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First Principle: Fine Romance 77

Home of the Brave 78

Designer Bobby McAlpine is boldly redefining traditional southern style, and nowhere is this better reflected than in his own house in Montgomery, Alabama.

BY DAVID FELD

Beachcraft 86

In a Hamptons house, architect Jaquelin Robertson and interior designer John F. Saladino unite the seaside Shingle and Arts and Crafts styles.

BY WENDY MOONAN

Splendor in the Grass 94

Using rushes, grasses, and other fluid plants, landscape designer Edwina von Gal reconnects a Long Island house to its landscape.

BY MAC GRISWOLD

Everything Shipshape 100

A nautical-minded family tailor a house to their interestswithout going overboard.

BY SUZANNE SLESIN

English Lessons 108

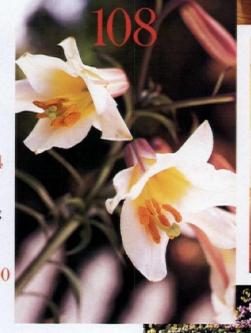
British landscape designer Simon Johnson confronts the challenges of a North American landscape, bringing disciplined romanticism to a New England garden. BY ROSITA TRINCA

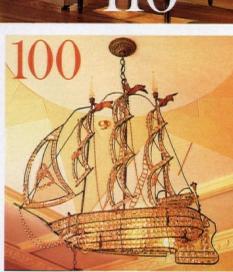
Scene Stealer 116

In the Hollywood hills, film set designer Richard Sherman creates a home with cinematic pizzazz. BY INGRID ABRAMOVITCH

Cliff Notes 124

American-born Katherine Price Mondadori re-creates the timeless style of island living in her Capri palazzo. BY MARELLA CARACCIOLO











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Augus

Welcome 8 BY DOMINIQUE BROWNING

Domestic Bliss 13

First impressions are important, which is why landscape architects from Atlanta to Los Angeles are fanatical about driveways. A place for cars has become a new garden room.

Rooms to Grow 53

Decorating for children begins with a crib in a nursery as chic as the rest of the house and a summer home where the kids rule. It ends with teens expressing their opinions on design, their rooms, and what they buy.

BY SABINE ROTHMAN

On the Block 30

With czarist silver or Ch'ing dynasty bronzes, auction houses serve the ancien-régime tastes of the world's nouveau riche.

BY GREGORY CERIO

House of Worship 34

After a devastating fire, a determined St. Croix congregation rebuilds its historic church.

BY BETH DUNLOP

Green Thoughts 38

The greening of Chicago includes a splendid new garden celebrating the lives of women.

BY ETHNE CLARKE

Uncorked 42

The crisp dry wines of Friuli are Italy's answer to a great summer drink.

BY JAY McINERNEY

Passing Fancies 44

They may look like old-fashioned summer houses, but most new summer retreats are urban to the core.

