartans (right) for Osborne \& Little find their way onto a wide range of decorative objects at Jonal, 1281 Madison Ave., NYC, a boutique offering both fashion and furnishings.
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St. Paul's Cathedral in London (left) is Sir Christopher Wren's crowning achievement and the focus of an exhibition by the American Architectural Foundation (through May 8) at the Octagon, Washington, D.C. (202) 638-3105.

The British design invasion advances with the opening of a Colefax \& Fowler boutique at Bergdorf Goodman, NYC (below), which carries a potpourri of handcrafted and handpainted home accessories.


The Midwest edition of Showcase of Interior Design (above), $\$ 36$, spotlights the best interior design firms in the heartland. Vitae Publishing, (312) 527-0341.
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## SHERLE WAGNER

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## Testing His Metal

With steel and a welding torch, furniture designer Tom Penn strikes<br>out on his own. By Lynn Snowden

It's very dirty work, what I do," says Tom Penn, happily running a finger through the fine metal shavings covering a worktable in his studio. What Penn does in this cavernous place, just across the river from Manhattan in Long Island City, is design and create elegantly simple welded steel chairs and tables, silver and bronze vases, candlesticks, doorknobs, and other household accessories. Using assorted nastylooking grinding tools, an arc welder, and an anvil, he manages to conjure these carefully crafted objects out of an array of metal scraps and a magpie's

"The minute I see a scrap of metal I know what it will become," says designer Tom Penn, far left. Left: His chairs and tables take shape on the floor of his studio.
collection of grime-clogged gears and ancient road debris.
A former graphics designer, Penn longed to create something that would endure-something that wouldn't get thrown out with last month's magazines. That, coupled with a frustration over what passes for contemporary furniture, led him to "try to adapt everything in my environment to my own vision." So is he creating art or is it design? "I'm a designer. It makes my skin crawl when people identify themselves as artists. It's not for the individual to decide. If people consider it art, I'm flattered."
But artistic talent runs in the family. Penn's father is Irving Penn, the photographer, his mother is Lisa FonssagrivesPenn, the sculptor, and his uncle is filmmaker Arthur Penn. "There's nothing I'd like less than for people to say I got work because of my family. But if I avoid their fields of endeavor, I'm pretty much left with dentistry and garbage collecting," he says with a puckish smile. It was fortunate then that he visited a welder's studio in France at the age of thirteen and was allowed to weld something. "It was like a star hit me. Shards of steel were being tamed. I loved the idea of taking chaos and putting it in order." This led to a lifelong obsession with collecting bits of metal-some of which have appeared in his father's photos-and a love of junkyards the world over.
As he explores new tools and methods, Penn's work is shifting away from the stark linear furniture forms he's come to be known for, and is now leaning to more organic, whimsical shapes. Mutability and a touch of mystery have come to be important elements in his pieces. He points out a table with legs that adjust to offer alternative heights and a candlestick whose base was inspired by a gear found in a French junkyard. "To transform things is my greatest joy," he says, his enthusiasm making him seem much younger than his 37 years.

Penn frequently goes on work binges, in which he sleeps only four or five hours a night. "It's an uncontrollable passion." He picks up a green patinated box that curiously blends a flat round top with a square side. "I was in a restaurant and bored with the conversation, so I tore a coaster. This came out of looking at that torn coaster. I had to make the piece so I wouldn't think about it anymore." Penn gazes up into the ceiling. "In my head there's so much rusty steel." (Tom Penn, c/o Cathy Wright, 212-772-8862)



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## Yankee Federalist

## Samuel McIntire laid a firm foundation

 for architecture in early AmericaBy Martin Filler



When artistic genius suddenly appears in unexpected places, it is all the more exciting, seeming to come out of nowhere like some spontaneous act of fate. That is rarely the truth, of course. The complex and intertwining ways in which men and their money are made at a specific time and locale sometimes create a climate in which native talent can flourish with little direct encouragement. And in all of American history, there have been few architects as gifted or unheralded as Samuel McIntire of Salem, Massachusetts. Formally uneducated, virtually untraveled, and
largely indifferent to theory, he emerged at a moment in his profession when the opposites of those characteristics were believed to be a prerequisite for success.

And now, two hundred years after he perfected the Federal style and began to construct some of the first great buildings of the young republic, his exquisitely graceful designs are attracting new attention. The revival of interest in Classicism has much to do with it, but so does the fact that McIntire was so obviously an American original. Yet the recent restoration of McIntire's most complete architectural scheme, his GardnerPingree house of 1804-05 in Salem, demonstrates that he was not just an American master but a virtuoso of a global golden age of architecture that also produced such giants as Adam, Piranesi, Jefferson, Soane, and Schinkel.

Neoclassicism was the eighteenth century's International Style, and neither McIntire's humble origins nor his lifelong residence in a provincial seaport far from the mainstream of high culture inhibited his growth or narrowed his vision. The son of a housewright, McIntire was born in Salem in 1757 and apprenticed in his father's workshop. Though practical and unpretentious, McIntire was also ambitious, and he studied the new English architectural pattern books that began to circulate widely after advances in printing during the Industrial Revolution. Those guides stimulated his innate talents as a draftsman, and the more sophisticated technique of drawing a design-as opposed to the improvisational on-site methods of a carpenter-set McIntire off from his workaday local contemporaries. But he wasn't snobbish, slavish to foreign tastes, or unmindful of the pragmatic values of his clients, and in those respects he was one of the first authentically American architects.

The strong emphasis modern art has placed on radical innovation as the most desirable of creative attributes has tended to


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obscure McIntire's proper rank in American architecture. Included in all survey histories, McIntire has been regarded mainly in an antiquarian context, respected but about as relevant to current concerns as George Washington. For many Modernists, American architecture didn't really begin until Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright, and anything in the more distant past was merely prologue. Yet in their unselfconscious candor and engaging freshness, McIntire's houses and their interiors marked quite a departure from the dominance of Europe and opened a new direction in their own right. Though McIntire's initial ideas often derived from those of Robert Adam-the most pervasive international design influence of the timeone would never mistake one for the other. The prosperous China Trade merchants for whom McIntire worked-especially his most frequent patron, the fabulously rich Elias Hasket Derby, owner of the legendary clipper ship The Grand Turkdelighted in their new wealth and status. But they were also recent Puritan descendants for whom modes-
 Clarity, economy, and harmony give McIntire's designs an air of timeless simplicity
ty, restraint, and discretion were still cardinal virtues.
Thus the rooms they lived in were much less opulent than Adam's sometimes garish and overrich extravaganzas for England's ruling class. Many present-day Americans familiar only with American adaptations of the Adam style-what is now called Federal-are astonished by the originals that inspired them. The delicate monochromatic painted details of a McIntire carved wooden cornice or mantelpiece are a world away from the gilded and polychromed equivalents in Adam's stately homes. Adam's masonry façades, lush with sculpture and festooned with ornament, make McIntire's chaste wooden or brick-and-limestone elevations seem almost minimalist. But that economy of material, clarity of surface, and sharpness of line all combine to give McIntire's
instrument. That is equally true inside the house where the arching swags on mantels and door lintels set up a lilting rhythm as harmonious in detail and ensemble as the façade.

Drawing heavily on Georgian prototypes, the Federal style is commonly seen as derivative of English architecture and decorative arts. But a visit to the beautifully preserved landmarks of Samuel McIntire in Salem makes it clear that this was not the distant echo of an old order but rather the stirring fanfare for a vibrant new culture at its birth.
buildings an air of timeless simplicity.
The crisp fine-edged quality so typical of McIntire's designs no doubt derived from his formidable manual skills as a woodworker, and he continued to be active as a carver until his death in 1811 at age 54 . One reason why his designs still ring true is his unfailing sense of proportion. The major lesson he learned from Classicism was the necessary relation between the whole and its parts. As plain as the windows, lintels, and string courses of the Gardner-Pingree house are, it is their careful placement within the larger architectural order of the façade that makes the entire exterior resonate like a perfectly tuned musical



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# Cornish Spring 

A tour of gardens in<br>Cornwall offers unexpected early blooms

By David Wheeler



An intricate maze of laurels planted in 1833, above, extends beyond massed rhododendrons in the valley garden at Glendurgan.


Helford River garden of immense interest. But you do not have to step far from Wood Cottage to see your first Cornish garden since its woodland setting, spiked with bluebells and foxgloves, is on the Trust's Glendurgan estate. This sheltered garden was first laid out and planted by Alfred Fox in the 1820s and '30s. In 1962 the Cuthbert Fox family, faced with modern-day expenses, realized they would not be able to maintain it out of taxed income, so the house and garden and several cottages in the hamlet of Durgan, some forty acres in all, were given to the National Trust to mark the bicentenary of George Croker Fox's merchant and banking business in Falmouth. Since then, the Trust has applied its hand without imposing upon the garden any sign of a closely watched checkbook. The giant tulip trees (Liriodendron tulipifera) are some of the tallest in Britain, and the shoulder-high maze, planted more than 150 years ago, is re-

The southwest "toe" of England, pushing out into the Atlantic Ocean, is one of the warmest and wettest regions in mainland Britain. It is not surprising therefore that Cornwall—particularly the southern coastal part of the county-should accommodate some of the most luxuriant gardens in the land. Their names alone can stir gardeners around the world: Caerhays, home of the Williams family, whose name is forever linked with rhododendrons and camellias; Trewithen, where originated Ceanothus arboreus 'Trewithen Blue', with large panicles of slightly scented deep blue flowers; or Glendurgan, a deep valley garden sliding down some two hundred feet to the Helford River, where frosts are almost unknown. Spring comes early to Cornwallthe season gets underway in February when the first daffodils, camellias, and magnolias start flowering. By April exotic gunneras can be six feet high with leaves four feet wide, and after a milder than usual winter like 1988-89 the growth on many shrubs seems to have been uninterrupted.

We spent a week in Cornwall in mid April last year, staying in a picture-book thatched cottage (originally an apple storehouse) rented from the National Trust for $\$ 285$ a week. Wood Cottage looks straight across to Bosahan, another
markable for its original use of laurels rather than box or yew and for its curious manner of suggesting an England, now gone, where time and eccentricity and the attendant labor force were abundant.

Glendurgan is considerably larger than its 26 -acre neighbor, Trebah, also owned for a time by the Quaker Fox family; both gardens run down to the banks of the Helford where two more National Trust cottages on the tiny harbor are available to rent. With Bosloe, a smaller and more intimate garden on the other side of the lane, and Carwinion and Penjerrack (both associated with the Fox family) a short drive away, these few square miles of Cornwall ensure some of the best English garden visiting.

Although the National Trust is richly endowed with exquisite properties in this part of Great Britain, many fine houses and gardens are still privately owned and occupied by families whose gardening traditions go back several generations. At Chyverton, nearer the north coast but only half an hour's drive across the narrow Cornish peninsula, Nigel Holman continues the woodland planting begun by his father in 1925 to complement an eighteenth-century landscape garden. The house is a classical four-square Georgian gem ap-
proached through woodland and along a vast sweep of a drive that crosses a perfectly proportioned arched stone bridge-the ideal introduction to the ideal English house.

Nigel Holman's great sense of humor is matched only by his enviable knowledge of flowering trees and shrubs. He is the sort of man you can imagine having muttered Latin plant names in his crib but who can today lead a group of visitors around his garden without the slightest fear of intimidating or boring them. Work continues even during the garden tour: with swift strokes of his walking stick Holman attacks unwanted

## A few miles from

## popular Newquay, the gardens of Trerice

 are a world away from its burger bars andsurf-crazy youngsters
outgrowths. Not content with the beautiful flowering part of his woods, he seems to be forever clearing new areas of his estate to make room for ever more magnolias, rhododendrons, and other aristocrats of the Asian plant world, some of which he may be growing from seed brought back from present-day botanical expeditions.

These Cornish gardens share an abundance of exotic flowering woody plants. At Trebah, back on the Helford, there are happy-looking specimens from China, Australia, New Zealand, and South America, as well as the Atlantic islands of Madeira, the Canaries, and the Azores. For English visitors Trebah serves as a living herbarium while to travelers from overseas it can offer familiar glimpses of home.

Bamboos are the passion of Anthony Rogers at Carwinion. He was expecting a party from the Bamboo Society shortly after we were there, and as a treat for them he was preparing to remove all his plant labels to see how they fared at
naming his collection. This was not to be some stuffy identification parade but a gentle tease typical, it seems, of these gentle Cornish gardeners. Rogers runs his small country house as a business, offering bed and breakfast, clotted-cream teas, and self-contained apartments to those who prefer not to stay in hotels.

Gardens in south Cornwall all exploit the same benign Gulf Stream climate; one, St. Michael's Mount, goes a step further. In the bay off Penzance, not far from Land's End, stands the magnificent fortified castle whose doppelgänger, Mont-Saint-Michel off the Normandy coast, is ruined now by tourism. The entire island, its small harbor, castle, and cottages are protected by the National Trust. St. Michael's can be reached by a five-minute trip in an open boat or, at low tide, by walking over the causeway. No public motor vehicles are allowed: it's walking all the way, and at the foot of the steep path a notice warns those with a weak heart or breathing problems not to try. (Having made the crossing, though, the less fit can at least stroll along the harbor walls and enjoy good food in the restaurant.) But for fitter souls the prospect is bright indeed.

You climb up and up, past hydrangeas and camellias, and eventually reach the entrance to the castle, whose first rooms, with views far out to sea, have a certain shipboard saltiness. If you have come purposely to explore the terraced gardens, almost washed by the sea, your first view of them, from high up on the seaward side of the island, might well bring on an unexpected touch of vertigo. Some 200 feet below are the little walled enclosures overflowing as early as April with color and abundant growth. Oddly, the English Channel and Atlantic winds, which can throw themselves at the island, seem not to take too great a toll on the plants. Large flowering heads of the tender magenta pink Geranium maderense would probably soon fall victim to the gales if they were not protected by the low embracing walls. Even in April there seems to be as much color in these enclosed spaces as can be encountered in the finest midsummer herbaceous borders.

In contrast to the gardens mentioned so far is Trerice, only a few miles from the popular resort of Newquay but a world away from its burger bars and surf-crazy youngsters. Trerice offers formality and straight lines to those who may by now be suffering from an overdose of woodland planting in seemingly endless profusion. The manor house was rebuilt around 1572, incorporating part of an earlier building in the south wing. Trerice is grand in spirit but domestic in scale; the whole garden, divided into four distinct areas on several levels, conceals surprising parcels of


Formal terraces at Trerice adjoin a house rebuilt c. 1572. Garden walls of Cornish granite conserve the sun's warmth for closely planted borders.
imaginatively designed and planted borders hugging warm granite walls. The house is open, too, and you should make time to enjoy its charming rooms.
To those who have become familiar with the treasury of gardens around London and in the Cotswolds and Shakespeare country, Cornwall offers a refreshing alternative. A tour of Cornish gardens early in the season repays the visitor with splendid memories of the gentlest of English springs.

For information on visiting the Cornish gardens: Caerhays (872) 501310, Trewithen (726) 882585, both at Truro; Glendurgan, Mawnan Smith (208) 74281; Chyverton, Zelah (87254) 324; Bosahan, Helford (32623) 647; Trebah, Falmouth (326) 250 448; Bosloe (208) 74281, Carwinion (326) 250258, and Penjerrack (no telephone), all at Mawnan Smith; St. Michael's Mount (736) 710507; Trerice, Newquay (637) 875404.


## Painterly Porcelains

## Ceramist Scott McDowell impresses images from art and nature into clay

By Ann BEATtie

Years ago when I lived in New York, in Chelsea, one of my favorite diversions was to walk to 18th Street and look through the window of Scott McDowell's tiny storefront studio. The work went on in the back, but the little display room was an amazing treasure trove of his porcelain: vases, plates, cups, and, most enticingly, a table set with one-of-a-kind dinnerware that always made me blink because it seemed he had magically invented new colors. The place settings were always beautiful and rarely lacked some whimsical touch. Even the mat underneath the table had been paintedfinding a bit of dropped food would have been like searching for a strand of hair on a Jackson Pollock. The Mad Hatter would have sat happily for hours.

I invented an imaginary life for Scott McDowell: he'd been to Carnevale-that explained the multicolored confetti pattern splattering his bowls; he'd been to MOMA-that explained the Monet-like haze of color on a serving platter; he ate at the Mexican restaurant around the corner-the green chili painted on a plate was an homage.

McDowell's pieces reminded me of the night sky. Of sea grass. Of the inside of a conch shell. Of phosphorescence on the ocean. Of a sudden flash of heat lightning. I thought that the person who created them was a poet. I tried to join in by letting my imagination take over, inspiring me to metaphors, or by trying to puzzle out the artist's Rorschach splotches. I was looking at an interesting person's preoccupations, learning from his sense of color, seeing how much a small gesture could alter a piece. It was difficult not to stop and examine details: some shapes looked like cells that had absorbed dye and could be seen clearly under the microscope; the opalescence glittered like sun on snow. McDowell was offering an interpretation of the world.

As you would expect, I bought quite a few of his creations. I was acquiring a landscape that happened to be the background of a dinner plate. The vase I put my tulips in was-like its owner-placid on one side and a little crazier on the other. I thought about the psychology of certain pieces. Little dramas seemed to be unfolding. Against a neutral cream-colored background, some shapes moved unimpeded while others were trapped or caught up in a complex rhythm. Squiggles would be swallowed by rectangles in a contrasting color; a gentle brushstroke of green paint would speed off, clearing the center of activity, heading for empty space. Many of the pieces are like abstract paintings yet allude to such archetypal images that strong personal reactions are evoked.

McDowell became interested in color in the late seventies. He began using china paints and luster glazes, he says, "to enliven the surfaces." He was also influenced by the place he lived: Venice, California. When he moved to New York, he lost access to California's glittery natural beauty, but he seems to have retained something of the colors and the feel of the place (though I suppose the state has no patent on pink and orange). His palette also includes the gray greens and silvery blues of Seattle, where McDowell lived and worked for three



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years until last month-he has just returned to New York.
"Now," he says, "the use of texture is more interesting-the way the different marks affect the forms and relate to the more subtle colorings." Increasingly, McDowell's work has taken on a sculptural quality. Regular geometric patterning has ceased to engage him very much; he seems more interested in anomalies and in the antic way certain geometric forms play on a surface. "I try to visually blow the designs to bits and see where the parts fall," says the artist. "The fun of creating the pieces is in seeing what they become rather than in executing an idea."

After slip painting (applying color to very wet clay), McDowell leaves some areas unglazed. When your eye stops at surface variations, you not only see and feel the alterations in color and texture, you also notice small brushstrokes and delicate sculpting. As always, the unexpected elements tempt you to move in close, pick up the piece, respond to its inherent motion by moving your
finger around the edge. You become part of the action: yours is the smooth fingertip that touches the smoother square of gold; your eye completes a brushstroke that narrows and pales.

## McDowell puts

on a magic show: textures change, colors pair unexpectedly, markings arrive like butterflies

Of course, no one in this Freudian century would deny the intrinsic sexuality of these forms. OK, I'll say it: one of my favorite pieces, a narrow-footed bowl, enlarges to become quite flared at the top. And there we find a tiny flagellate that has to be an improbably colored
red sperm on its way to the womb.
With a commendably childlike daring, the artist has let his own incredulity show in the pieces he has created. He has put on a magic show for us-colors we wouldn't expect to be paired, surfaces that change texture, geometric additions that seem to have arrived as unexpectedly as a butterfly.

There's one more thing: what's inside those jars and bowls. Having considered the exterior, you take a bowl from the shelf to find that your own good sense of aesthetics and your ideas about consistency have allowed you to predict nothing. You will be dazzled by a sudden depth of turquoise. Peeking into the bowl, you'll see flashes of color highlighted with gold-little farewell grace notes for the curious.

McDowell's works display a painterly, impressionistic use of color combined with a sculptor's feel for releasing the inherent sensuality that will enliven the forms. The closer you examine them, the more they radiate great mystery. Which is true of beauty.

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# Lettuce Rejoice 

## A toast to the salad days of the young but always noble Kentucky Bibb

By Camille Glenn

Lettuce, apparently, has been with us always. Herodotus wrote in the fifth century that the kings of Persia had lettuce on their tables about 550 b.c. Lettuce seeds were found in Egyptian tombs along with the descriptions of Egyptian gardens. In the fourth century B.C., the immortal physician Hippocrates, who lived on the Greek island of Cos, spoke well of the local let-tuce-its tenderness and sweetness and health-giving properties. This variety, called Cos lettuce but better known as Romaine since it was mistakenly believed to have originated in Rome, did not form into heads but put out its leaves from a tall slim stalk, as it does today.

The Romans as well as the Greeks were great admirers of lettuce. Lucullus, the famous Roman epicure, is said to have been so fond of lettuce that he sprinkled wine and honey on the plants in his garden-one supposes to further increase their succulence and flavor.

Lettuce traveled from Italy to France with the popes who abandoned Rome for Avignon and was brought to the New World by Columbus himself. The ancient Romans, the Greeks, and the

Developed by John Bibb in 1856, the crisp and tender Kentucky Bibb is, with endive, one of the salad aristocrats.

French used lettuce much as we do today, serving it as a salad with the simplest and best of dressings made of olive oil, vinegar or lemon, salt, and sometimes a touch of mustard. Over time, of course, improvisers have added anchovies, mushrooms, artichoke hearts, and fresh herbs-Louis XIV of France, gastronome extraordinaire, was fond of seasoning hislettuce with tarragon-but usually when Europeans, especially Italians, refer to salad they mean just lettuce.

There are only a few basic types of lettuce; most of those available today are mutations of older strains. All but one, that is-the mystery lettuce called Bibb. Known as Kentucky Limestone lettuce by some, for the alkaline soil and water in central Kentucky where John Bibb developed it around 1856, the Bibb remains unique in the salad world-a charming cross-breed of uncertain parentage.

The heads of the original Bibb were not overly compact but were exquisitely small-the perfect proportions for two servings. The true Kentucky Bibb remains so today. But how did John Bibb control the size? What lettuces did he cross to achieve the dainty heads of balance and pleasing texture, the lovely shadings of vibrant greens and yellows? The key to the original cross-breeding, or mutation, has never been found. Horticulturists at the University of Kentucky, along with other growers and hybridizers all over the U.S., continue to cross-breed lettuces in an attempt to find the secret to the Bibb's inheritance, and the secret continues to evade them. All such trials have produced a larger head as well as a looseleafed lettuce. John Bibb left no documents or papers on his experiments, and he divulged his methods to no one.

Who was John Bibb? This is almost as much as we know: he was born in Virginia in 1789 but moved to Russellville, Kentucky, with his family when a small boy. He fought in the War of 1812 and became a brigade major in Canada. In 1814 Bibb became a member of the bar in Frankfort, Kentucky, but he practiced law for only two years. He lived a long life quietly puttering the time away in his small greenhouse where he propagated the lettuce that he sojealously guarded. When he did give a few leaves of lettuce to his neighbors, so the story goes, he carefully cut them above the roots of the plant.

A gardener and helper in Bibb's small greenhouse, knowing his secretive ways, stealthily slipped some seed to Viola Genenwein, whose family lived in Louisville. The Genenweins were farmers who had immigrated from Germany and settled with other German families in the Ohio Valley. Fortunately, they were wise in the ways of plants and gardening, and Bibb lettuce was saved for posterity. Before long Bibb


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production evolved into a thriving and prosperous nursery business for the Genenweins in addition to other nurseries all over the world.

The Genenwein Nursery in Louisville is still one of the finest growers of Bibb anywhere. On a bright Kentucky day, it is thrilling to see thousands of small perfect heads of lettuce sparkle in the reflection of the hothouse glass overhead. If a head should grow large or untrue, as occasionally happens, that plant is pulled up and discarded. The strain must be kept pure, and it is.

The Bibb is a delicate plant that has to be grown and handled with care. It cannot withstand an excess of moisture, and it thrives only in a cool atmosphere. It is definitely a hothouse lettuce. The growing season for Bibb at its best is from October to May. In an outdoor garden in the late spring, it becomes bitter and tough. It loses all the charm and character that make Bibb lettuce great.

Bibb and Belgian endive are firmly ensconced today as the cream of the salad crop. A straightforward green salad blending their noble flavors and personalities cannot be surpassed. While Belgian endive is of ancient lineage and Kentucky Bibb is a recent addition to horticultural history, both are served in the White House, in the embassies of France, Italy, and England, in American and European restaurants of renown, and, of course, in our own elegant salads.

## BIBB AND ENDIVE SALAD WITH NASTURTIUMS

2-3 heads Bibb lettuce
2 heads Belgian endive
3 tablespoons parsley, chopped
8-12 nasturtiums
1 teaspoon kosher salt
3-4 tablespoons lemon juice
1 cup heavy cream or crème fraîche Cayenne pepper

Rinse and dry the greens. Cut each head of Bibb in half. Cut endive leaves into slivers. Divide the Bibb among the salad plates and sprinkle with slivered endive. Add 2 nasturtium flowers and a couple of nasturtium leaves to each plate.
Measure the salt and lemon juice into a small bowl. Slowly add the cream, beating constantly until the dressing is slightly thickened. Add cayenne to taste. Allow guests to serve themselves. Serves 4-6.


## BIBB, ENDIVE, ARTICHOKE, AND PROSCIUTTO SALAD

3 heads Bibb lettuce
2 heads Belgian endive
3 artichoke bottoms, cooked and sliced
$1 / 3-1 / 2$ pound prosciutto, thinly sliced
$1 / 3-1 / 2$ pound asparagus spears, cooked
3 tablespoons fresh tarragon leaves
2 tablespoons parsley, chopped
$1 / 2$ cup extra-virgin oil
3 tablespoons white wine vinegar
1-2 teaspoons Dijon mustard Salt and white pepper

Rinse and dry Bibb and endive. Slice the artichoke bottoms. Sliver the prosciutto. Cut each asparagus spear into 3 pieces. Line a large salad bowl with the greens. Add the artichoke bottoms, prosciutto, and asparagus. Sprinkle tarragon and parsley over the salad. Blend the dressing and spoon it on the salad. Toss gently. Serves 4-6.

## BIBB, WATERCRESS, BACON, AND POTATO SALAD

6 thick slices lean bacon
$11 / 2$ pounds small new potatoes
4 small heads Bibb lettuce
$1 / 2$ bunch watercress
1 small bunch arugula or curly chicory
2-3 scallions, thinly sliced
8 cherry tomatoes
$1 / 4$ cup warm bacon fat
$1 / 4$ cup extra-virgin
olive oil
3 tablespoons white wine vinegar
Fresh parsley, chervil, and dill or tarragon, chopped
Salt and white pepper
Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Cook bacon on a cookie sheet $8-10$ minutes. Remove and break bacon into small pieces. Set aside. Peel new potatoes, cook until tender in boiling salted water, and slice.

Rinse the Bibb, watercress, and arugula and dry. Line a wooden salad bowl with the greens. Add the potatoes and sprinkle the scallions and bacon over the salad. Place the tomatoes around the outside of the bowl. Mix bacon fat, oil, and vinegar in a small bowl. Spoon the dressing over the salad. Add the herbs and salt and pepper. Toss gently. Serves 4 .

## BIBB, ENDIVE, AND WALNUT SALAD

6 heads Bibb lettuce
2 heads Belgian endive
1 cup large walnut pieces
1 tablespoon unsalted butter
$11 / 2$ tablespoons sugar
1 teaspoon Madras curry powder Cayenne pepper
3 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
6 tablespoons walnut oil
3 tablespoons champagne vinegar Salt
Dash lemon juice
Rinse and dry the greens and refrigerate. Pick over the walnuts, discarding crumbs. Melt the butter in a small skillet. Add the walnuts and stir until they are well coated and fairly crisp. While stirring, add the sugar, curry powder, and cayenne. Mix thoroughly. Add the Worcestershire sauce. Continue to stir until the walnuts have a thin dark glaze. Set aside.
Mix the walnut oil, vinegar, salt, and lemon juice. Set aside. Place the Bibb leaves in a shallow salad bowl. Cut the Belgian endive into slivers and sprinkle over the Bibb. Spoon the walnuts into the center of the salad. Just before serving, dress and toss carefully. Serves 4.

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## Insider Trading

## A Paris gallery specializes in the work of lesser-known nineteenth-century artists

By CHARLA CARTER

Galerie Jacques Fischer-Chantal Kiener on Paris's rue de Verneuil is a source that savvy dealers in art and antiques like to keep secret. A cross between Oscar Wilde's drawing room and Yeats's "rag and bone shop of the heart," the place is a beacon for cognoscenti who share Fischer and Kiener's passion for art of the nineteenth century. Above all, this is a gallery designed for, and around, the serendipitous find. Fischer-Kiener's carefully labeled drawers overflow with treasures. One contains a sheaf of drawings by an artist fascinated by bird's wings and the spidery branches of trees. In another a pen and ink project for a turn-of-thecentury dirigible peeks out from under a stack of stylized flo-


Partners Chantal
Kiener and Jacques Fischer, left, leaf through watercolors in their Left Bank gallery.
"We buy what amuses us," says Jacques Fischer of the eclectic array of art, above, lining the gallery walls and shelves. Below: La Comptesse de Goyon by Hippolyte Flandrin, 1853.

ral embroidery designs from 1912.
You won't find Ingres or Delacroix adorning Fischer-Kiener's walls. Instead, there's a charming oil on paper of the napes of two girls' necks by an anonymous nineteenth-century Italian; a bare-breasted Psyche by Jean Joseph Taillasson; even an unlikely pair of 1940s landscapes, bought simply because "they were pretty," says Fischer. "We don't pretend to sell chefs d'oeuvre. We buy what amuses us, and we don't often find big names amusing."

Given Fischer-Kiener's penchant for lesser-known artists and their reluctance merely to "buy a drawing for 10,000 francs one day and sell it for 20,000 francs the next," many of their clients are canny museum curators. The Musée d'Orsay recently snapped up a Théodule Ribot painting of an artist at his easel, and the Petit Palais netted a Thomas Couture portrait from the same show. American and European collectors-"There are no French collectors," mourns Kiener-come to the gallery because they know and trust Fi-scher-Kiener's unerring eclectic taste.

The two have been partners for thirteen years but devoted friends for longer: they met in an art history class at the prestigious École du Louvre thirty years ago. Both have spouses, and in Kiener's case, children and a capricious cat. Her husband is also an aficionado of nine-teenth-century art ("Though he likes more severe things-he reproaches me for having too many flowers").
Portly, perpetually amused, Fischer says their relationship is "worse than a marriage." Kiener, who is girlish and green-eyed, chides him for his "artsy notions of time and money," while he humors what he considers to be her occasional lapses of judgment. Recently, Kiener insisted on buying a demure 1852 portrait by a father of his adolescent daughter because of its "sensitive quality-there's a special feeling communicated in portraits painted by relatives." Though Fischer clearly doesn't share her rapture, his smile is indulgent rather than mocking.
Fischer is the expert on bronzes and sculpture, Kiener an authority on water-

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colors, particularly landscapes. The two are neck and neck in their knowledge of nineteenth-century oil paintings and drawings. But prints are not offered. "Prints are a little like stamps," says Fischer, dismissing the collecting of both as arcane and beyond his ken.

What made Kiener, who was working in a gallery of modern art, and Fischer, a dealer in seventeenth- and eighteenthcentury antiques, embark on a gallery selling nineteenth-century art? "The École du Louvre taught us that anything nineteenth century besides David was second-rate," explains Fischer, "but Chantal always had a soft spot for the neglected drawings of that period." Conveniently, in 1976 when the two were setting up shop, nineteenth-century drawings were "very affordable." At Fischer-Kiener prices are still affordable. "People go on and on about investment art these days," Kiener laments. "That's not our style at all. We sell things for what we think they're worth." "Our prices rarely top 100,000 francs [ $\$ 17,000$ ]," notes Fischer, brandishing a drawer in which some things, irresistibly, are marked at 200 francs (\$34) and everything is less than 1,500 francs (\$260). "The slightest little Impressionist dabble fetches ten times that today," he says.

Defiantly Left Bank until now, the gallery's success at a recent works on paper show in New York has Fischer and Kiener wondering whether they should branch out and exhibit more in other major cities. Yet they're loath to yield to what they feel is increasing pressure to "create an event" around the selling of art. "When we examine our ledgers at the end of the day, we're a thousand times happier knowing that we have clients who truly love the things they find here," says Kiener.

The gallery's idiosyncratic offerings delight the jaded eye of the experienced collector. For the amateur they might even be a revelation-an artistic initiation into a past century for those who thought their tastes firmly rooted in this one. (Galerie Jacques Fischer-Chantal Kiener, 46 rue de Verneuil, 75007 Paris; 42-61-17-82. Tues.-Sat. 3 P.м.-7 P.м.)



# Rodney's Rooms 

## A young artist paints himself

 into all four corners of his SoHo loftBy Margot Guralnick ost artists would be incensed by reviews that called their art "eye candy," but Rodney Alan Greenblat refuses to be ruffled. The boyish 29 -year-old makes no bones about his intentions. "My work is deliberately colorful, optimistic, and accessible," he says. Greenblat has even gone so far as to embellish the critic's confectionary metaphor: for the cover of his first museum catalogue he painted a pair of Hostess cupcakes and dubbed his guileless universe of wood and high-keyed acrylics a "creamy center of hope" independent of the "devil's food cake of gloom."

Fresh out of New York's School of Visual Arts, Greenblat was reluctantly preparing himself for a career as a carpenter when the art world summoned him to its front line. Appropriately, his first patron was a toy company executive who took a fancy to Greenblat's playful but meticulously crafted sculpture, furniture, and billboard-size paintings. Downtown art dealer Gracie Mansion entered the picture next; since 1982 she has acted as the supportive middleman between her "most sought after" artist and a growing list of collectors.
For his debut show at Gracie Mansion Gallery Greenblat unveiled a full-scale living room that combined homey comforts and frolicking Looney Tunes-style imagery. Goldfish swam in the television, a tiny house glowed from the hearth, and every surface served as slate for a dizzying array of Greenblat pictograms, cartoon characters, and abstract doodles. Asked to explain the meaning behind his high-spirited good housekeeping, Greenblat responded: "I have a dream to create an entire environment, to build my own world and live in it."

At the time, Greenblat and his wife, fashion designer Deena Lebow, shared a tworoom tenement apartment-"fifteen layers of paint and a bathtub in the kitchen" is how she describes it. When Lebow gave birth to twin daughters in 1986, Greenblat's dream became something more than an escapist's fantasy. But it wasn't until three years ago that the family found, in a 2,700 -square-foot former factory in SoHo , a space ready to be Rodneyized.

The entrance to the family's living quarters is through
"My ultimate goal is to create an entire world and live in it," says Greenblat. Left: His Maiden of the Lamp.

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Greenblat's studio, the only room where white walls prevail. A portrait of Greenblat's father-a management consultant from whom he says he inherited his knack for tinkering-sits on a desk shelf overrun with Erector Sets and the 1963 World Book Encyclopedia. Nine-foottall double doors lead to a fanciful "everything room" equipped for lounging, cooking, dining, playing, and Lebow's hat designing.
As the twins maneuver toy baby carriages up and down the length of the space, Greenblat surveys the indoor landscape he created. The water towers, picket fence, and suburban house that take shape on top of the kitchen cabinets are an homage, he says, to the train set he built during his elementary school years in suburban Bethesda, Maryland. When he was sixteen, Greenblat moved on to art classes, turning out bright, boisterous paintings that borrowed heavily from Warhol and Lichtenstein. But in his first year at art school Greenblat started to make painted wooden sculptures with internal motors and moving parts and "realized that all the modeling, painting, and planning I poured into my trains was exactly the sort of art I wanted to make."