BY DAVID COLMAN

Past Perfect 50

Edward Steichen celebrates his favorite subject. BY VÉRONIQUE VIENNE

Sources 132

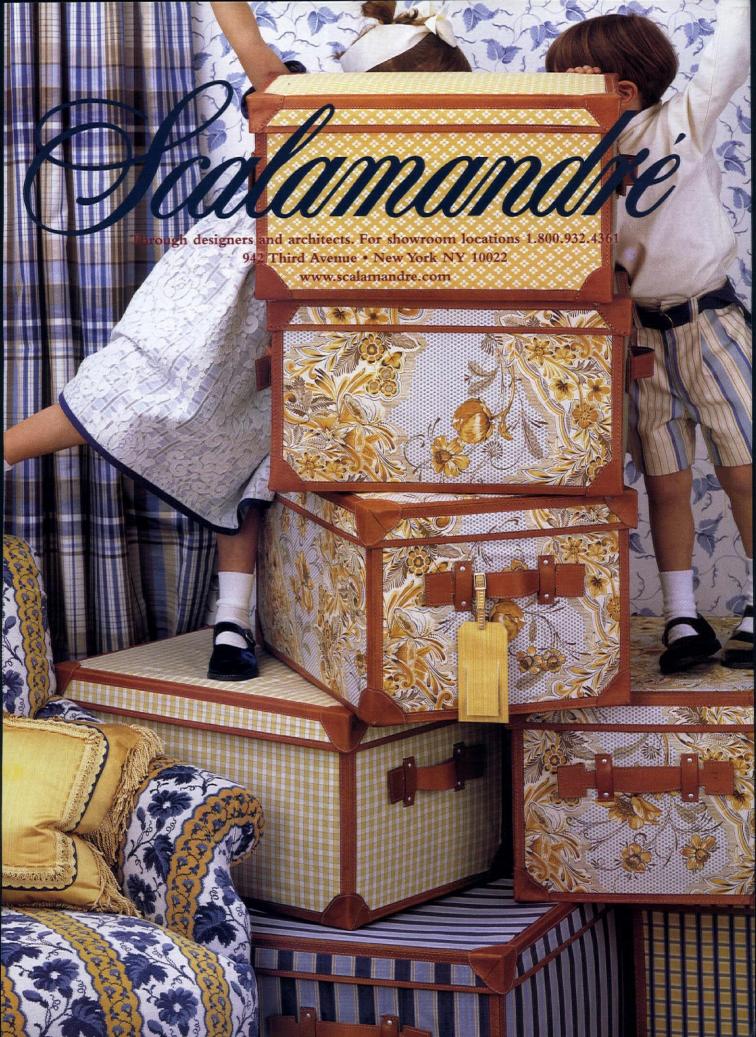
Where to buy everything.

Polite Society 136

BY WILLIAM NORWICH







welcome

UNPAVING

Yes, it is deteriorating. At least half of the asphalt (nasty stuff) has crumbled away under the pressure of 30 or 40 years' worth of cars, milk trucks, moving vans, and other vehicles carrying people who come to fix one thing and leave something else a little more broken-down. A bulldozer was sent to do the work of a snowplow one winter, and left

rivulets in the drive while removing a chunk of stone wall and an old tree peony. Tree roots and winter ice have done their work as well. The driveway has heaved itself open down the middle and exposed a vein of red brick underneath; sadly, the asphalt must have been laid over the original brickwork, of which only the front walk survives. The driveway is in a state of utter collapse.

I like it that way.

For years now, well-intentioned construction companies have tucked their diagnoses, their paving estimates, and their cards into my kitchen door. One kind neighbor went so far as to spread some asphalt left over from the repaving of his driveway onto the bottom of mine while I was at work, in an attempt to make a presentable patch of the portion that meets the street. He meant well. I was surprised, and didn't appreciate the gesture. It looked awful for a few days, and then it too got swallowed up in ruination. No Band-Aid will help; my driveway is too far gone. One friend has confided that he feels I've created a moat around my house—a

comment that might bear further inspection, but not here. My parents, my sister, my children, my friends rail constantly: Don't I see how awful it looks? Don't I know what could happen to a car that pulled in too fast?

Well, that's the point. Sort of. When the driveway started to get really bad, I decided to ignore it on the grounds that it was safer. My children often played at the top of the drive or in that part of the

yard. A rough road forced everyone to slow down. Both boys roller-blade, and the younger is a speed demon on his skate-board. A nice, smooth driveway would have made a great launching pad into the street. That was my story.

But now the story has changed. The swing set lies dismantled by the side of the drive, one of those skeletal remains of childhood. My skateboarder has moved on to concrete ramps and steel grind rails. The only one trying to slow down around here is me.

You see, the best part of my garden is the front, unusually enough. As I have been informed by real estate agents, the house has absolutely no curb appeal. That's because it is completely lost behind a thick stand of sassafras trees, underplanted with azaleas now so old that they loom six or eight feet high. If you drive quickly up to the house (or if you blink), you miss the view. Even walking home from the train, as I do most nights, I love having to be more careful of my footing in all those gouges and pits. I've lately noticed a beautiful new moss colony creeping across the crumbling

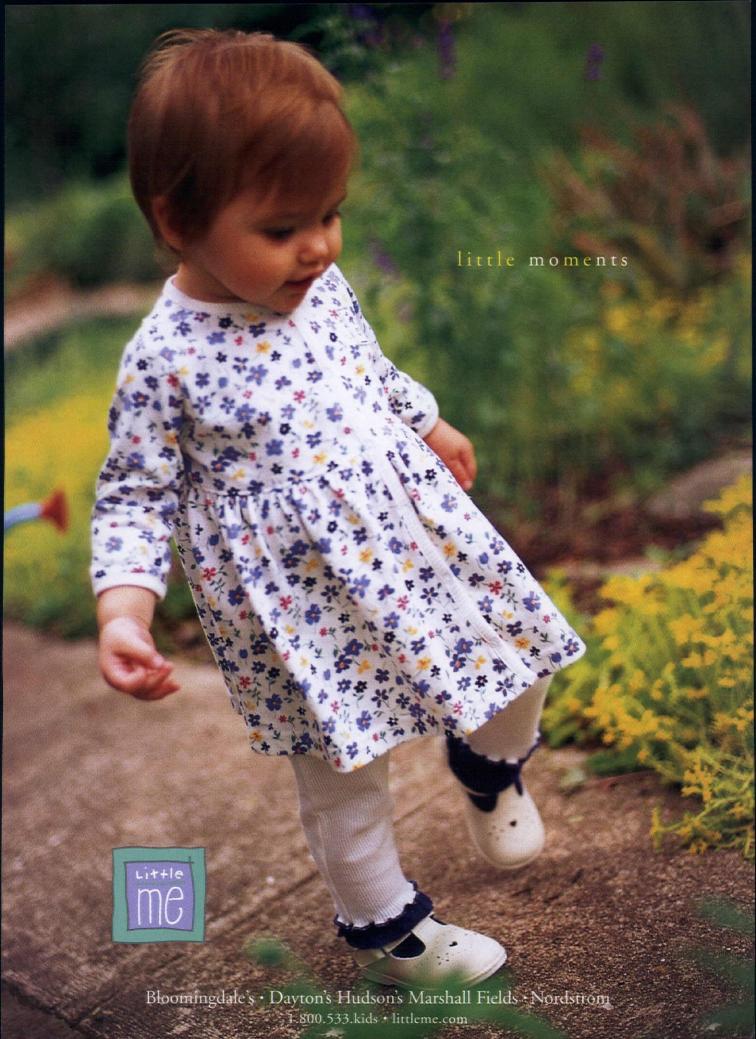
brick. I'm forced into a kind of decompression, in a small way, upon coming home, marking a passage from one world into another as I pick my way up the path.

So I'm not going to repave the driveway. But maybe I'll lay down a drawbridge.

of the

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PUBLISHER Brenda G. Saget

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER William Y. Ming Li

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR Kristine Schreiber

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WEST COAST MANAGER Karen Figilis 6300 Wilshire Blvd., 12th Fl.

Los Angeles, CA 90048 Tel: 323-965-3454 Fax: 323-965-2866

SOUTHEAST MANAGER Lynne Lindsay Lindsay, Mann & Co., 1001 Macy Drive Roswell, GA 30076 Tel: 770-645-6855 Fax: 770-645-6828

BRANCH OFFICES SAN FRANCISCO MANAGER Kristen Foster 50 Francisco St., Suite 115 San Francisco, CA 94133

Tel: 415-955-8244 Fax: 415-986-7396 SOUTHWEST MANAGER Jeanne Milligan Milligan & Mosley, 8609 N.W. Plaza Drive Suite 420, Dallas, TX 75225 Tel: 214-368-2001 Fax: 214-368-3434

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ASSISTANT TO THE PUBLISHER Judith M. Goldminz