Off the everything room, The Welcome

The kitchen, left, features a feast of Greenblat images, ranging from a houseshaped cabinet to paintings and cutouts of good things to eat. Below: Cleo and Kimberly Greenblat model tiger hats designed by their mother for her company, Mini Big. Right: Greenblat's Harp Chair.


Archway, a sculpture in honor of the tricentennial-"I thought I'd be the first to get ready for 2076 "-heralds the entrance to the twins' room, where orange and aqua fish climb the stairs to a second-story play area. Within easy yelling distance, the parents' room is reached by four steps up a staircase trimmed in shades of bubble gum and peppermint.
"People always comment that the place looks like Pee-wee Herman's playhouse," says Greenblat, who doesn't seem to mind the comparison. In fact, the similarities between the art star and the television star extend beyond their day-at-thecircus style of interior decorating: before Pee-wee became a Saturday morning staple Greenblat wrote, designed, and starred in a campy ill-fated TV pilot called Rodney's Room. A slew of recent projects may yet make Greenblat's name as familiar as his knock-kneed rival's. Currently on the market are Rodney Alan Greenblat mugs, saucers, plates, T-shirts, and computer and silk-screen prints, and out this month from Harper \& Row is the first Rodney Alan Greenblat children's book, Uncle Wizzmo's New Used Car.
Meanwhile, as he prepares for a May show at Gracie Mansion, Greenblat's sketch pads and computer files are stocked with ideas that take his art even further afield. "I think I should design a zoo, an amusement park, and a bunnyshaped office building," he says. "I like to treat the vision people had of America in the fifties as if it had happened and show how it would look in the nineties. In a way it's a sad image because it didn't happen. But maybe it could. I'm painting a picture of an American utopia that could happen."


## Vienna Album

## An Englishman remembers his wife's family Schloss in the city

By Alan Pryce-Jones



Meidling is an undistinguished suburb of Vienna, notable only because the park and palace of Schönbrunn lie just beyond it. The Tivoligasse in Meidling is by no means its most distinguished street. It is lined with rather shabby apartment buildings. Of these my mother-in-law used to say with a snort that too many were lived in, at her expense, by her illegitimate sisters, one of whom was occasionally glimpsed climbing the steep drive to number 73 .


My mother-in-law, Baroness Fould-Springer, lived mostly in France. I entered her life as the guest of an English friend of my father's at a family dinner party. I had been struck by two things: her Vienna house and her two teenage daughters, who, I noted in my diary, seldom spoke except to make private jokes about the guests. How sad, I wrote, for this charming, brilliant, elegant woman to have begotten two such fiendish little girls. Four years later, I married one of themnot, however, before reading her my diary aloud.

But the house: it was at the end of the street, approached through wrought-iron gates, which led to an uphill road
sweeping round two sides of an extravagant building in what passed as the Viennese Renaissance manner. It had replaced in the 1880 s a pretty Biedermeier Schloss, at the whim of Baron Gustav Springer, whose only legitimate child was to be my mother-in-law. After our marriage my wife and I lived there until the outbreak of World War II, and odd though the house was, we became passionately devoted to it.

It stood in a large park from which the city was invisible. I discovered that the house, which had nothing strictly beautiful about it, had been so admired in Central Europe and the


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Balkans that its features were widely copied, from an embassy in Bulgaria to the royal palace in Belgrade. On the exterior walls were busts of French kings. By the kitchen wing was a courtyard in Norman half-timbering-the relic of an abandoned attempt by my father-in-law to escape from the Austrian Renaissance Revival.

At the center of the house was a galleried hall top-lit by lights beamed through many-colored glass. We were told that Baron Gustav could not abide coming home except to a dazzle of illumination. Not that he came home often. His wife had died in childbirth after seventeen years of childless mar-riage-hence the illegitimate ladies outside the gates. He spent the rest of his days in the Imperial Hotel but came to visit his daughter and her Scottish governess at Sunday luncheons. At these, before she reached her teens, it was her duty to preside over a male company of cigarsmoking bankers, Jockey Club members, and captains of industry fifty years older than she.

The old gentleman was a formidable tycoon: a banker, a railroad and mining magnate, a landowner throughout the Austrian empire, a racehorse owner. He was the kind of perfectionist who sent his laundry to Paris each week. To justify his French connections, he operated the factories which provided the yeast of Paris and much of northern France. As an Austrian loyalist, Baron Gustav repatriated an immense sum in Swiss francs on the outbreak of war in 1914 by which time his daughter, bored by enforced studies in German banks, Polish coal mines, and British railroads, had married a French husband, whose family owned the steel of which the Eiffel Tower was built. Her punishment was to be cut off with nothing but the yeast factories.

When I came on the scene the Meidling house survived in a kind of time capsule. The butler, Franz, had been there, man and boy, for fifty years. Gusti, the housekeeper, and Herr Weingartner, the retired coachman, were part of the family. For a time the kitchen was run by the former chef of the empress Elisabeth, murdered almost forty years earlier. The house itself was unchanged. The bedrooms had been hung with buttoned and quilted silk, and the gallery around the hall was designed to display winners from the Springer stables. Presumably because they were more expensive than original eighteenth-century French furnishings, later copies

from Paris filled the rooms. We particularly liked an ormolu chandelier in the Yellow Drawing Room, which represented a basket of roses tumbling over from its weight-each rose a light bulb. Mainly we lived in a delicious upstairs sitting room, the Telefonzimmer, hung in gray blue silk like the bedrooms and looking up an avenue that bisected the park.

The bathrooms were built after the Roman fashion. You walked down three or four steps into a bath so huge that I ran a toy submarine in it. The winters were especially apt for bathing because then old Franz went ahead to light a tall porcelain stove beside which one could spend a lazy half hour on a sofa upholstered in toweling while the submarine nosed its way languidly through the steam.

The life of the house was curiously old-fashioned. I became a baron simply because Franz could not conceive working for anybody who was not one. I explained that he made me sail under false colors and begged him to desist. "Jawohl, Herr Baron," was all he answered. One of Franz's finer moments was when we had to luncheon the former leader of the Spanish Carlists, Don Alfonso Carlos, and his wife, the Portuguese infanta, María de las Nieves. They were 86 and 82 : a bearded bright-eyed old man and a little painted monkey. For an hour or two Franz felt himself back in palmier days, when mustachioed archdukes came to revel in the skittle alley in the park.

These happy days came to a close with the Anschluss in 1938.

During the 1930s Alan Pryce-Jones redecorated his attic sitting room in a sleek Modernist style that contrasted with the opulence downstairs. I arrived from London to find every balcony hung with swastika flags. To my anger, I also found that the household had been looking forward to this day for many months. Within a week they had changed their tune, but by the end of the year we had closed the house for good. Not for many months did the Nazis discover that there was a British property on the Tivoligasse. But then the Party moved in. They tore the silk from the walls, smashed furniture and pictures, and created a school for gauleiters in strictly functional rooms. My last view of the house was at the end of the war when as part of the occupying army in Austria I took my general there. From afar everything looked quite normal. Then I found that a bomb had blown in the roof. In the hall was the bottom octave of a Blüthner piano cut to pieces with axes, and in the room where my son had been born lay a Russian soldier, drunk. I have not been back, and anyway the house and its park no longer exist.

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## CHANEL

[^1]
## Kiss and Tell

# $A$ kiss on the hand may be quite 

 Continental, but many of us now turn the other cheek By Martin FillerIt was saying-goodnight time in the foyer of a huge Park Avenue apartment after a dinner party at the artfilled home of a New York collector/ museum trustee/philanthropist and her new husband, a lawyer. There was a tremendous amount of bobbing and weaving going on between the departing guests and their hostess, when the host turned to me and said, "I still can't get this whole kissing thing figured out, and I wish someone would explain it to me." I know just what he means.

Growing up male in fifties America, boys were indoctrinated in the importance of giving a firm handshake, believed to be a sure sign of character. If

your grip wasn't good, an older male relative was likely to take you aside and give a few pointers. But now as the world becomes increasingly international, there ought to be supplementary instruction in the art of social kissing, which differs much more from place to place than the standard handshake. People in most of the U.S. can live entire lives without having to deal with the sticky situations social kissing often raises. Not, however, if they venture to New York or Los Angeles, which are the social-kissing capitals of the nation. There the practice is so much a part of the current scene that barely a day will pass when you will not have to kiss or be kissed by someone not a blood relation. How the kiss is given and received encompasses a multitude of meanings; most have less to do with genuine affection than with affectation.

One major danger in social kissing is overstepping the bounds of propriety. This can happen no matter how exalted your social position. During a state visit to England, President Jimmy Carter got a bit carried away greeting the Queen Mother. With a shudder the doughty dowager was later reported to have said, "He was the first man to kiss me on the lips since my dear husband [King George VI] died," 25 years before. Carter fared little better with another famous widow unaccustomed to easy familiarity, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. At the dedication ceremony for the John Fitzgerald Kennedy Library in Boston in 1979, photographers caught the awkward instant when Mrs. Onassis pulled away from Carter's kiss with an obvious look of disgust on her face.

There can also be embarrassing moments when a kiss is expected but not forthcoming, making a woman seem overly solicitous and a man insufficiently gallant. Women secure in their status or good looks will often proffer a cheek in the sure knowledge that it will be kissed. But hesitant body language from a woman is likely to inspire hesitant response from an approaching man. The problem for most American males is that they mistakenly think the social kiss involves an actual kiss. Even the most undemonstrative man tends to feel more comfortable giving any woman a real kiss than he does with the baffling convention called the air kiss. What every woman knows, but few men are aware of, is that the point of the air kiss is to leave hairdo and makeup intact. (Any man besmeared with lipstick at a wedding reception will understand the wisdom of this pantomime.) But as a sign of true feeling, the air kiss is virtually meaningless. "It's something I always associate with the fashion world," says a former editor of Harper's Bazaar and Vogue. "There is no contact at all-physical, emotional, or spiritual. It's just a kind of wigwag. After all, if you're really close with someone you hug and kiss them."

Aware of the artificiality of the air kiss, some of its most frequent practitioners try to compensate for its inherent falsity by making satirical sounds that approximate a real kiss even while avoiding it. The most au courant sound effect is an exaggerated "Mwa!"-which seems positively tribal to unaccustomed ears. One sociable New York design director parodies the custom by loudly pronouncing "Kiss-kiss!" as he grazes the faces of his better clients. Another question to consider is


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whether to air-kiss just one cheek or two. Those who've spent a fair amount of time in France or Italy are inclined to do both cheeks, another possible trip-up for those who think the ritual greeting is over after just one side is brushed. But even Parisians can be caught off guard by countrymen from Lyon, where the custom is to kiss four times, alternating twice on each cheek.

In America the hand kiss was once seen only in thirties Paramount comedies directed by Ernst Lubitsch. It is being done with increasing frequency in New York of late, albeit by such suave foreigners as Reinaldo Herrera. Milan is one of the few modern cities where the hand kiss can still be observed in public places, one excellent vantage point being the foyer of La Scala at intermission. There you can observe that the baciamano is properly executed by quickly raising the woman's hand to within a few centimeters of the man's rapidly descending lips. But the two extremities never touch, and no unseemly sounds are made. This stylized bella figura ges-
ture never fails to sweep a lady back a century or more in time, but its extreme formality bears the same approximate relation to a real kiss as a courtly compliment does to a proposition.

Sometimes it's not a question of whether or not one kisses but how soon after a first meeting you start to include it in your repertory of friendship. It can take a number of casual encounters before the social kiss is introduced into an acquaintanceship, but a dinner invitation inevitably accelerates the process. If it's your initial visit to someone's house, you might not kiss the host or hostess when you arrive, but in the warm afterglow of food, drink, and conversation it would be a noticeable lapse these days if you didn't kiss good-bye at the end of the evening. However, if you are among the early departures, it's best you don't start kissing everyone in the room, the disruption of which can begin to break up a party before its time.

In our exceedingly health-conscious world, when every act of personal consumption, ingestion, and exertion is an-
alyzed for its harmful effects, it's not surprising to find New York Daily News gossip columnist William Norwich headlining a story with the burning question TIME TO KISS OFF THE SOCIAL SMOOCH? Last fall he quoted a recent issue of The Lancet, the venerable British medical journal, wherein a study reports the hazards of social kissing.
"Let us say there are a hundred wedding guests lining up for the ritual embrace," proposes The Lancet. "With today's fashion for trilateral kissing, you can reckon that each cheek will be anointed more than a hundred times. The solution? Either make sure you are near the front of the queue or, before applying the lips, wipe the bride's cheeks gently with a dilute solution of hypochlorite [an antiseptic]." If Norwich's cosmopolitan readers, who are far more likely to indulge in social kissing than most other Americans, take this tongue-incheek prescription to heart, it could be the kiss of death for a sign of life that reveals so much more-but also so much lessthan meets the sophisticated eye.

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# Houston Round-Up 

## Clusters of shops throughout the city

 corral the best of the Lone Star stateBy Alison Cook

Its ambitious skyline aside, Houston is an aggressively horizontal town whose 580 square miles of unzoned sprawl can daunt the visitor. By a happy law of mercantilism, however, distinctive shops tend to cluster, and consequently the shopper in search of Houston's most interesting home furnishings and antiques can schedule a series of two-for-one or three-for-one stops. A car is mandatory, as it is for most human activity here. Indeed, it is only by driving that one enters into the spirit of the place. (To call ahead for hours, the area code for all shops is 713.)

The three bandbox houses that constitute Jas A. Gundry (2910 Ferndale, 524-6622) work hard at being grand, from their gleaming brass thresholds to their Vuitton umbrellas for traveling between the buildings during Houston's monsoons. Punctilious co-owner Jas (never James) Gundry, who specializes in English Georgian furniture, purveys important pieces to important Houstonians at very important prices. His shop

Important pieces for important Houstonians at important prices: place settings at Gundry, below. Bottom left: Eclectic textiles, the work of local artisans, and designs from society matrons mingle in Greg Fourticq's stylish store.
is a glossy ode to wood: to the glories of Cuban and Honduran mahoganies, to ancient oak and walnut, to honey-colored satinwood, lavish burls, patinas in which one could drown. A certain playfulness tempers the museum-quality starchiness. Lady Cadogan's undulant burled breakfront comes with an anecdote about how its late owner met her doom in a Harrods stairwell, while an eighteenth-century grotto chair unfurls like a hallucinatory silver-leaf seashell, and two fat-seated children's wing chairs beckon the world's most spoiled twins.

Nearby Crow \& Co. (2813 Ferndale, 524-6055) is a godsend for those who complain that men are hard to buy for. In a setting that out-Laurens Ralph, owner Kathy Crow has shrewdly focused on vintage sporting gear and library and desk accessories gleaned from English regional fairs and flea markets. Happy is the coddled Houston male who receives one of her venerable gun cases (some of aristocratic pedigree), weathered fishing creels, or well-used leather cartridge cases. It's all the properest sort of macho paraphernalia, from pretty wooden rulers and old gladstone bags to tiny leather stud boxes and tins that once cradled barristers' wigs. And who could resist a gilt leather-bound set of Lives of the Engineers?

In the same small house, playing yin to Crow's yang, the Gypsy Savage (2813 Ferndale, 528-0897) dispenses billows of old linen and lace. But the stronger draw is the changing repertory of oddments tucked among shams and table coverings: a folk art house wrought of fossils, captivating culinary prints, a shell box in the form of a miniature dresser.

It's back to the 1990s at relentlessly stylish Fourtica ( 1800 Post Oak Blvd., 623-6481), busy radiating attitude in the glitzy new Pavilion shopping center. One comes as much to ogle preternaturally handsome owner Greg Fourticq's latest ensemble as to case his eclectic, smartly chosen wares. Dusky Venetian velvets, boxes covered in charming Tibetan wallhangings, and extraordinary one-of-akind tablecloths embroidered with cowboys or harlequins by two elderly Venetian sisters all attest to Fourticq's eye for textiles. He also makes a point of showing local work, whether it is spare furniture by metal sculptor Ed Wilson or faintly surreal pastels by Denise Chapman Crawford. Name-droppers take note: Houston society is represented by the exotic wooden boxes of Lesley Schlumberger and graceful wood-slat garden chairs commissioned by Jane Blaffer Owen for the New Harmony colony in Indiana.

While still at the Pavilion, tabletop aficionados may want to peek at the striking displays inside Janice Rudy (960-1073),

although a high tolerance for novelty ceramics is required. Or take a look at the Georgian sterling at the Silver Column (621-2588), a principal American source for Edinburgh crystal, particularly the entertaining Thistle pattern. The merely hungry may break for a high-design-quotient lunch either at the Pavilion's Sfuzzi (622-9600), a wittily muraled fantasy about crumbling palazzos gone technoid, or at Santa Fe-rustic Sam's Café (622-9292), Mariel Hemingway's latest restaurant outpost.

Over in the bosky old Southampton neighborhood, the mild façade of Que


Crow \& Co. stocks vintage fishing gear and other proper macho paraphernalia.

Milagro (2238 Bissonnet St., 521-3591) hides a surprising sacred space: a room informed by the passionate Hispanic religious imagery that many Texans collect. Shopkeeper Marianne Lixie-Gray combs Mexico, Guatemala, and elsewhere in Latin America for somber tin retablos, meditative canvases, curlyheaded niños dios, and santos of every description; they all converge on a rapturous mantelpiece whose changing cast of characters dwells in perpetual religious transport. Of particular note is a wallful of carefully edited paint-on-tin ex-votos inscribed with thanks for deliverance from a disconcerting assortment of human ills.