CHAIRMAN S. I. Newhouse, Jr. PRESIDENT AND CEO Steven T. Florio

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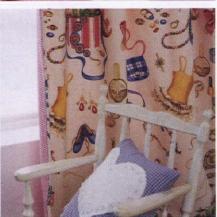










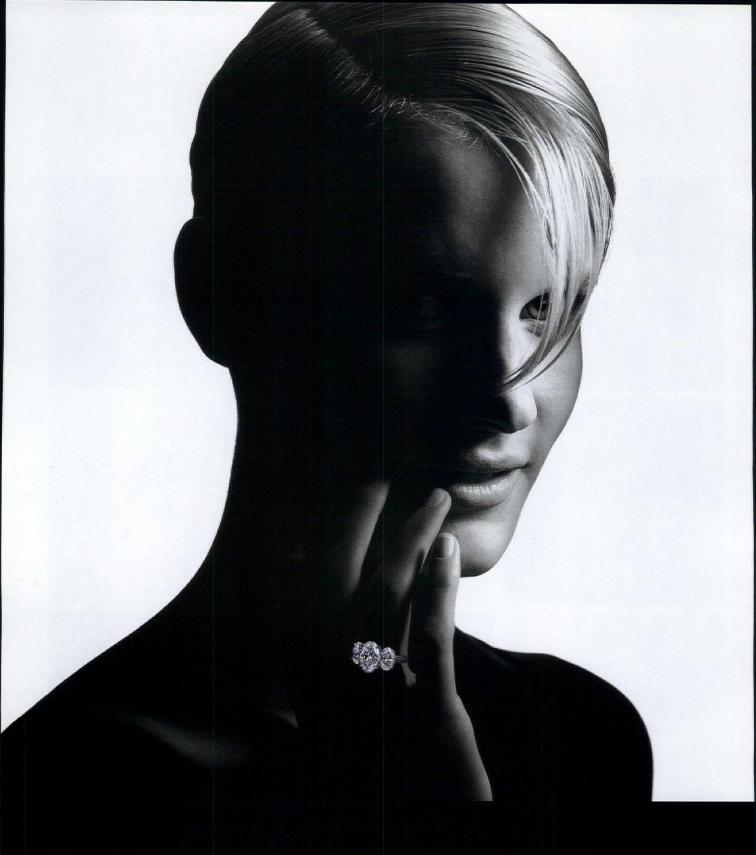




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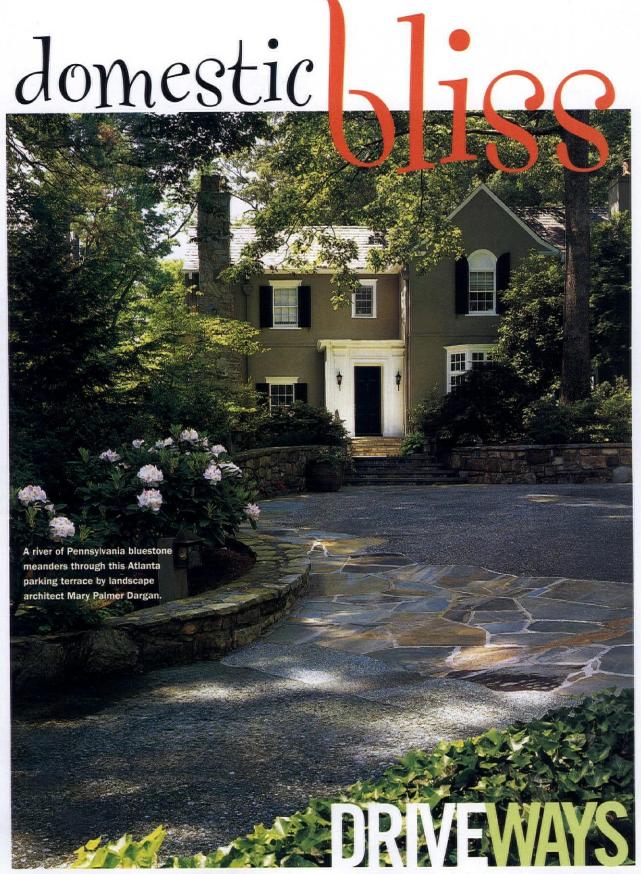
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DE BEERS



First impressions are important, which is why landscape architects from Atlanta to Los Angeles are fanatical about driveways. What used to be a place for cars is now a garden room. Edited by Dan Shaw

DRIVEWAYS

RIVEWAYS ARE A pet peeve of mine," says Los Angeles landscape designer Mia Lehrer. "Most clients don't want to focus on them. They care more about what they see from the pool or the patio, but driveways are the arrival space of the house. Early on, I realized they could be turned into a positive part of the garden."

Indeed, the driveway is the linchpin of landscape design. "Forget the flowers!" declares Elizabeth Lear, a landscape designer in Southampton, New York, who loves nothing more than planting a woodland garden or herbaceous border. "The first thing you've got to do is get the parking right." Like many of her colleagues, Lear is fanatical about driveways—and she is horrified by front yards that look like parking lots. "Often, I'm called in to help situate the pool for people who plan to entertain a lot," she says, "and they've never considered where their guests are going to park!" Her standard solution is

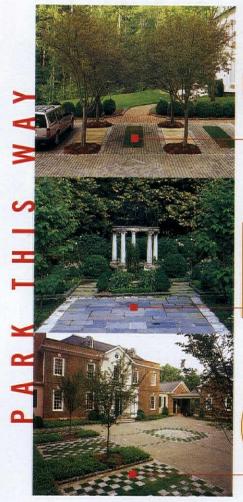


Hugh Dargan Associates (dargan.com) designs elaborate driveways that complement Atlanta's grandest houses.

a parking "spur": a pullout that doesn't detract from the main view of the house but holds at least three cars.

Mary Palmer Dargan, a prominent landscape architect in Atlanta, obsesses over parking. "I like to organize people," she says. When she creates parking "slots" for a house, she uses greenery to guide cars into the proper place. One of her trademarks is planting trees between the slots. "We think of it as a parking garden," she says. "The trees provide shade for the cars, and obscure them from view. We're waging a campaign against chrome bumpers as seen from the third-floor windows of estates."

She and her husband and business partner, Hugh Dargan, are also on a crusade to make driveways green. "This started when we lived in Charleston's historic district, which is ninety percent paved," she



To delineate parking slots,
Mary Palmer Dargan plants rows of trees, which also provide shade to keep cars cool.

A stone garden pavilion by Mary Palmer Dargan beckons visitors and, she says, encourages them to park neatly

in the bluestone slots.

Hugh
Dargan created
checkerboard grass-andcobblestone parking slots
that match the medallion in the central
courtyard.

THE HOTTEST DRIVEWAY IN TOWN

"Almost everyone here has radiant heat installed under the driveway," says Nick Soho, a principal in Greg Mozian and Associates, a landscape architecture firm in Aspen, CO. "Snow-melt systems are almost a necessity here," says Clay Thornton (www.floor-heat.com), who specializes in heating driveways (like the one below) in the ski resorts of Park City and Deer Valley, Utah. "Our hydronic systems include optional snow detection systems that turn on when snow hits and turn off when the driveway is dry."



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A brick apron at the curb provides a segue to the stone walls, which hide a security camera and a call box.

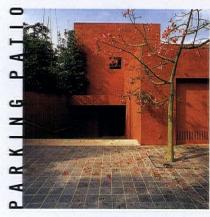
says. "The heat bounces off the walls and the sound echoes off the ground, and we felt it was our mission to add greenery wherever we could." For the driveways she designs in Atlanta's ritzy Buckhead neighborhood, that means putting grass-and-stone medallions in the middle of a courtyard. "Having the green recharges the groundwater," she says.