A few blocks east at the Garden Shop (1832 Bissonnet St., 524-1172), proprietor Annie DeGuerin has assembled a rarefied trove of all the newly requisite horticultural stuff: vintage outdoor chaises and benches, nineteenth-century cast-iron jardinières and crushed-
marble repro urns, hoary garden tools that still mean business. Her inventory is small but choice, from beaker-shaped English flowerpots to elegantly crude Spanish marketplace racks on which to put them. Flora is by local designer Charles Thomas, who does inventive things with such indigenous materials as magnolia leaves and whose funny cockscomb topiaries look like fairy-tale trees.

A short hop away is Surroundings (1710 Sunset Blvd., 527-9838), which made its reputation as a folk art shop but now fairly bristles with colorful neo-primitive wooden furniture handmade by Texan David Marsh, who has a regional cult following. Savvy Houstonians keep their ears pricked for news of owner Robert Hawkins's periodic truckloads from points south, which may yield exotic funerary urns, Mennonite side tables, or wonderfully funky-and increasingly hard-to-getpainted Mexican farm furniture. The kilims consistently transcend cliché here, and Hawkins's favorite L.A. ragman provides such odd bits of Americana as quirky plaid rugs or tightly woven, brightly colored Saltillo serapes from the 1930s.

Not all good Houston things come in clusters. June Worrell ( 502 Welch St., 524-0071) is an uncompromising anomaly: a nonshop ("I only warehouse now," says the eponymous owner tartly) in two unmarked houses deep in a deliquescent near-town neighborhood. To catch the inimitable Worrell between antiques shows, the trick is to call ahead and literally talk your way inside. But it's worth jumping through hoops to see the primitive and early American pieces for which she is celebrated among collectors, dealers, and designers: highboys, lowboys, corner cabinets, banister chairs, folk toys, you name it. And what a setting! It's like some insanely highpowered junk store, stacked high and higgledy-piggledy with everything from a heartbreakingly lovely comb-back Windsor chair to an exceptional stable of equine rockers and pull toys. No heat; no air conditioning; dress down. Says Worrell, "If they're real dressed up, I don't let 'em in."



Sherrill, PO Box 189, Hickory, NC 28603 of a courtly past resurfaces

By Anne Foxley

# Back to Baroque 



The ornate grandeur


Above: Quilted leather Judith Leiber handbag with dangling semiprecious stones embedded in coins.


Sensuous bejeweled black velvet mules from Manolo Blahnik



LOUIS DELL'OLIO FOR ANNE KLEIN ${ }^{\circ}$ \& CO.

# Modernist Landscapes 

## The adventurous gardens of Fletcher

Steele stretched the aesthetic boundaries of early twentieth century design

BY MAC GRISWOLD



Pink concrete thrones, industrial metal tubing, Venetian gondola posts painted the colors of Tupperware, and black mirror glass? Not an installation in a SoHo gallery, not a downtown club, not even part of the Hudson River esplanade at Battery Park City, it's a private garden in Massachusetts begun in 1926 by American landscape architect Fletcher Steele. For thirty years he carried out a series of experiments at Mabel Choate's Naumkeag, a brown shingle Stanford White house, now open to the public, which is perched on a narrow shelf overlooking the best view in the Berkshires. Results included the Afternoon Garden (thrones, posts, and black mirror "pool"), the monumental South Lawn (the first American earthworks sculpture), a rose garden of pink gravel ribbons knotted with beds of roses, and the Blue Steps, the Art Moderne answer to Bramante.

At the PaineWebber Art Gallery in New York, an exhibition based on curator Robin Karson's recent biography of Steele (Abrams/Sagapress) explores his work over its 55-year span (1915-70). The show (through Mar. 30), presented by the American Horticultural Society, covers fourteen gardens from Maine to Illinois in photographs, drawings, watercolors, and plans. Ornaments and sculpture are also included. Private gardens were Steele's chosen field. "Everything good is flattened by commit-
 tees," he once said about public projects. Public works have always gained more recognition than private ones, so Steele's landscapes for the idle rich have not been given the importance they deserve in design history as the link between the Beaux-Arts and modernism.
He is one of the most colorful, amusing, infuriating figures of the period, an anecdotal gold mine kitted out in white shoes, white socks, white trousers, and straw hat, flashing his cane imperiously at bulldozers and graders and charging nearly double the going rate. Woven in with the distant clink of glasses (there was a place to drink martinis in almost every Steele garden), the bright chat, the guests continually coming and going is the sound of Fletcher Steele's voice, saying things like, "I couldn't possibly work for anyone whose back door looks like that" (his first visit to lifetime client Mabel Choate) or "Only people and cats stay the same size indoors and out." He was able to propose wild ideas to his clients-for one Grosse Pointe Shores garden entrance he suggested a pair of red marble columns topped with car headlights. Most of his clients adored him, not least because he was "so incisive in his perceptions of a problem, so sure, so very elegant in his state-

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ment of an idea, his comments often seemed like the sun coming out," as landscape architect Peter Hornbeck, who had his first job with Steele, remembers.

Steele's best years were the thirties, when he worked out his own variations of the cubist gardens at the 1925 Paris Exposition and the meanings, for him, of the words "natural" and "artificial." In those years he was as likely to use tile, sand, gravel, or a painted pool interior for color as flowers"Many, many flower gardens are spoiled because they have too many flowers." He subordinated plants strictly to design, using them especially "to bring out and enhance the size, proportions and color of the spaces." He was the first American landscape architect of his generation, except for Jens Jensen, to ignore the formal-informal dichotomy of the Beaux-Arts landscape, and his most interesting work pushed the limits of contemporary art.
The next generation of great landscape architects, studying at Harvard in the thirties, got what Steele was up to. "He interested me," says Garrett Eckbo, "because he was an experimenter, he wasn't content to keep repeating the formula." Dan Kiley notes that "Steele was the one who looked up the modern French architects to see what they were doing with gardens. The idea that a garden didn't have to be symmetrical, or static, was a revelation in the field."
"I care much for the shape, size, and proportion of the empty air spaces of my gardens and guard them jealously," Steele wrote. But Steele's spaces often don't photograph well-as Robin Karson says, "All the air evaporates, and you're left with a bunch of garden tchotchkes." Luckily, landscape photographer Felice Frankel's handsome somber exhibition pictures, three-by-five-foot blowups, do convey the density of distance in Steele's best gardens. The tchotchkes on view give a sense of Steele's taste for contemporary art, the virtuoso range of his eye, and his sense of humor. They include a Calder mobile, a concrete footstool, a Chinese pottery dog-plus the throne and a Venetian post.

Within the modernist framework of his best gardens he used rich decoration, elaborate architectural fantasies, and flamboyant planting combinations to realize his clients' private dreamscapes. "A garden is a token-a symbol," he once wrote, "of what its maker cares about." His clients were mostly women, whose lives were defined by husbands, family life, charities, clubs, social duties-anything but their own inclinations. Steele was there to reassure them, to tell them that "every human being keeps to the end a personality which is private, with its own private desires and satisfactions often quite unrelated to the everyday life they lead, which, indeed, they do not want to change." A landscape architect who is an artist, said Steele, talks intimately with his client, "probes to discover, not what she has, but what she dreams of having; not what she does but what she would like to do." Steele's gardens are worth studying because they possess the extra dimension, the deeper sense, both abstract and intensely personal, of emotion that has been transmitted through design, of the inexpressible that has been given form.




## Ralph Thauren



Putting together an issue of a magazine like HG is a complicated businessone that involves planning, travel, timing, and details too numerous and minute to mention. For the most part, of course, we can easily leap such hurdles, but sitting here on a wintry weekend and looking over the list of stories in our March issue, I do find the effort noteworthy. For example, when the story about Tom McGuane's Montana ranch was suggested to us last fall, we knew it was a great idea. Unfortunately, though, it had come up rather late in the season for outdoor photography in Montanaand to compound the problem, our inspired and hardworking picture editor, Susan Goldberger, proposed a photographer from France who was clearly the right man for the story but wasn't sure he could fit the trip into his schedule. Laurie McGuane advised that we listen for satellite reports of storms in western Canada, as they would almost certainly blow through Montana and wipe the trees bare of the leaves we wanted in our pictures. At the last minute, photographer Thibault Jeanson was able to head west one weekend in October with HG contributing editor and stylist John Ryman, and, by a stroke of luck, the winds were calm. Susan regularly contends with unfavorable weather conditions: it was raining in Ireland the week we brought Pascal Chevallier from Paris and senior editor Jacqueline Gonnet from New York to shoot the Swiss Cottage in County Tipperary. Florida was cold and gloomy in early December, but Michael Mundy and HG creative director Charles Gandee managed to snatch a few bright moments to photograph Michael Graves's new Swan Hotel. The country garden outside New York looks wonderful, but gardening editor Senga Mortimer had to shoot it twice-one year and the next-to get the sky and the flowers right. When associate editor Eric Berthold


On one of his two visits to Morocco, Matisse painted Calla Lilies, Irises, and Mimosas, 1913. chose the New York Public Library as a backdrop for his story on book motifs in decorating, he discovered that the library could accommodate the disruption of camera crews only during off-hours. As always, I hope you find relaxation and pleasure in this issue of HG, but do keep in mind that a whirl of activity goes into every colorful page.





Amanhattan lady with a green thumb, a great sense of style, and an even greater sense of humor knew something was missing from the garden at her country house. "All I want is a better view from the kitchen window," she explained to her husband. But as it turned out, she had bigger plans in mind. It all started fifteen years earlier when the couple bought a three-acre property with a main house and two cottages. The house seemed the ideal setting for the cozy informal life they share with their family and friends. And someday, they decided, the children could use the cottages as their own country retreats. Meanwhile, the grounds needed some work. A local landscaper was engaged to create a sunken swimming pool, sheltered by trees and shrubs, between the main house and one cottage. Any visitor could find the mistress of the house by following the sound of laughter to the kitchen door. "Nobody ever uses the front door," she always says. "I don't think it's been open in years.'

Time passed and all was tranquil-or so it appeared. First there was a clump of leggy rhododendrons that had to be moved. Then an overzealous gardener started to hack away at a jungle in the rear of the property: "Suddenly the neighbors were in view and they didn't seem to be smiling." A clear landscape danger had arisen, but it also presented a welcome opportunity for the lady to get her hands into the earth, muddy her

A trellised gate crowned by silver lace vine, right, leads from the series of garden rooms onto the open playing field. 'Betty Prior' roses climb the pickets. Above: At one corner of the fence near the main house, lady's mantle, artemisia, hostas, salvia, veronica, and nicotiana fill the curve of a midsummer border.

boots, see roses in bloom, and tend her favorite perennials and annuals. She already had cutting beds to fill the house with flowers and a vegetable garden to supply the family table.

The couple turned to Bruce Kelly of Kelly/Varnell, the landscape architect who had previously planned the terrace of their city apartment. They all agreed that privacy, informality, and American tradition should be their watchwords. Kelly decided to base his design on a series of outdoor rooms "where you can feel comfortable to sit down and converse. Too many people think that a gigantic view is the best view."

Existing white-painted fences of various heights, with an arbor and gates, were the key to arranging the garden's comfortable rooms-and to giving the illusion of a landscape considerably larger than three acres. The house now stands at the beginning of a sequence of spaces that extends to an arched trellised gate through which a vast expanse of lawn is visible. When asked if she has plans for this open ground, the lady replies, "I do, but we need room for baseball, touch football, and general horsing around." Nevertheless, she really did get all she wanted. The roses are in mad profusion, flowers crowd the borders, silver lace vine surges over the arch of the gateway, and out among the vegetables is the French gardener, Grégoire, a connoisseur of fresh produce.

Here, as in every garden he has worked on, Bruce Kelly used what he calls nurse trees and shrubs that give his clients something that will grow quickly and look good while they wait for the rest of the landscape to come into its own. Calculated overplanting enables the garden to evolve: individual specimens can be relocated while the basic structure, the big picture, as Kelly calls it, remains. For the family that inhabits this particular landscape, however, the view from the kitchen window has already reached perfection.

Editor: Senga Mortimer

> Allium, foxgloves, and nicotiana line a mossy unpainted fence rail in the cutting garden. Nearby plantings include lettuce, tomatoes, zucchini, and fraises des bois destined for the family kitchen.





It took "forever" to find the right red for the living room walls, preceding pages, which unify the room's disparate elements-decorative objects from antiques shows and trips to London, a needlepoint rug from Stark Carpet, and Rose Cumming fabrics. Details see Resources.



T' HERE IS A PECULIAR RELATIONSHIP that arises between client and decorator, one that mimics the strange permutations of a marriage. It can be engaging, fruitful, satisfying, like the best of all team endeavors. It can also be ghastly, ending, as some marriages do, in painful-and expensive-divorce proceedings. After thirty years in the business, decorator Kevin McNamara is particularly adroit at gauging the merits of a potential client: "Obviously I want everything to be as attractive as possible. And beyond that, I like to work with interested people, people who care about what they've asked me to do and who enjoy the results." The work in this house is the product of one of his most successful matches. McNamara and his clients, a husband and wife, met fifteen years ago through a mutual friend-which is usually the way these things work-and there was an instant affinity among all three. "I could see immediately that they cared very much about the design of things," says McNamara. "We became, we are, very good friends."
It was a crucial time in the young couple's lives. The businessman and his ex-fashion-stylist wife were ready to move on to a bigger house; with two young children they needed room to grow. "One night they invited me to dinner at their old house," says the decorator. "At the time, quite frankly, I really didn't know why I was there. And although it was never stated-they never came right out and told me-they had it in their minds that they were going to buy a house that $I$ liked." Of course, McNamara's input represented only part of the agenda, which called for a real En-

The dining room, above left, is "more my husband's room, and Kevin's, of course, because it's so tailored," says the lady of the house. An inherited Directoire-style mahogany table inspired the selection of reproduction Regency chairs from Christopher Norman. The curtains were designed by McNamara for Decorator's Workshop, and the carpet is from Stark. Left: A side view of W. A. Delano's stately Georgian design. The house is a former residence of Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney. Right: Azaleas, ivy, and geraniums line the steps between two terraces.



If it weren't for the sophisticated mix of colors throughout the house, the grand scale of the place might have read manor rather than home



# McGuane 

The novelist stakes his claim in Sweet Grass County, Montana By William Hiortsberg

Photographs by Thibault Jeanson

T'HOMAS MCGUANE HAS NEVER BEEN SENTIMENTAL about houses. In the nearly 28 years that we've been friends, he's lived in some remarkable places, but I can't remember hearing any nostalgia about the Villa Sintra on the hillside above the Spanish port city of Málaga or the charming old conch house he owned on Ann Street in Key West or the first Raw Deal Ranch on Deep Creek in southern Montana's Paradise Valley, where his son Thomas's early growth was calibrated in biannual pencil marks on the kitchen doorjamb. These were just the places where he hung his hat, as the saying goes. Real life took place on the tidal flats and trout streams, fly rod in hand, or mounted on his favorite quarter horse in a roping arena or in a corral full of milling calves at a cutting competition or alone with his battered portable typewriter (more recently, a laptop) in the succession of outbuildings and rented rooms where he forged the craft that has gained him an international reputation.

All this may be changing. Tom and his wife, Laurie, recently took possession of a venerable 3,300-acre spread stretching along the West Boulder River in Sweet Grass County, Montana, which has become the fourth Raw Deal Ranch. A row of spruce trees lines the downsloping driveway on either side, screening a gnarled apple orchard as old as the homestead. There has been a good deal of building activity around here lately, and two workmen are nailing the bottom row of cedar shingles to the roof of a $\log$ barn as I park beside the house. The place has a certain down-home grandeur entirely appropriate to the man who wrote the cult film Rancho Deluxe.

Recent snow blankets the ground, but the late afternoon sky is clear and blue. It's pleasant out of the wind, and Tom greets me in his shirtsleeves on the rear loggia he designed himself. We stand for a moment and admire a bend in the river out back where dark water sweeps against a steep granite cliff. Three farm buildings had to be moved to afford this view. Although the outfit is still a working hay and cattle ranch, the McGuanes had no use for the claustrophobic clus-
Tom and Laurie McGuane out by the corral, opposite, with their English pointer, Reba, one of four resident dogs. Right: Tucked into a sun-drenched hillside, the McGuanes' turn-of-the-century hay and cattle ranch is one of the oldest in southwestern Montana.



The Absaroka Mountains-named for the Indian tribe the western settlers called the Crow-tower above several of the McGuanes' prize cutting horses, right. Below: A Russell Chatham landscape hangs above a 300 -year-old Philippine refectory table in the dining room, which leads to a two-story living room with a spectacular fieldstone fireplace. Vintage Navajo blankets pattern the floor.



Annie McGuane, far left, leads her quarter horse, Sensational Oak, out for a ride. Left: The luck of the Irish-a pair of five-pound brown trout caught by Tom McGuane on the same afternoon fishing the Yellowstone. The antique silver water pitcher once belonged to McGuane's grandmother. Above: An old library table serves as McGuane's desk in his bunkhouse studio. A beaded Plains Indian quiver hangs by the side of the window facing the West Boulder River.







Graves's childlike insouciance extends from the Brobdingnagian

swans on the roof to the trio of pineapples on the headboards



Ihad a peripatetic childhood in which countries, people, and objects appeared and disappeared according to a logic beyond my understanding. There were hotel suites, rented houses, new friends, different languages. At one point my mother took to hiding my toys so she could find them later with cries of "Look!"-perhaps to convince me that no matter what was taken away, it would always return. When we left Paris for London, my parents stored their French belongings, most of them trophies from flea market hunts or the grander variant, antiquing, in a room of the hôtel particulier where we lived. We'd return now and then, grab a few pieces for London, and imagine the time when everything would be reunited under one roof. One day we arrived to find, instead of the hôtel particulier, a vast hole, the concierge with her bags packed as the wrecker's ball hovered over her pavillon, and a modern address for the marquis, our


The author, above left, in a jacket from the Marché Biron and her grandmother's pearls, restrung around a cameo of labradorite. Buck writes "in ink, in bed, which keeps the laundry happy." Above: "The only living room I know of that needs to be ironed three times a week." The furniture is mostly from New York junk shops.


Of her preferred style of entertaining and her lusterware collection, opposite, Buck says, "I don't know which came first, the tea parties or the tea services." Above: Buck's grandmother's sphinx lamps are on a tea table covered in Italian cloth over a flea market textile "not unrelated to the rug my parents had in London. The Flemish church chair was also theirs. The samovar is actually a Regency coffee urn.' Left: "Silly little perfume bottles" share a bookcase with the letters of George Sand and first and second editions of Edith Wharton


 tate this ancient rumor, the tale still contributes to the romance of the hidden retreat outside the town of Cahir. Its surroundings in the valley of the River Suir remain as pastoral as they were when this folly was built about 1810 for Richard Butler, Lord Cahir, and his wife, Emily, a woman of "great cleverness and beauty" according to the portraitist Sir Thomas Lawrence, who painted her in an unusual double pose. The baron later became the first earl of Glengall, a title that expired upon the death of his son. Generations of a local family continued to tend the cottage as caretakers, but their line too eventually died out, and a damp climate and vandalism took their toll.

Even in a sad state of disrepair, the house, which may well be the work of the architect John Nash, was considered an extraordinary example of the cottage orné, a genre that can be traced back to the rustic fantasy of Marie Antoinette's Hameau at Versailles. Architectural historian Mark Girouard has written of the picturesque style of the cottage at Cahir: "Never has thatch been so enveloping, verandas so rustic, casements so quaint and trellis so variegated." Fortunately in the spring of 1985, Sally Sample Aall, an American, visited the Swiss Cottage. Her keen eye for architecture and the dec-
orative arts made her immediately aware of the building's unique qualities, in spite of its drooping roof, shattered windows, and ravaged interior. Concerned about the rapid deterioration of this landmark, a group that included Mrs. Aall, the Irish Georgian Society, the Irish Tourist Board, the Cahir Community Council and William Roth purchased the property early in 1985 and gave it to the government, which had bought the Cahir Park estate some years before. Ireland was in the midst of an economic recession, however, and although the ownership of the cottage was now secure, there seemed to be no way to pay for its restoration.

Discussions with the architect Austin Dunphy and the National Monuments service of the Office of Public Works led to an agreement whereby the Aall family's Port Royal Foundation would contribute substantial funds toward the restoration and redecoration of the cottage.

As I learned early in my own involvement with the project, everything apart from the outer walls of the Swiss Cottage needed repair or replacement. At the outset a superb craftsman, Hugh O'Neill, completely rethatched the roof. New windows and floors were installed, and the charming spiral staircase to the upper story was reconstructed. An 1814 drawing by J. S. Alpenny provided guidelines for the rebuilding of intricate stickwork, which artfully mimics the appearance of tree branches in verandas and gable ends. Trellises The south façade of the cottage, above left, in a 19th-century engraving. Above: A small bedroom papered with Galtee Sidewall, designed by Sybil Connolly for Brunschwig \& Fils. Lily of Galtee chintz, also from Brunschwig, covers the early 19th century steel bed. Opposite: Restored French wallpaper in the sitting room. Preceding pages: The cottage was built c. 1810 for Lord Cahir, later the earl of Glengall. Cast-iron "twig" fences, stickwork between tree trunk columns, and other details attributed to John Nash have been restored. The double portrait depicts Emily, Lady Cahir, by Sir Thomas Lawrence. Details see Resources.
were uncovered on the façades, and a portion of the original cast-iron garden fence-a stylized version of interlacing twigswas replicated to fill in gaps.

Meanwhile, research began on the early nineteenth century interior. The little information available suggested that, though sparsely furnished, a cottage orné could have surprisingly luxurious details. After all, these pavilions were usually built for the gentry in the parks of their country houses. A perfect example of this luxury at the Swiss Cottage was a glorious Dufour scenic wallpaper that once adorned the sitting room but had long since peeled off into a heap of tatters. Strips of the precious paper were collected by Cahir residents Paddy Walsh and his son Joe, who had regularly visited the cottage to do what they could to prevent further decay. David Skinner of the Celbridge Conservation Studio painstakingly fitted the remnants together to document as much as survived of seven panels depicting life on the Bosporus. After



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## Private Stock

## Jeff Walker, a vice president of Ralph Lauren, creates

 a look of his own at home By Peter WilkinsonPhotographs by François Halard

JEfF WALKER REMEMBERS HIS FIRST IMPRESSION OF Ralph Lauren. It was 1974 at a little fashion show in Minneapolis when Lauren was just starting out. He was shy, thought Walker, "very picky" and "a perfectionist." Lauren also had a flair for turning catastrophes into triumphs: when it became clear that no one knew how to tie a formal bow tie, Lauren sent a model down the runway with his tie undone and completed the casual outfit with a cigarette and a glass of champagne.

Today the company is the most successful of its kind in the world with $\$ 1.5$ billion in annual sales, and Walker is "the man who interprets Lauren's dreams." Like all aides-de-camp, Walker gets paid to remain in the general's shadow, but his job, crafting Lauren's visual statement, is one of the crucial ingredients in the designer's success. As the vice president of creative services for Polo/Ralph Lauren, Walker bears responsibility for the entire Lauren look: the Madison Avenue store, interiors, windows, room renovations, fashion shows, the franchised Polo shops-everything except advertising. He is also supervising the design



Departing from the classic gentleman's club look he creates for Ralph Lauren, Jeff Walker opted for scrubbed pine and white walls in his apartment. Above: His living room unites a rough-hewn 19th-century English butcher's bench with a 1920s French café chair and a sofa slipcovered in canvas from Ralph Lauren Home Collection. Opposite Walker caught in a quiet moment. Details see Resources.

of Lauren's hotly anticipated country house in Bedford, New York, scheduled to be unveiled this fall. "Ralph says, 'I want this,'" explains Walker, "and I give it to him."

The two men have more in common than fashion sense and the same size in everything from clothing to shoes. Walker is just as much of a perfectionist as his boss and equally as picky. Yet one thing they don't share is the same environment; the look Walker creates for Lauren is largely absent from his own surroundings. A 2,500-square-foot ground-floor loft in a landmark turn-of-the-century carriage house on New York's East Side, Walker's apartment has a contemporary feel, more Malibu than Manhattan. Coming in off East 73rd Street, one walks through a dark green door that once led to a stable and now seems to be leading to a garage. After that dark door, entering Walker's place is a shock: fourteen-foot ceilings crown expanses of scrubbed pine and white walls. "It's almost like waking up in a contemporary barn in Provence," says Walker, who spent three years on the design and decorating. The space is populated with old wood and canvas, fleece and straw, French Art Deco dining room chairs covered in suede, Portuguese carvings, and a 1930s photographer's lamp alongside various objects made of whalebone and bisque.

It was in many ways a hit-or-miss undertaking. "A lot of color came in and a lot of color came out," says Walker of the decoration. "A lot of serapes came in and a lot went out." A lot of painted furniture met with the same fate. "There's everything in the apartment from Italian
(Text continued on page 210)
Suede-upholstered dining chairs, top left, c. 1935, by Jacques Adnet and a 1930s photographer's lamp surround an early 19th century French Canadian pine table. Far left: An American folk art mannequin stands guard over an Italian Neoclassical récamier and African straw baskets. Left: A natural linen from the 1920s and subdued stripes set the tone in the bedroom. Right: In the living room a French tole bird spreads its wings on a desk by John Dickenson. Louis XV chairs are in leather from Ralph Lauren Home Collection. Apple rush matting from Stark.



## Travels with Matisse

In 1912 and 1913 the painter went to Morocco to rediscover himself and the world. A major exhibition of some seventy paintings and drawings from those years reveals his success. By Rosamond Bernier



A detail, above, from Two Drawings of a Smoker at the Window, 1912/1913. Opposite: The artist's favorite Moroccan model, Zorah, sits impassively on what could be a blue magic carpet in On the Terrace, 1912/ 1913. Matisse would include a bowl of goldfish in a number of major paintings. Preceding pages: The artist and his wife, Amélie, on their second trip to Morocco in 1912-13. Landscape Viewed from a Window, 1912/1913, was painted from Matisse's hotel room in Tangier.

MATISSE, H. WAS THE NAME on the passenger list. His profession: painter. His age: 42. The ship: the SS Ridjani, outward bound from Marseilles. The port of arrival: Tangier, Morocco. The date: January 29, 1912. The arrival time: 3:00 P.M. Coming down the gangplank, H. Matisse and his wife had no complaints. They had eaten well and passed a comfortable night. The barometer bore only good news.

In no time at all Morocco would reveal itself to Matisse, just as it had revealed itself to Pierre Loti, the orientalizing French writer whose book Morocco had been so wonderfully persuasive. Loti foretold that he would ride on a horse up to its chest in flowers. Huge armfuls of them would be his, and he wouldn't even have to dismount to get them. Alfalfa and irises, lavender and asphodels would be everywhere. He would come to prize the leaves of the acanthus, previously known to him only from Corinthian columns in art school. Nature would put in his way a white, pink, and blue rug of daisies, mallows, and gentians, as yet unmarred by human passage. It was to be the definitive journey.

And definitive it almost was, though not in the way that Matisse had hoped for. Five days after stepping ashore he wrote to his friend and fellow painter Albert Marquet: "Ah, Tangier, Tangier! I wish I had the courage to get the hell out of here!" For the barometer had played him false. "Shall we ever see the sun in Morocco?" he wrote to another friend, Gertrude Stein, as the rain poured down day after day; the light was "as bright as in a cellar."

If Matisse had taken the next boat home, as he almost did, it would have been a catastrophe for him and a misfortune for us. He would not have turned the tables so quickly on the Pa risian art world, which had begun to look upon him as played out. Nor should we now be looking forward to "Matisse in Morocco," the exhibition of more than twenty paintings and nearly fifty drawings that can be seen at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. (Mar. 18-June 3), at the Museum of Modern Art in New York (June 24-Sept. 4), at the State Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts, Moscow (Sept. 28-Nov. 20), and at the State Hermitage Museum in Leningrad (Dec. 15Feb. 15, 1991).

It is fundamental to this exhibition that for the first time
the relevant paintings from Moscow and Leningrad will be presented in this country as an ensemble. It is also fundamental that for the first time the drawings Matisse made in Morocco will be on view. It was not his habit to make drawings of this sort while on his travels and, as is carefully set out in the catalogue by Jack Cowart of the National Gallery, they elucidate much that has hitherto been obscure.

What Matisse wanted from Morocco was that it would tell him something indispensable about himself. "In Tangier," he said many years later, "I always had the same thing in mind. . . the search for myself, through the probing of various motifs." And though no one could call Matisse one of nature's humorists, we know from a drawing discovered not long ago and included in the show that he saw the irony of his walking into an unmistakably North African square, sitting down on his painting stool, opening his box of colors, and setting to work. The tailcoat in the drawing may be apocryphal, but the scene as a whole rings true.

What was quite unexpected was that Matisse would paint so many large, important, and majestic pictures in such a short time. Normally, to go to a new place and a new atmosphere would throw him completely. "One cannot simply take one's color scheme and one's system to a new place and apply it," he had said after a two-week visit to Algeria in 1905. (Not until 1907 did he paint his Blue Nude, which drew upon the memory of the oasis in Biskra.) His visits to London yielded nothing. His visits to New York, nothing. As for the South Seas, which Matisse visited in 1930, it was to be many years before he could come to terms with the experience.

Quite clearly, something extraordinary happened to him in Morocco. He was there twice in quick succession-from late January to late April in 1912 and again from early October 1912 to mid February 1913. A third visit, planned for the fall of 1913, was canceled in response to his innate, lifelong, and unfailing sense of when enough was enough for his development as an artist. As he wrote to another painter friend, Charles Camoin, "I should have been led to disperse myself by the journey, the change of climate, and the experience of new sights that excite us primarily by their picturesqueness."

To say no to the picturesque was a cardinal rule with Matisse. By the standards of Morocco in our own day, Tangier and its environs in 1912 were completely unspoiled-absolutely, infallibly, pristinely picturesque. But whereas Matisse's great predecessor Eugène Delacroix often went along with the picturesque in his sketchbooks when he was in Morocco in 1832, Matisse resisted it.

Painting the city of Tangier, he did not edit out its more evident landmarks-St. Andrew's English church, for instance, or the tower of the mosque or the walls of the Casbah. But he did not describe them either. What he asked of Morocco was not that it should look exotic but that it should make it possible for him to paint in a new way and, in so doing, to be true to himself.

It was the advantage of travel, he said in 1930, that the balance of his mental operations was (Text continued on page 202)





## Light Geometry

Houston architect Carlos Jimenez creates a strong but quiet counterpoint to the opulence of River Oaks By David Dillon Photographs by Michael Mundy


SUBTLETY IN HOUSTON'S RIVER OAKS is about as common as rock music in a monastery. The neighborhood is an enclave of relentless architectural overstatement where typically nothing less than a manse or a château will do. Yet in the midst of all this pretension, on a winding cul-de-sac overlooking Buffalo Bayou, sits a stucco house of quiet sophistication. It has none of the strutting street presence of its neighbors: if it weren't for its red mailbox and blue entry wall, few people would give the house a second look. This is precisely the impression architect Carlos Jimenez wanted to create-not of reticence so much as of serenity and self-possession. "I conceived of this house as a retreat," he says, "even though it is close to freeways and only ten minutes from downtown Houston."
Jimenez grew up in San José, Costa Rica, and had thoughts of becoming a priest until he discovered his true calling. When his sister won a scholarship to Vanderbilt University in Nashville, he went along to study architecture. But he grew homesick and eventually moved to Houston, where Latin American influences are stronger. Jimenez graduated from the University of Houston College of Architecture in 1981 and shortly thereafter set up a small office in the Montrose area near the city's museums and Rice University.
He prefers to call it a studio to underscore the intimate craftsmanly way he goes about designing. What might be arty cant from another architect comes across as deep personal commitment. "I'm consumed by architecture," he explains in a soft, almost conspiratorial voice. "I live in the middle of it. I doubt that I could ever run a big office because I could never give up control of the design process." Jimenez makes his way quietly in Houston, working with assis-

Calm, cool, and only ten minutes from downtown Houston, the house is unobtrusively nestled alongside Buffalo Bayou. The original residence was stripped of its brick and wood façade, re-covered in tan stucco, and given a blue entry wall and tower to enliven the simple exterior planes. The garage was converted to include a two-bedroom guesthouse, at right.



In the living room, flat and cathedral ceilings and a multitude of windows create a dawn-to-dusk
light show. Plain round columns divide two seating
areas, one with Josef Hoffmann chairs, the other with Knoll chairs designed in the 1960 s by Sebastian Matta. The painting is by Derek Boshier, an English artist working in Houston

Details see Resources.

"Light is the most essential architectural tool to me," says Jimenez



#### Abstract

A window in the dining room, above, rises up and scoops out a section of the vaulted ceiling. Right from top: A Mel Chin sculpture in the living room; the courtyard between house and guesthouse; a Chuck Close portrait of Philip Glass.



tant Dominique Brousseau on houses, additions, the occasional commercial job. Their biggest commission has been a workshop for the Houston Fine Art Press. The long slender industrial building has many of the qualities of Jimenez's residential work: simple forms, economical use of materials, and planes of primary colors set off by the deft manipulation of natural light.
It was through this job that Jimenez met the clients for the Buffalo Bayou house-a Houston businessman and his wife, who is active in the local art community. The couple had modern but not avant-garde tastes and an impressive small collection of contemporary art. And just before meeting Jimenez, they had acquired a splendidly situatedand largely unworkable-house on the bayou. Designed in the late 1950s by the office of O'Neil Ford in San Antonio (at the time the leading interpreters of Texas vernacular architecture), the house was sheathed in wood siding and Mexican brick. It was also rather solipsistic in plan, focused on an enclosed study and a massive living room fireplace instead of on the lush landscape outside. The only good views of the bayou were from the master bedroom.
The clients debated whether to demolish the original house and start over or to reconstruct it to fit their needs. Once they discovered that under the zoning laws for new construction their master bedroom would be illegal, the decision was made. Jimenez approached the job like an archaeologist, peeling off the wood siding and removing the Mexican brick until he got back to the foundation and the outline of the original structure-a ruin in a tropical rain forest. He re-covered the house in tan stucco, interrupted by an occasional blue plane in the manner of the Mexican architects Ricardo Legorreta and Luis Barragán, and added a tower over the front door to break up the monotonous horizontality of the original house. The garage was converted to include a guesthouse with two bedrooms and a small living room, and a formal swimming pool will eventually be a natural pond with (Text continued on page 209)

Celebrated for his voluptuous, unrestrained bouquets, floral designer Kenneth Turner creates one of his signature arrangements in the drawing room of his Victorian house in London. Opposite: Turner's sun



## International Harvester

Ahalf Century ago constance Spry introduced the idea that flowers in a vase did not have to emulate the nervous, unnatural rigidity of darts stuck in a dart board. Cut flowers, she insisted, should be handled in a loose countrified way that recalled rather than denied how they looked before they exited the garden. Today, Kenneth Turner is fast-forwarding Spry's creed and setting new standards that his confreres in the floral capitals of the world are desperate to equal. Celebrated for his unrestrained arrangements and his eclectic marriages of materials, Turner says that before Spry came along floral design was a torturer's métier: "Every daffodil and tulip was wired until it stood up and saluted. Spry broke away from all that pristine formality and made everyone else look silly."