Even the seemingly simple gravel driveways that are de rigueur in the Hamptons require sophisticated planning. "We usually excavate about eight inches to create a pebble driveway," landscape architect Brian J. Mahoney says. "We pack it tight with six inches of recycled concrete and then two layers of hot oil and gravel, which is pressure-rolled to keep it in place."

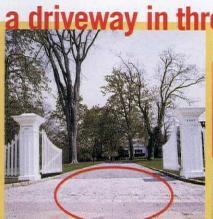
A fine driveway, like a fine garden, has its own narrative structure. "It begins with an expectation," Mary Palmer Dargan says, "and ends with a destination."—D.S.



"You can be really creative with driveways," says landscape architect Mary Palmer Dargan, who comes up with original solutions. 1 Rivers of Pennsylvania bluestone guide guests to parking spaces. 2 River gravel set into concrete—a Hugh Dargan design—complements an Italianate house. 3 Cobblestones define a handicapped parking space at the Dargans' office.



"I like to think of the garden and every aspect of the exterior space as part of my palette," says L.A. landscape designer Mia Lehrer. A proponent of the planted driveway, she is also famous for her dramatic use of stone masonry. For an L.A. client's house by Ricardo Legoretta, left, she created a spacious plaza of cobble granite.



APPROACH "'Approach, see, arrive' is the classic construct," says landscape designer Elizabeth Lear, who frequently installs Belgian-block aprons at the curb to set the tone for the rest of the driveway.



SEE "Your first view of the house is from the driveway," Lear says. For a house on Long Island, she designed a dark gravel roadway that curves gently around old chestnut trees and leads to a porte cochere.

ARRIVE S as a foyer, Lear the spaces who cars. Here, she chestnut trees and leads to a porte cochere.



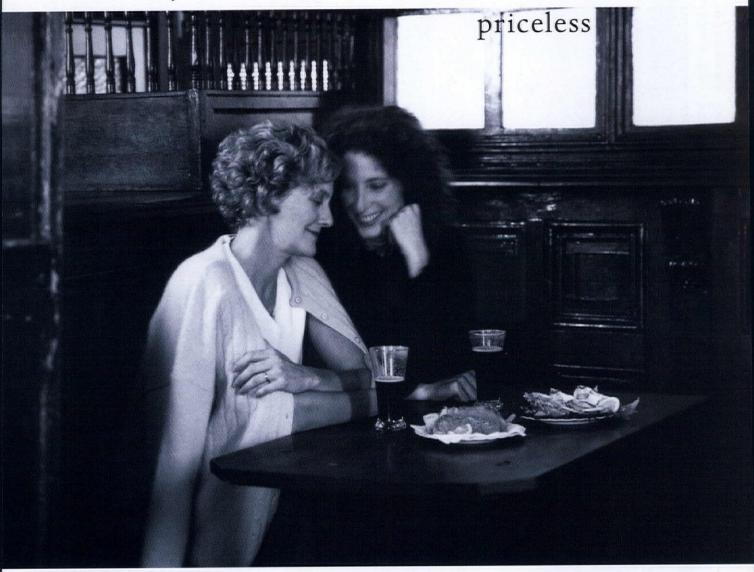
ARRIVE Since the driveway functions as a foyer, Lear takes extra care with the spaces where guests get out of their cars. Here, she created a Belgian-block welcome mat.

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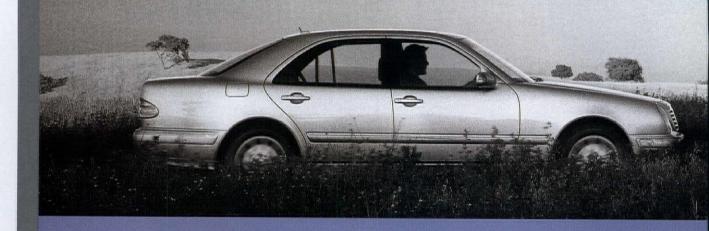