But Kenneth Turner, who was born
in Northern Ireland and exerts his farreaching flower power from an atelier on London's Brook Street, is more than just a latter-day Spry with the volume turned up. "To my eye, her work was always rather precious, but I'm more flamboyant," Turner says, arranging a bouquet of big bosomy hydrangea heads, elegant branches of senecio foliage, and pink and orange lilies that make no apology for having jabbed you in the eye with color. "I'll go to a client's house for a meeting and the woman will say, 'Oh, I thought I'd like a dried arrangement over here, and how about a fresh one over there?' I say, 'How about a couple of thick moss ropes and two wonderfully elaborate eighteenth-cen-tury-style bellpulls made out of nuts and mushrooms?'"
By his own reckoning, Turner has launched at least as many trends in the

## London-based designer

Kenneth Turner sows
the seeds of floral
fashion worldwide
By Christopher Petkanas
Photographs by
Alexandre Bailhache

field of floral design as there are species of roses in his abundant garden. "The idea of using topiaries, dried herbs, wildflowers, and vegetables in combination with conventional flowers-that was all me," he says.

When he is not taking tea and designing extravagant party decorations for power hostesses such as Susan Gutfreund in New York and Princess Michael of Kent in London, Turner can frequently be found making improvements on the garden of his 1880s Victorian brick house overlooking Wandsworth Common in the southwest of London. This is the "country cottage" he settled on in 1983 after a two-year search for a real country place in Sussex. With a goal of integrating his new house with its outdoor horticultural attractions, Turner added a ground-floor conservatory/dining room. He also made one big room of the basement kitchen which now serves as a private vitrine for his signature floral and vegeta-

Turner's kitchen, opposite above, is filled with a potpourri of his horticultural designs, ranging from potted artichokes to a bouquet of daisies trimmed with carrots, onions, and garlic. Bundles of dried herbs are piled above the cabinets. Opposite below: In the conservatory/dining room, Gothic windows are enhanced by greenery inside and out. Against an ivy-patterned cloth of Turner's design, the table is set with Herend china, blackamoor vases, and Victorian candelabras. Below: Turner with his dogs, Bumble and Wags. Right: Geraniums, fuchsia, and rhododendrons frame a pedestal with a bay tree behind. Details see Resources.


ble compositions and bundles of dried herbs, hops, and peppers. The provenance of many of these botanicals is Turner's own garden, originally an abandoned wilderness behind his house. Measuring 175 by 35 feet, the plot is both long and narrow by London garden stan-dards-a liability he turned to advantage by creating five contiguous garden rooms that disguise the thorny proportions.

The pot garden, the room nearest the house, is paved with gray Yorkshire stone and furnished with an apple tree almost one hundred years old as well as a frail floribunda rose encircling a bust of the Roman emperor Hadrian's lover Antinoüs. Next to it, the blue and white garden-what Turner calls the walkthrough because there's hardly enough room for a group of people to stand and chat-makes its boldest decorative impact with ceanothus, a showstopping climber that releases a waterfall of pale blue flowers in summer. Two bay trees flank the entrance to a room edged with borders of delphiniums, foxgloves, peonies, and hellebores, while the adjacent shrub garden is planted with blazing azaleas, alabaster camellias, and a lovely old pear tree entwined with the rose named for Constance Spry. The end of this pleasure garden, as Turner calls it, is marked by a row of $\times$ Cupressocyparis leylandii that borders a working garden associated with another set of plea-sures-gustatory ones. Flourishing in this room are spinach, carrots, red and black currants, peas, broad beans, blackberries, and many more.

Kenneth Turner, who recently told all in Flower Style (published last fall by Weidenfeld \& Nicolson), says his imitators are legion but that they do "such a lousy job I can't even be bothered to care." Instead, he simply quickens the tempo, leaving trails of petals and acorns and artichokes everywhere from Kensington Palace to his own backyard.

Editor: Judy Brittain
Detail of a Turner arrangement of peonies, foxgloves, roses, and delphiniums, right, all from his garden. Far right: Turner's iron candelabras entwined with ivy shed an otherworldly light on a vintage horseshoe bench and a cast-iron ensemble.





Jean-Michel Frank
was the ultimate master of traditional luxury and modern simplicity By Stephen Calloway


THROW OUT, AND KEEP THROWING OUT! ELEGANCE MEANS elimination," said Madame Eugenia Errazuriz. Though this could be the opening line of one of Ronald Firbank's slim and precious novels, it is in fact one of the most crucial utterances in the history of twentieth-century taste. These words were spoken by a woman whom many regard as the very quintessence of chic to a young man who would become, in the space of no more than a dozen years, the most revered decorator of his age. Everyone who came into contact with this extraordinary grande dame from Chile was fascinated by her; many were influenced to some degree by her highly personal sense of style, but for Jean-Michel Frank32 years old, moody and something of a dandy, decidedly artistic and yet unsure of what to do with his life-her friendship was to prove decisive.

The curious blend of extreme cultivation and underlying sadness, which all who knew Frank have described, may have stemmed from a sequence of events that began during World War I. His two much-loved brothers were both killed in action, shortly after which their father took his own life. Then, only four years later, in 1919, his
mother died in the asylum to which she had retreated. Frank found himself alone and with the means to indulge in scholarship or any aspect of the arts. At the same time he had a great desire to travel and forget, which eventually led him to Venice where he fell in with the glittering artistic circle surrounding the great impresario of the Ballets Russes, Serge Diaghilev. In this milieu he became acquainted with Picasso and Stravinsky, as throughout his life he was to be drawn to the company of artists and musicians (several composers in the group Les Six were later close friends).

There can be no doubt, however, that Frank's emergence as the arbi-

A blackboard hangs from a Surrealist sconce in Frank's office, opposite. Top right: The shop in the Faubourg Saint-Honoré. Above left: A Giacometti shell lamp behind a Frank table and stool in the shop. Above right: From left, Alberto Giacometti and Frank with associates Emilio Terry, Jean Rodocanachi, Christian Bérard, Adolphe Chanaux, and Diego Giacometti. Far right: A Frank pedestal in the collection of Stephen Sills. Right: A leather and iron Giacometti chair, c. 1935, based on a design for Eugenia Errazuriz; collection of Stephen Sills and James Huniford.




By 1944, when Cecil Beaton photographed Madame de Noailles in her salon, left, with novelist Philip Toynbee and cellist Maurice Gendron, she and her husband had embellished Frank's chaste design with antiques and avant-garde paintings. Above the mantel is a Balthus; at right, a Bérard is suspended from gilt chains.



Unexpected contrasts of texture were a hallmark of Frank's style. In his own salon of 1930, above, straw applied to the ceiling and walls suggests grained marquetry. Dark gypsum tables are placed among chairs, a sofa, and a screen covered in white leather. Below: Vellum walls in the Noailles' dining room are a subtle foil to macassar ebony furniture and a Modernist carpet laid on old parquet. Far left: A 1936 bronze standing lamp with ornamental pinecone by Alberto
Giacometti. Left: A columnar plaster lamp by the same sculptor.



## When Schiaparelli graduated to a grand apartment, she called Frank,

ter elegantiae of Paris between the wars owed more to what he learned in the company of Eugenia Errazuriz than to the influence of the art world.

Cecil Beaton, who also fell under the spell of Madame Errazuriz, wrote many years later in The Glass of Fashion about the way in which this remarkable character arranged her houses and organized her life. By the time Frank met her she was already old, having come to Europe from South America in the 1880s. Intermittently rich, she always spent freely, and yet she lived without ostentation, blending the instincts of peasant and patrician with consummate ease. Her rooms were sparsely furnished; she abhorred sofas and suites of furniture. A few interesting chairs, garden flowers, and a desk equipped with a fine inkwell sufficed. Plain inexpensive fabrics hung without elaboration at the windows, and the unadorned floors always had a just-scrubbed look. Everything, Beaton remembered, seemed fresh and smelled sweet. Frank was captivated by the simplicity and perfection of it all. He had found his vocation.

He was eager to put into practice what he had learned from his mentor, mixing the best of the old and the best of the
new-sleek modern lighting fixtures, for example, with the unpretentious but supremely elegant provincial fruitwood furniture of the era of Louis XVI. The search for furnishings for his own apartment in the rue de Verneuil brought Frank to the decorator Adolphe Chanaux. It was a propitious meeting. Trained in the mainstream of smart Parisian decoration, Chanaux had worked with several of the most celebrated designers of the twenties, including Groult and Ruhlmann, heroes of the great 1925 Exposition des Arts Décoratifs. Soon Frank and Chanaux were talking not just of decorating the rue de Verneuil apartment but of opening a shop in which to sell individual pieces they would design and make. It was to be a showcase too for the work of Frank's artistic friends.

In 1932, after a year of collaboration, the doors of the shop opened at 140 rue du Faubourg-Saint-Honoré near the salon of Frank's new friend Coco Chanel. From the outset the aesthetic effect was crisp, modern, and chic-an image curiously at odds with the relaxed clublike atmosphere that led many of the firm's associates to spend much of their time lounging on the long low cream-colored sofas. Photographs of the time show Frank and Chanaux happily chatting in the shop, sur-


## the smart decorator of the moment, to create new and sensational effects

rounded by the "regulars"-the painter Christian Bérard, architect Emilio Terry, sculptor Alberto Giacometti, and his brother, Diego, the designer, all of whom made significant contributions to the evolving Jean-Michel Frank style.

At first there was a spare rectilinear feel to the projects they undertook, which owed much to Frank's early admiration for Le Corbusier's buildings and, more especially, to the highly abstract work of the architect Robert Mallet-Stevens. The latter had designed a Modernist country house in concrete at Hyères for Vicomte Charles de Noailles and his wife, MarieLaure, and it is probably through Mallet-Stevens that Frank secured commissions to decorate rooms there and in the Noailles' eighteenth-century Paris town house, the Hôtel Bischoffsheim, on the place des États-Unis.

Even as early as 1929, when news of the just-completed salon in the Paris house began to circulate, it was widely realized that Frank had created one of the most important modern interiors. The room, as it first appeared, was the perfect expression of Frank's early taste. Everything spoke of a completely understated luxury-austere in its monumental geometry and, at the same time, as
(Text continued on page 208)

In Elsa Schiaparelli's couture salon, above, and in her apartment, top left, Frank contrasted bold modern lighting fixtures with elaborate 19th-century moldings and baroque swags and tassels of his own. Above left: A double table surfaced in parchment, c. 1928, is gracefully devoid of historical references. Below: Shagreen enriches the plain geometry of a writing table and chair. Opposite right: Schiaparelli in 1936 at a Frank desk.
Opposite left: Frank's vases and lamps were inspired by Egyptian and Classical antiquities as well as the latest Cubist sculpture.


Villa La Gordanne is a copy of Belle Isle, an 18th-century house in the English Lake District, which was modeled on the Pantheon in Rome. The villa, over looking Lake Geneva, was commissioned c. 1800 by a Monsieur Perrotet, who had seen engravings of Belle Isle in a book by its architect, John Plaw.





ON AN ISLAND IN THE MIDDLE OF LAKE WINDERMERE, one of the most picturesque parts of the English Lake District, stands an extraordinary house. It is a Palladian rotunda, begun about 1774 by the architect John Plaw, soon after his return from studies in Italy. A young heiress who later used the house as a summer villa gave it the enchanting name Belle Isle. Plaw published his designs for the house in the book Rural Architecture, and it thus inspired other buildings in the same style. The most famous of these is Ickworth in Suffolk, built by the eccentric Earl Bishop of Derry, but the least well known must be the charming Villa La Gordanne on the banks of Lake Geneva, recently renovated by a retired shipping magnate, Bluey Mavroleon, and his French wife, Caroline.
"I first saw this gem of a house," Mavroleon recalls, "when I came here from England in 1976, and I used to slow down to admire it. It had a rather desolate run-down air about it. The shutters were always closed, the park was overgrown, there was bamboo all over the place. Everything was in total dilapidation. I imagined an old lady living there with hundreds of cats." Although he had no idea at the time that the round house, as he called it, was a copy of one in Britain, he was attracted by the Swiss villa's similarity to the kind of house built by eighteenth-century Englishmen just back from the grand tour. He never forgot La Gordanne but had no thoughts of buying it until one day, some years later when he was again in Switzerland, his wife told him that she had been to see an extraordinary round house with which she had instantly fallen in love. "My God," he said, "it's the one I've been looking at for years. It's the only house here that reminds me of England. I'm absolutely mad about it."
It turned out that the Villa La Gordanne was for sale. It had been used only occasionally by the owner, a Swiss lady who would invite friends over for drinks on summer weekends. It was impossible to live in during the winter: there was no heating, no proper plumbing, no kitchen, and the electrical system was inadequate. An attempt had been made to rescue the house by renting it out to someone who had agreed to restore it in return for paying virtually no rent, but this arrangement had not worked out-which paved the way for the Mavroleons to buy La Gordanne in 1985.
"People thought we were crazy," says Mrs. Mavroleon, "but I am used to restoring. If only you had seen the chalet in France that I once redecorated. It was a cowshed, dirt everywhere, but I wasn't scared at all. I thought this house was in very good shape." The restoration took a year, a remarkably short time, considering that it had to be carried out within the strict guidelines set by Swiss historic preservation commis-

Family and guests gather for drinks in the oval drawing room, decorated under the guidance of Tom Parr of Colefax \& Fowler. Walls with a scagliola finish applied in the 1830s rise to a Neoclassical cornice and ceiling. The chandelier, c. 1802, hangs above a Louis XVI armchair and an 18th-century Italian console table behind the blue sofa. A banquette and tufted armchairs are in Cowtan \& Tout's Bowood. Lamps are 19th century Italian. Details see Resources.



sions. This meant that the new owners were not allowed to touch any of the original fabric of the building. "For example, all the bathrooms now have a step up into them-not to make them look modern or trendy but because raised floors allowed the placement of all the pipes without damaging the structure." While the project was under way, the Mavroleons camped in a small farmhouse on the property: "We needed to make sure it was all done properly. Everything has been put back exactly as it was. The windowpanes, the doorknobs, the service bells were all done in the old way."

When the house was finally ready to be decorated, Bluey Mavroleon's only stipulation was that it have a predominantly English atmosphere. This has been achieved with the help of Tom Parr and Vivien Greenock of Colefax \& Fowler, who concentrated on the major rooms of the piano nobile (the ground floor houses an office and a winter garden). The hall, whose pale apricot walls reflect the color of the stucco on the exterior, soars to a cupola skylight above a rustic oak staircase. At the south end of the hall, glass doors lead to the sunny oval drawing room, which opens
(Text continued on page 211)
Caroline Mavroleon, above, on the terrace with her West Highland terrier, Gertie, and Galahad, a Siberian husky. The Classical bench is one of a set installed between the columns in the 19th century to take the place of a balustrade. Left: The main guest room, once the library, is upstairs in the cupola. Behind the colonnade, whose dark woodwork has been painted, is a copy of an antique Zuber scenic wallpaper. The 19th-century lit à la polonaise was found for the Mavroleons by Swiss decorator Gérard Bach.

Books do furnish a room," British novelist Anthony Powell once wrote, and scholars, bibliophiles, and lovers of beauty alike would agree. Draped from a secondstory balustrade, opposite, the scattered tomes covering Bernard Magniant's latest wool needlepoint rug for Casa Lopez, NYC, make the volumes in the main reading room of the New York Public Library look Lilliputian. Right: The Librarian, painted by
Giuseppe Arcimboldo c. 1566, depicts Wolfgang Lazius, an important intellectual of the Habsburg court, as a collection of books and pages. Details see Resources.



Faux books, opposite, complement their readable counterparts at the New York Public Library. Hanging from the molding is a trompe l'oeil bookshelf hand-painted on canvas for Chelsea House. At the lower left are two wallpapers from Westgate; the Brunschwig \& Fils paper at lower right by Richard Neas features a title by the artist himself. Above: A book is transformed into a sculptural vignette at left when its contents are removed and replaced with miniature shelves, books, and bric-à-brac, from Christophe Gollut of London. Stacks of carved-wood books form a novel lamp from Parsons Table Co., London, while Judyth van Amringe's hand-stenciled shade provides a light read. Bookends are bound in calfskin, from Il Papiro, NYC. Above right: At Stubbs Books \& Prints, NYC, a hand-painted tole side table from Chelsea House enhances the panoply of antique books.


Smith \& Watson's mahogany dictionary stand, left, holds a compendium of classics along with II Papiro's leatherbound storage boxes. An ottoman from Ronald Jonas, NYC, is swagged with trim and tassels from Brunschwig and covered in endpaper-like fabric from Robert Allen.
The leather wastebasket, also from Robert Allen, makes a clever literary reference.

## Pillow Talk

## HG looks to the linen closet

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## OF REFRIGERATION



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## McGuane Country

(Continued from page 141) looked upon as mere candidates for the wrecking ball, the preservation of such a beautiful example of our frontier heritage should be enthusiastically applauded. Their house isn't the only thing the McGuanes have saved for the future. They have deeded an easement to the entire ranch to the Montana Land Reliance, guaranteeing that the land and the stretch of river they own will remain as they love them, in perpetuity.
A small bone of contention in the McGuane household is the age of the homestead. The logs in the walls of the house were cut high in the Absaroka Mountains and floated down the West Boulder on some long-forgotten runoff. Laurie thinks this happened in territorial days (1989 was the centennial year of Montana's statehood). Tom isn't so sure. When the old plaster was chipped off the interior walls, he found newspapers underneath. The headlines chronicled Theodore Roosevelt's first campaign for president.

It's the size of the building, not its age, that pleases Tom. He felt the last house they lived in was too large for the family. "If you can hit upon the ideal interior space," Tom says, "you will be happy in a house." Another source of happiness is the

Proustian familiarity of the place. Growing up, Tom lived for his first eight years in a $\log$ house on Grosse Ile, Michigan, one of the settings-along with Key West and Livingston, Montana-of his superb comic novel The Bushwhacked Piano.

A quick tour reveals many of the house's delights, from the brooding Russell Chatham landscapes decorating the walls to a glassed-in steam room in the white-tiled master bath. Narrow stairs lead up to a loft overlooking the living room. The railing was constructed out of fire-scarred timber found on the property by Taylor Mott, a Bozeman cowboy-carpenter, who also built matching pine night tables decorated with painted magpies for the McGuanes' bedroom. The gnarled wooden balusters complement several superb examples of western rustic furniture by Don Hindman, who in the early thirties worked for the Shoshone Furniture Co. of Cody, Wyoming, and created many extraordinary pieces that were attributed to Thomas Molesworth, the shop's proprietor.
The second floor is as compact and tidy as a sailing ship. The loft leads past Laurie's office where she helps oversee the running of the ranch-Tom works in a bunkhouse out by the creek-to the bedroom of their ten-year-old daughter, Annie. Rows of purple and blue horsemanship ribbons hang above her flytying
bench. Like her father and mother, Annie is an avid rider and fisherman.

We gather for a gracious supper around a three-hundred-year-old refectory table that made its way from a Philippine monastery to Mobile, Alabama, by way of Barbados. Laurie hails from Mobile (she's the sister of singer Jimmy Buffett), and her southern accent adds a musical lilt to the conversation. The kitchen and dining room are combined in a long spacious area recalling an era when the hearth was the true center of the home. Mixed among the white tiles behind the counters are several that are as bright as butterflies. These were hand-painted and fired by Annie.

Suddenly there is a face at the window. Mewing plaintively, an orange cat peers in from the darkness. Laurie recognizes it as a stray she's seen recently around the barn. Tom asks Annie to prepare a bowl of food, and soon the stranger is inside, wolfing Alpo. The cat is relentlessly friendly, purring and rubbing against our legs. Not even the curious attentions of the McGuanes' four dogs deter her. She rubs up against their noses with equal enthusiasm. "This cat is a great salesman," Tom says. "Put her on the road with a line of practical shoes and we'll all get rich." It's clear the stray has found a home. And so, after all these years, has Tom McGuane. $\boldsymbol{\Delta}$

Editor: John Ryman

## Travels with Matisse

(Continued from page 164) altered. Parts of the mind that were normally active could be allowed to rest. Others, normally repressed by an effort of will, were allowed to run free. What he set down on the canvas was to be faithful to his sensations without merely describing them. One way to achieve that was to abjure the picturesque and move toward an even greater abstraction and simplification.

Given the magical quality of the light, the superabundance of color, the strange undemonstrative beauty of the inhabitants and their totally un-European way of passing the time, the picturesque had a way of creeping back in. What was he to do with human beings who could watch goldfish in a bowl from morning till night? With the gigantic Riffian, a man-mountain who looked as if he might erupt at any moment? And with Zorah, the Moroccan girl
who came to him in secret to be painted?
Far from resisting what might initially have been called picturesque, he took over the goldfish bowl on his own terms, using it over and over as a kind of aquatic egg timer that ticked and tocked in its irregular way from hour to hour. He took the Riffian, brought him up to the very front of the image, and treated him somewhat as the saints are treated in the icons he had seen in Moscow not long before.

As for Zorah, he put her on her knees in one of the laconic asymmetrical spaces of which he alone had the secret. Around her knees, her costume formed the kind of bell-like shape that he might one day have used in sculpture. To her left was the signature goldfish bowl. To her right were her discarded slippers, epigrammatic in the brilliance of their color.

When my husband and I were in the Hermitage with Pierre Matisse in 1987, he told me of the difficulties his father had encountered in securing women models in

Morocco. Moslem custom allowed only prostitutes and Jewish women to be seen without a veil. Even after Matisse had found Zorah in a brothel and persuaded her to pose again, there were problems. And Madame Matisse's offer to be nearby at all times caused a scandal.

These paintings are, on one level, exotic. But their exoticism is something that Matisse used primarily to get it out of the way, much as Jasper Johns got the patriotic element in his flags out of the way, while in no way diminishing it. In each case, the painter's objective was to distinguish between seeing and making. The thing seen was truly seen, but the thing made was made in terms of a new kind of pictorial order. That is why these Moroccan paintings hold our attention so strongly. They have the fascination of a whole world seen afresh and anew, but they also have the power that comes about when a great painter makes himself over in his art-and, with himself, the potential of painting.
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## Perfectly Frank

(Continued from page 187) sumptuous in its finishes as a villa of the last days of Rome. The high walls were covered in large squares of vellum, suggesting both the warmth of old bookbindings and the grandeur of rusticated stonework on a Piranesian scale. Bronze doors with ivory details proclaimed a delight in unusual materials that was echoed in sofas and chairs in bleached leather and in tables and screens covered in shagreen, vellum, and lacquer.

The Noailles were already famous as patrons of avant-garde literature, music, and art. They had bought Picassos and Braques before Cubism became fashionable (Marie-Laure was herself a painter). They helped realize projects by Jean Cocteau, and most of the Surrealists were friends and protégés. It was Charles who funded the making of Buñuel's films Un Chien andalou and L'Age d'or, masterpieces so shocking in their day that Noailles was obliged to resign from the Jockey Club. Gradually, Frank's original highly stylized conception for the Noailles' salon became the backdrop for a growing number of Surrealist and other pictures, including a magisterial portrait of Marie-Laure by Balthus, which hung from heavy gilded chains. Years later Philippe Jullian would write of how a "great Rubens shone on the wall like a Baroque gem on a Chanel suit."

In his first period as a designer and decorator Frank had subscribed to MalletStevens's dictum that "you can most luxuriously install a room by unfurnishing it rather than furnishing it." Cocteau quipped that Frank's rooms looked as though they had just been burgled. Partly influenced no doubt by the Noailles' essentially baroque taste and also as a result of the interest Frank shared with Emilio Terry in the visionary (or as was thought at the time, Surrealist) projects of the eigh-teenth-century architects Ledoux and Boullée, Frank's own work became increasingly theatrical. Alongside the simple block forms of his earlier furnishings he began to introduce more complicated pieces. Terry, who was always drawn to history, designed for the shop a wonderful range of furniture in a Neoclassical vein and some, more bizarre, that hinted at bourgeois decoration under the Second Empire.

In the mid thirties Frank came to rely even more on the collaboration of the Giacomettis, who made fanciful lamps of
white plaster or patinated bronze in the form of arms, weird vases, and elongated human figures. Bérard's colorful painterly style also played a part in liberating Frank from monochromatic schemes: the effect of their collaboration on a new salon for the house of Guérlain was pure drama, with trompe l'oeil effects freely dashed on.

When Elsa Schiaparelli, the great devotee of shocking color, graduated to a grand apartment on the boulevard Saint-Germain, she naturally called upon Frank, as the smartest decorator of the moment, to create new and sensational effects in the overblown 1890s rooms. He stripped evrything and in some rooms placed nothing more than a picture and a piece of African sculpture. In her study the couturière gazed from her desk at a single Classical figure. In the main room for entertaining Frank used extraordinary materials and colors: curtains of gleaming rubberized fabric, brilliant yellow chintzes, and, on a huge sofa, orange leather. In the dining room everything was somber, with black porcelain plates-an ensemble that caused Chanel, Schiaparelli recalled with glee, to "shudder as if passing a cemetery."

Despite the intensifying exuberance of Frank's designs, his melancholy seems to have become more profound. One may perhaps catch a glimpse of this complex character in the decoration of his tiny private office at the shop. This he never changed, delighting in the nickname others gave it: the Confessional. It had vertiginously elongated paneling in a sort of parodic Louis XVI manner, with dark moldings against blond wood. A Giacometti hand holding a lamp above a simple desk and an overscaled child's school slate were the only other furnishings-an old photograph of this odd room shows a blackboard memo for a delivery to Elsie de Wolfe, Lady Mendl. In the winter of 1939 40 Frank, who was Jewish, saw other handwriting on the wall and sailed for South America and the United States. There he received a welcome befitting one of the foremost tastemakers on either side of the Atlantic. Nevertheless, despair overtook him, and in 1941 he threw himself from a tall building in New York. He was just 46.

In the postwar years Frank's reputation suffered the eclipse experienced by most of the decorators of his generation. If he was remembered at all, it was as a period piece rather than as a designer whose work had any contemporary relevance. Today, however, his stature has been greatly re-
valued, and his aesthetic is a touchstone in the debate over the death of Modernism and its replacement by Postmodernism, Neo-Modernism, and what we might call the New Ornamentalism. Remarkably, Frank has a following in each of these camps. French designers as diverse as Jacques Grange, Andrée Putman, Bonetti and Garouste, and Jean-Michel Wilmotte acknowledge his influence. His admirers in the United States include Gary Hager of Parish-Hadley, Jed Johnson, and Stephen Sills, who avidly collects orig-
inal pieces by Frank and his associates.
Jean-Michel Frank was without doubt a genius, a man of rare taste and sensibilities, respectful of the past yet able at the same time to be utterly modern. His subtlety in the choice of unexpected materials and his fastidious detailing show that even the simplest forms and surfaces can be made rich and exquisite-and his gentle sense of whimsy coupled with an insistence on coherent design could just point the way to the splendors of a new Baroque Modernism for the nineties.

## Light Geometry

(Continued from page 173) an ample supply of carp and algae.
The subtler, more intriguing turns occur inside. At first glance the interior looks like more of the same old modern stuff: white walls, oak floors, an arc of thick glass block. But gradually Jimenez's art shines through. While the old house ignored the bayou, the new one invites it inside. The front door leads directly to a sequence of crisp light-filled spaces terminating in a triangular bay window that sails out into the bayou like the prow of a ship. The centerpiece is the living room, which is delicately subdivided by shifts in ceiling heights and by four simple round columns that outline a seating area at one end. The room has windows on three sides that create a constantly changing light show from morning until night. The same effect occurs in the dining room where a tall narrow window rises up and scoops out a section of the vaulted ceiling.
"Light is the most essential architectural
tool to me," Jimenez says, "the one that offers the most potential for exploring architectural space. This house is an exploration of how to bring light in. I thought of it as a camera with different aperture settings."

These interiors express Jimenez's personality as much as his clients' tastes. They are calm, centered spaces without self-conscious architectural gestures. Planes don't collide angrily; columns don't deliver lectures on Neoclassical values. Things are mostly what they appear to be. "Carlos has an ego," say the clients, "but he doesn't let it show very often."
Jimenez is currently building two large houses and remodeling a small condominium. Occasionally he steps away from the drawing board to lecture at architecture schools. Mostly he sticks close to home, practicing his craft. "It doesn't make much difference if you are designing a study or a house or an office building so long as you remain true to your ideal of architecture," he says. "It's not the number of projects that counts but their integrity."

Editor: Elizabeth Sverbeyeff Byron

## Enchanted Cottage

(Continued from page 156) Brennan spread no fewer than seven coats of paint on the floors. And Philip McMaster presided over all this activity with admirable calm, notwithstanding his responsibility for applying the Irish toile to the walls of the main bedroom, whose odd angles and curves represent picturesque Regency architecture at its most fanciful.

The redecoration of the cottage drew to a close late one summer evening with signs of autumn all around. In the woods of $\mathrm{Ca}-$
hir the bracken was rusting, the hedgerows by the riverbank were bright with the burgundy-colored hips of the wild rose, and blackberries and fuchsia had succeeded the blossoms of the elder and honeysuckle. A pair of swans and their cygnets glided by on the Suir with indolent grace, and far off, the sun cast long shadows over the heather-covered Galtee Mountains. Marquees were already in place on the lawn for tomorrow's opening-day ceremonies, but for a moment all was quiet beyond the veranda's tree trunk columns, and the cottage once again worked its familiar spell. - Editor: Jacqueline Gonnet


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[^2]
## Private Stock

(Continued from page 160) Renaissance to American country to English butcher's benches,"' but Walker feels that they "all kind of live together nicely." After a day of tweed, tartan, and "nervous brown antique furniture, it's nice to come home to this palette."

A peek into Walker's cupboards just off his kitchen reveals a further break with Lauren tradition: he uses the cupboards as a storage space for underwear. Although a working kitchen has been installed, Walker never cooks. In his last place he kept sweaters in the oven.

As if the decoration of his own apartment wasn't time-consuming enough, Walker was also knee-deep in another job: renovating the Rhinelander mansion on Madison Avenue. What is now home to the glittering flagship of the Lauren empire was a mess when Walker first saw it: "Drywall. Acoustical ceilings. Linoleum. It was a dilapidated old lady."

What Lauren wanted it to be was "an English gentleman's club that sells women's clothes,", so he lined up the elite team of Walker, Buffy Birrittella, Jerry Robertson, and architect Naomi Leff. 'We were sent into the world, basical-
ly, to buy," Walker says. Three trips of three weeks each to England, Paris, and Belgium peeled off a good hunk of the millions it cost to open the store in the spring of 1986.
"Everything you see in that store I bought," says Walker, "every painting, every rug, every chair.' It was a crowning achievement for someone whose training had been a typical meander along the specialty store path. After studying advertising and set design, Walker took a job at Dayton's in Minneapolis where Lauren showed up for that fateful fashion show.

Dayton's was followed by stints at a few other stores, including five years as creative director at Wilkes Bashford in San Francisco. Ready for a change in 1983, he headed for Seventh Avenue and joined Lauren. Last August Walker became a vice president at the company, and to celebrate, he acquired a vintage car. Like many items in the Lauren line, Walker's 1957 Mercedes 220S Cabriolet is stylish, functional, and, above all, durable. Restored and running " more smoothly than when it was new,'" Walker's car is the envy of every pedestrian from Manhattan to Southampton, where he weekends in the summer. Says Walker, 'I work and I go to the sun. That's it. That's all I do."

Editor: Ruth Ansel

## Timeless Charm

(Continued from page 135) minimalism was letting up, and the couple went decorously wild. "He wanted everything taped and trimmed and bordered," says McNamara. "I had to sort of hold him back."

Together they created a living house, one that has evolved over time. In 1984 McNamara added a subtly designed twostory wing for a new master bedroom and a family room. The exterior was brushed with a special white paint that immediately peeled to blend beautifully with the antique brick of the rest of the house. McNamara stepped back a bit for the interior of the bedroom. "I wanted the room to be feminine-full of pinks and blues," says the wife. "One day I found this Cowtan \& Tout fabric, and we designed the room around it." There are botanical prints, family photographs, pale blue Staffordshire, delicately painted antique clockfaces, and a set of library steps that the couple uses to store their cherished design magazines. "It's for the most recent ones," she laughs. "We've got boxes and boxes."

While McNamara combed Manhattan's finest antiques and fabric houses the cou-
ple picked up this and that in England, in Connecticut, and on Long Island. "I don't think she made any mistakes on her own," says McNamara. "She's an incredible shopper." "He gave himself tremendously," she says. "I learned so much from him. And it was fun. It was never work."

Over the course of fifteen years, McNa mara was insinuated into the family unit. He watched the kids grow up and develop their own tastes: "Like all young girls, their daughter asked for lavender, which still makes me laugh because what she really meant was purple, and I had to spoon it out gently." He attended their parties and even helped with a few-birthday parties for the children, a surprise party for the husband. Afterwards, they would all go dancing in the city.

Lately, the decorator's datebook is filled with new projects, and the couple is moving on. They're still adding to and subtracting from the house even though the kids have left for school. "I often wonder how a project will end," says McNamara. "The nicest ones never seem to." So he still calls, though less frequently. "I'll remember to ring up and say, 'It's been months, let's have dinner.' " -

Editor: Carolyn Englefield

## Lost and Found

(Text continued from page 148) a print of the same image with the caption "Tout passe avec le temps, sauf l'amitié." Relieved that the sentiment was one I subscribed to, I framed the toile de Jouy and began collecting early 19 th century polychrome prints.

Going to flea markets is the only sport that interests me, a form of urban hunt that combines the illusion of freedom with the need for stealth. Flea markets also provide fresh air and a decent amount of exercise and demand a mental attitude that can otherwise be attained only in the higher stages of Zen: calm attention, a drifting, tolerant curiosity, and an openness to whatever crosses the mind's eye and the hand's touch. When an object beckons, a real contact is made: the rush comes on, palpitations begin, the momentum created by desire engenders a sequence of absolutely focused actions-I see it, I want it, it's mine. In that sequence, nothing else is allowed to happen; a hailstorm, sirens, stampedes, dogfights-none of it touches me, none of it exists. Once the object is in my hand, in old newspapers and thin plastic bags (or blue diapers at the New York flea markets), the calm returns and I can move on. There is no room for uncertainty; the mood is indifference or desire. The other states-ambivalence, hesitation, doubt, my usual confusions-are for every other day and hour. The hunt cleanses the soul.

I never know what I'm hunting, and that is the charm of the adventure. Although a flea market is a place of transactions, of commerce, it yields more ideas than tro-
phies. Cold mornings, before the papers have been read, the coffee unfinished on the side of the sink-in old clothes and flat shoes, with a large empty bag, keys, and money, too sleepy to think, I go out to let the leftovers of other people's lives think for me. One foggy morning at the Marché Paul-Bert, I came across a linen-covered anatomical model of a woman's torso, open at the stomach to reveal a linen-covered fetus. It held my attention for half an hour, as if I had just discovered where babies came from. Eventually I realized that this was not a pleasant object with which to decorate a living room and moved on.
Some of my best friends are inanimate objects. The lesson of flea markets is that specific desire will be disappointed and alert curiosity rewarded. In this disparity between expectation and reality, flea markets resemble film festivals and dinner parties, with the saving grace that you are spared all small talk. The exchange is confined to "How much?" "Looks broken to me," and "Can you do any better?"-which is really all that needs to be said at a film festival or a dinner party.
In 1971, when the European avantgarde held the second and last of its Wet Dream film festivals in Amsterdam, I crept away from the relentless reels of sex and went to refresh my soul. Not to the Rijksmuseum to look at Rembrandts, but to the Waterlooplein, a tarmac meadow full of junk. "How could you do that?" asked one of the revolutionaries. "That's not what we're here for." I still have the velvets I found that day, and blissfully I have forgotten the films.