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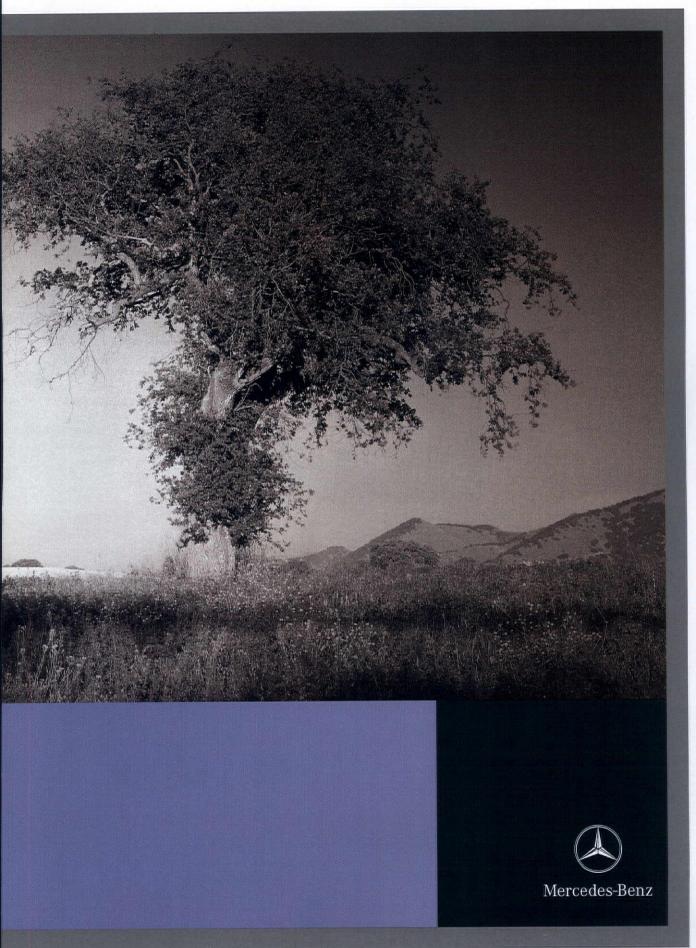


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EXTRA!

garden help

Like many women who garden, horticulturist Harriet Zbikowski could never find durable, snug-fitting gloves that she could wear all day. Inspired by the design of '50s ladies dress gloves, she created Foxgloves (\$25; foxglovesinc.com) out of Supplex nylon, in four fun colors. "They're great for handling seedlings," says *House & Garden*'s Charlotte Frieze. "You have complete dexterity."



Though a Bottega Veneta gardening bag sounds a bit de trop, there's nothing frivolous about the sturdy tote (\$370) and gloves (\$65) from the Italian leather house (877-362-1715) whose slogan used to be "When your own initials are enough." The only problem: You won't want to leave them behind in the potting shed.



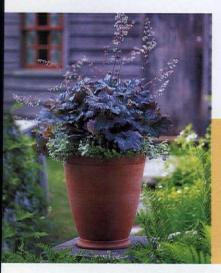
red-hot candles "I wanted something

"I wanted something outdoorsy that wasn't pine," says Edgar Lee, whose candle company, Votivo (206-213-0966), recently introduced a Fresh Tomato Leaf scent. "It reminds me of growing up in East Texas. There's this wonderful fresh green smell when you break a tomato leaf."



If your mother had washed your mouth out with this, you might have dared to keep on swearing. Lafco, the fashionable New York–based soap retailer, is selling a line of Italian-made, oversized bars with the colors and fragrances of fresh fruits and vegetables. Sapone Per Cucina (soap for the kitchen) lets you lather up in carrot or tomato, right, as well as plum, eggplant, pear, or pomegranate (\$12 each; 800-362-3677). The packaging—paper printed with deliciously old-fashioned illustrations and tied with twine—is as simple and appealing as what's inside. But be sure to unwrap it. Five minutes in the shower, and you'll feel as if you've taken a quick trip to a Mediterranean garden.—KATRINE AMES





bold and beautiful Guy Wolff's new terra-cotta pots

Connecticut potter Guy Wolff has teamed up with the Seibert & Rice catalog (in NJ, 973-467-8266) to produce a collection of five large outdoor garden planters. All the planters are handmade of frostproof Impruneta terra-cotta

in the company's workshops in Italy. Different moments in garden history inspired each piece. The Hartford pot (\$500) recalls 19th-century New England; the Gertrude pot (\$530), left, is an homage to the great Jeykll. —BONNIE BACON