Editor: Beatrice Monti della Corte

## Classical Romance

(Continued from page 195) onto a portico with a magnificent view across Lake Geneva. The Mavroleons call the oval rotunda the day room and, since it adjoins the dining room, use it mainly for drinks before lunch and dinner. Most of their time is spent in the high-ceilinged library, which is dominated by a pair of early nineteenth century English bookcases acquired from the late Geoffrey Bennison. "It is a very comfortable, very English room," says Mrs. Mavroleon, "a room in which to put your feet up with a good book, have a drink, or play cards. It faces west, so the windows catch the evening sun."

Although the Mavroleons also spend time in France and Greece, their heart is in La Gordanne. The romantic history of the place and its beauty make it easy to understand why. But this is also an easy house in which to feel at home, with its perfectly proportioned yet not too grand living rooms and a limited number of guest rooms. "You have to feel an enormous attraction for an old house," Mrs. Mavroleon explains. "Otherwise you are not prepared to go through everything it requires. We used to live in a lovely house near here which was decorated by Nina Campbell. It could not have been prettier. We had no need to move. But Bluey and I wanted to do something together. We wanted to do a house ourselves, and this is the result."


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Page 114 Dressmaker sofa in gaufré velvet, $\$ 5,000$, from Drexel Heritage Furnishings, for stores call (800) 447-4700. Judith Leiber capeskin handbag (\#9032), at Marshall Field's, Chicago; Bergdorf Goodman, NYC; I. Magnin; Jacobson's; Saks Fifth Avenue. Manolo Blahnik Notte mules, $\$ 550$, at Posh, Chicago; I. Magnin; to order at Bergdorf Goodman, NYC. Curly Twine vermeil necklace, by Mish Jewelry, $\$ 880$, at Barneys New York, NYC, Chestnut Hill, Costa Mesa; Greenhouse Spa, Grand Prairie; Toby Lerner, Philadelphia; Palm-Aire Spa, Pompano Beach; to order at Fred Segal Hoops, Santa Monica. Candeur candelabra, by Attribut à la Frivolité of London, \$895, at Bergdorf Goodman, NYC; to the trade at Ken Hanson, West Hollywood. Couvert de Feuilles, 51 " wide, $\$ 294$ yd, to the trade at Clarence House, NYC, Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Dania, Denver, Houston, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Portland, San Francisco, Seattle, Troy. Baroque Limoges porcelain plate, $\mathrm{Frl}, 200$ dinner, from Rochas, Paris (1) 47-23-54-56.

## TIMELESS CHARM

Pages 130-35 Window treatments, designed by Kevin McNamara, from Decorator's Workshop, NYC (212) 879-6585. 130-31 French 10-Mesh needlepoint rug, to the trade at Stark Carpet, NYC, Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Dania, Houston, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Troy, Washington, D.C.; Shears \& Window, Denver, Laguna Niguel; Dean-Warren, Phoenix; Designers Showroom, Seattle. Cabbage Rose chintz on curtains, sofas, armchair, $56^{\prime \prime}$ wide, $\$ 69$ yd,

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tanical prints and watercolors, similar items at Stephanie Hoppen, NYC (212) 753-0175. Hydrangea cotton, $54^{\prime \prime}$ wide, $\$ 62$ yd, from Ralph Lauren Home Collection at Polo/Ralph Lauren, NYC, Beverly Hills, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Minneapolis, Palm Beach, Princeton, San Francisco; Polo/Ralph Lauren Home Collection, Palo Alto.

## McGUANE COUNTRY

Page 141 Yippee-ei-o cotton duck, 54 " wide, $\$ 48$ yd, from Full Swing, Newport (401) 849-9494.

## ENCHANTED COTTAGE

Page 152 Galtee Sidewall wallpaper, Lily of Galtee chintz, by Sybil Connolly, to the trade at Brunschwig (see above for pgs 134-35). 154-55 Tipperary wallpaper, by Sybil Connolly, Tipperary border, to the trade at Brunschwig (see above). 156 Dublin Toile cotton, by Sybil Connolly, to the trade at Brunschwig (see above).

## PRIVATE STOCK

Pages 158-59 Canvas Oyster cotton, 54 " wide, $\$ 30$ yd, from Ralph Lauren Home Collection at Polo/ Ralph Lauren (see above for pgs 134-35). Three seat sofa, to order from George Sherlock Antiques, London (1) 736-3955. Italian wool challis (\#98094) for curtains, to the trade at Scalamandré, for showrooms call (212) 980-3888. Savoy oak/stone table, to the trade to order at Dennis \& Leen, Los Angeles; Holly Hunt, Chicago; Hargett, Dallas, Houston; Shears \& Window, La guna Niguel, San Francisco. Hand-painted 1930s globe, similar items at Lost City Arts, NYC (212) 941-8025. Steamer trunk, similar items at Richard Kazarian Antiques, Newport (401) 846-3563 19th-century French white glass vase on pedestal, similar items at Niall Smith Antiques, NYC (212) 255-0660. 160 Jacques Adnet chairs, similar items at David Gill, London (1) 589-5946. 1930s photographer's studio lamp, similar items to the trade at Ann-Morris Antiques, NYC (212) 755-3308. 18thcentury Portuguese bust of a saint, similar items to the trade at John Rosselli Antiques, NYC (212) 772-2137. Mannequin, similar items at KelterMalcé, NYC (212) 989-6760. Neoclassical récamier, similar items at Richard Kazarian Antiques, Newport (401) 846-3563. Silk/linen robe, from Polo by Ralph Lauren, similar items at Polo/Ralph Lauren, NYC (212) 606-2100. 161 Louis XV-style Sevigny armchairs, $\$ 3,300$ ea, to the trade at Luten Clarey Stern, for showrooms call (212) 838-6420. Leather on armchairs, available only on Ralph Lauren Home Collection Upholstered Furniture, not available by the yard. Apple Rush Matting, to the trade at Stark (see above for pgs 130-31). 19th-century French wooden sphere and stand, similar items to the trade at Ann-Morris Antiques, NYC (212) 755-3308.

## LIGHT GEOMETRY

Pages 170-71 Villa Gallia armchairs, by Josef Hoffmann, to the trade at ICF, for showrooms call (914) 365-2500. Unika Plush mohair with piping on armchairs, to the trade at Unika Vaev, for showrooms call (914) 365-2500. Table, one-of-a-kind sculptural furniture, by Fletcher Mackey, to order from Ir-rational Art \& Design, Houston (713) 5224657. 172-73 Custom forged-steel candelabras, designed by Tim Bailey, to order from Sculpture Forge, Houston (713) 868-1810. Haus Koller armchair, by Josef Hoffmann, to the trade at ICF (see above). Unika Vaev's Unika Plush mohair with piping on armchair (see above).
INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER
Page 176 Kenneth Turner Ivy cotton, from Country Collection of Fabrics, $54^{\prime \prime}$ wide, $\$ 40$ yd, at PranichSnyder, Palm Beach (407) 655-1192. Tapered and Candelabra candles in various scents, from \$48 per box, at Kenneth Turner Boutiques at Macy's, NYC, Arlington; I. Magnin, San Francisco, Beverly Hills; also at Pranich-Snyder, Palm Beach. 179 Kenneth Turner Tapered candles (see above).
CLASSICAL ROMANCE
Pages 190-91 Bowood chintz, Wool Fan Edging
on pillows on banquette, to the trade at Cowtan \& Tout (see above for pgs 134-35). Serge Antique cotton twill on sofa, 130 cm wide, $£ 44 \mathrm{~m}$, to the trade at Claremont, London (1) 437-5502. Striped silk check taffeta on pillows, to the trade to order at Bernard Thorp, London (1) 352-1776. 192-93 Toile Carreaux cotton on chairs, 130 cm wide, $£ 42$ m , to the trade at Textiles DMC, London (1) 903 3528. Peking shantung silk for curtains, to order from Eschke, Stallikonerstrasse 71, 8903 Birmensdorf, Zürich, Switzerland. 194-95 Côtes de Villefranche hand-printed wallpaper, $\$ 3,840$ for 14 $12^{\prime} 10^{\prime \prime} \times 18^{1} / 2^{\prime \prime}$ panels, to the trade at Zuber \& Cie, NYC, Los Angeles.

## READING ROOMS

Page 196 Bernard Magniant rug, $2.5 \times 3.5 \mathrm{~m}$, $\$ 8,000$, to the trade at Casa Lopez, NYC, Paris (retail). 198 Trompe l'oeil bookshelf (\#5423), $29^{\prime \prime x}$ $58^{\prime \prime}$, $\$ 912.50$, from Chelsea House-Port Royal. Bibliothèque wallpaper and Étagère de Bibliothèque wallpaper in front, to the trade at Westgate, for showrooms call (800) 527-2517. Bibliothèque wallpaper, by Richard Neas, to the trade at Brunschwig (see above for pgs 134-35). 199 Book sculpture, approx $£ 400$, at Christophe Gollut of London, London (1) 370-4101. Book hand-carved wood lamp, £275, at Parsons Table Company, London (1) 352-7444. Lampshade, $\$ 100$, special order from Judyth van Amringe, NYC (212) 7365130. Bookends, $\$ 180$ pr, at II Papiro, NYC (212) 288-9330. Tole library table (\#TM2), \$812.50, from Chelsea House-Port Royal. Sheraton-style dictionary stand (\#C-9A), \$2,580, to the trade at Smith \& Watson, for showrooms call (212) 3555615. Book-shaped storage boxes, $\$ 264$ ea, at II Papiro, NYC (212) 288-9330. Ottoman (tuffet), $\$ 2,400 \mathrm{COM}$, to the trade from Ronald Jonas Interiors, NYC (212) 691-2777. Gabrielle Large Rope, Traviata Tassels, to the trade at Brunschwig (see above for pgs 134-35). Grenoble cotton, Book wastebasket, to the trade at Robert Allen, for showrooms call (212) 759-6660.

## SAMPLES

Page 200 Aladin cotton sham, $\$ 65$ pr king, from Palais Royal, for stores call (804) 979-3911. Davis velvet throw pillow with gold cord/tassels, \$195, Aubusson Floral cotton comforter, $\$ 605$ full/ queen, from Ralph Lauren Home Collection at Polo/Ralph Lauren (see above for pgs 134-35). Louis Philippe-style armoire (\#FR150), \$3,690, at Grange Furniture, NYC (212) 737-8080; for showrooms to the trade, call (212) 685-9057. KEY TO DIAGRAM 1. Boudoir cotton sham (\#5426), \$75, goose down pillow, $\$ 42$, from D. Porthault, NYC, Palm Beach. 2. Monet's Lilies cotton/poly breakfast pillow, from Claude Monet Museum-Giverny Collection for Martex, for stores call (212) 382 5185 . 3. Millefleurs cotton/poly breakfast pillow, from Claude Mo-
 net Museum-Giverny Collection for Martex, for stores call (212) 382-5185. 4. Alexandra cotton/ poly breakfast pillow, $\$ 34.99$, by Mario Buatta, for Revman Industries, for stores call' (800) 237. 0658. 5. Newport Gardens cotton breakfast pillow, by Robert A. M. Stern, for Martex, for stores call (212) 382-5185. 6. Rosa cotton breakfast pillow, \$30, by Eileen

West for Stevens, for stores call (415) 982-2275. 7. Madame Du Barry cotton/poly breakfast pillow from Martex, for stores call (212) 382-5185. 8. Tropikee cotton/poly sheet, $\$ 29$ full, by Jenny Kee for Sheridan, for nearest store or to order call (800) 777-9563. 9. Tropikee cotton/poly European sham, $\$ 27$ ea, by Jenny Kee for Sheridan, for nearest store or to order call (800) 777-9563. 10. Cyan Stripe cotton/poly sheet, $\$ 17$ twin, from Wamsutta/Pacific Home Products, for stores call (800) 344-2142. 11. Lipstick cotton/poly neck roll, \$18, from Wamsutta/Pacific Home Products, for stores call (800) 344-2142. 12. Cyan cotton/poly neck roll, $\$ 18$, from Wamsutta/Pacific Home Products, for stores call (800) 344-2142. 13. Faux gold tassel (\#38040), metallic cord (\#38003), to the trade at Houlès, Los Angeles, NYC; Grizzel \& Assocs., Atlanta; Hensel \& Assocs., Chicago; Hargett, Dallas, Houston; Shears \& Window, Denver, Laguna Niguel, San Francisco. 14. Cachemire cotton pillowcase, $\$ 32$ European sq, from Descamps, NYC, Boston, Costa Mesa, Dallas, Los Angeles, Miami, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C. 15. Aurora Swiss organdy cotton throw pillow, $\$ 195$, from Ralph Lauren Home Collection at Polo/Ralph Lauren (see above for pgs 134-35). 16. Laura cotton madras pillowcase lined in Martha, $\$ 100$ standard, from Ralph Lauren Home Collection at Polo/Ralph Lauren (see above for pgs 134-35). 17. Marseilles cotton bedspread, $\$ 325$ queen, from Pierre Deux, for nearest store call (800) 992-2998, outside NY state call (800)-8-PIERRE. 18. Slate Ticking Stripe cotton/poly pillowcase, $\$ 13.99 \mathrm{pr}$ standard, by Gear Country Classics for Springmaid, for stores call (800) 537-0115. 19. Portico Stripe cotton/poly pillowcase, $\$ 22$ pr standard, by Adrienne Vittadini, for stores call (800) 841-3336. 20. Gardenia Evenings cotton breakfast pillow, $\$ 30$, by Eileen West for Stevens, for stores call (415) 982-2275. 21. Brittania cotton/poly pillowcase, $\$ 22$ pr standard, by Adrienne Vittadini, for stores call (800) 841-3336. 22. Kenzo Tartan cotton pillowcase, $\$ 60$ pr standard, from Palais Royal, for stores call (804) 979-3911. 23. Gardenia Evenings cotton neck roll, $\$ 30$, by Eileen West for Stevens, for stores call (415) 982-2275.
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$\$ 38$ for one year, $\$ 74$ for two years. Elsewhere, $\$ 43$ for one year, payable in advance. Single copies: U.S. \$4, Canada year, payable in advance. Single copies: U.S. $\$ 4$, Canada
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School of Design
Photograph courtesy of Derry Moorf:

## Maya Lin is young, brilliant, accomplished and doesn't like to talk about it

She catapulted to national prominence in 1981 when, as an undergraduate architecture student at Yale, she beat out 1,420 other entrants in the much-publicized competition to design the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. Nine years later, her controversial black granite V indelibly etched not only into the ground at Constitution Gardens but into our collective consciousness as well, thirty-year-old Maya Lin lives and works in relative anonymity in a roomy but rugged loft 72 steep steps above one of the seedier streets in lower Manhattan. She shares the space with her boyfriend, Peter, and their two cats, Ranch and Trout, and although the professional and domestic accommodations might be safely described as minimal, she wouldn't have it any other way. She is perfectly content. No one bothers her on the Bowery.
"I go through stages where I do a project and I'm in the public eye, and then I duck out and concentrate on my work," offered the delicate, if only in appearance, daughter of two Chinese academics by way of explaining a series of appointments we had made and she had canceled. I had finally caught Lin just as she was attempting to step out of the spotlight after the November 5 dedication of her latest work, a civil rights memorial in Montgomery, Alabama, commissioned by the Southern Poverty Law Center.
"I've been incredibly fortunate to have been given the opportunity to work on not just one but both memorials," said Lin. "They are special. They mark the beginning and closing of a decade." Since Lin was in diapers at the beginning of the sixties and in elementary school at the closing, I asked if she felt comfortable creating monuments to honor two of that decade's most important issues. "I feel very much a product of that time. My generation watched it happen. It's true we were more a product of the sixties than a participant, but I think if you're a participant then it's not influencing you as much as you are trying to influence it." In other words, yes, she did feel comfortable.

In response to the oft-repeated criticism that her work is cold, Lin admitted that she favors simple and abstract forms. "I'm not into excess," she noted. "I limit my language. But that doesn't mean I strip it bare. If you do something simple, is it necessarily austere? Can't something simple be very rich, very warm?" To those who
sense a certain aloofness about the Vietnam and civil rights monuments, Lin will only offer: "I try not to editorialize on history but to document it. In that respect I'm not political. I would never tell someone how or what to think. That's not what these pieces are about. They present facts." In Washington, of course, those facts are the names of the dead and missing in action, and in Montgomery those facts are events such as the Supreme Court's 1954 Brown $\mathbf{v}$. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas, decision and the 1966 murder of Samuel Younge Jr. for attempting to use a whites-only rest room.

Considering the significance of the work she completed in her twenties, I was curious to know how Lin planned to spend her thirties. "The Vietnam and civil rights pieces are special," she said, "but they are off on their own. I've never felt like trying to figure out what I'm going to do to top them." So Lin is pursuing her interests in art and architecture. Thanks to an NEA grant, she continues to work on her small-scale lead and beeswax sculptures. And she is currently at work on her first public art piece, commissioned by the Manhattan Transit Authority's Arts for Transit office, which will visually animate a 320 -foot-long corridor in New York's Pennsylvania Station with a series of suspended and fragmented arcs. And in North Carolina she is collaborating with landscape architect Henry Arnold on an environmental piece that will serve as a new entranceway to the Charlotte coliseum. "They expected a pedestal sculpture," noted Lin, who is giving them a whimsical topiary installation.

Her professors back at Yale will be happy to hear that Lin is also at work on her first architectural project, renovating an 1830s Victorian house in Norwich, Connecticut. Meanwhile,

## "I try not to editorialize on history

 but to document it"

Maya Lin in her lower Manhattan loft
she is on schedule with the drawings she is preparing for a new guesthouse addition to her childhood home in Athens, Ohio. I asked Lin how she liked architecture, how she felt about addressing the domestic needs of clients. "I love it," she said. "I'm interested in the psychology of the client, in figuring out what's really needed. It's very satisfying. But I have to do the sculpture, too. Just doing one wouldn't be the full picture for me. It will be a few years before the architecture comes out, before the sculpture comes out. But I'm taking my time, and I enjoy the time. I'm very young." Charles Gandee


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