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The Internet can be a busy parent's best friend



easy entertaining

For overextended parents, planning a five-yearold's birthday party can be a nightmare. Whether the theme is Barbie, Scooby-Doo, or Pokémon, you have to make sure that everything matches and that your goodie bags are plump enough to impress your child's friends, "I remember the panic of pulling together memorable parties for my own kids," says Tanya Roberts, the founder of greatentertaining.com. "Parents love not having to drive from store to store." The site is superbly organized, so you remember to order, say, plastic forks with the paper plates. It even sells prefilled goodie bags (average cost: \$4), which saves hours of shopping and assembly time. "We also sell things for grown-up parties," Roberts says. "The Luau theme is number one for adults." -D.S.



Here's something else for parents and children to fight over: the new Nokia 7100 Series of mobile phones that hit the market this summer. This "media phone" was created to provide access to the Internet. Since not all Web sites are designed with Wireless Application Protocol, which makes communication between mobile phones and the Internet possible, Nokia has created partnerships with companies such as The Weather Channel. Ticketmaster, and CNN Mobile to ensure that 7100 owners on the go will be able to check stock prices and flight schedules. -p.s.

If your daughter asks "Why do I sneeze?" send her to Ask Jeeves for Kids! (ajkids.com).

If your son is begging to see dinosaurs, have him log on to kids.go.com

GREAT GIFTS FOR GOLDEN GIRLS

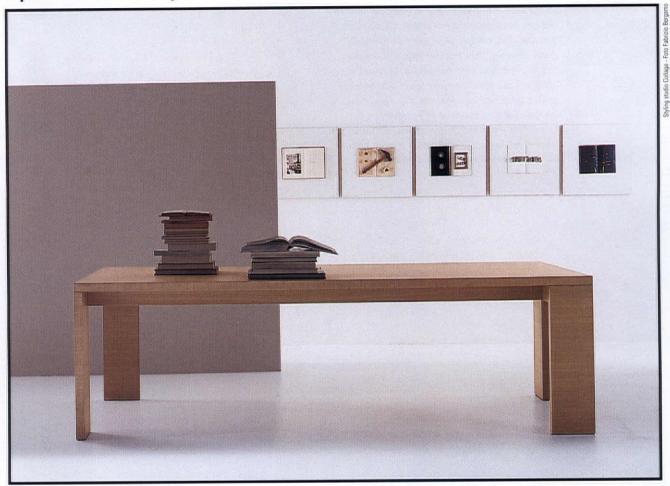
If young children are the easiest people to buy presents for, their grandparents are the hardest. So concluded Connie Hallquist several years ago after fruitlessly searching for a gift for her 87-year-old grandmother. Her frustration led her to found goldviolin.com, a company selling stylish and useful objects for older adults. Featuring elegant walking sticks (\$39 to \$145), sleek ergonomic pens (\$30, right), and graphic large-print playing cards (\$24), the site offers products so welldesigned that you don't have to be in your golden years to covet them.-L.G.



a safe place to send the kids

At mamamedia.com, "clickerati"—cyberchildren ages 5 to 12—draw cartoons, play games, write poems, and share ideas with their peers. They also learn. In the Romp section, explorers can travel to Australia and study the natives, or get help with homework. At Zap, Netsters customize their own Web pages and on-line icons. At Space Gallery, which has links to NASA, budding astronauts can visit a nebula or find out about Galileo's mission to Jupiter.—LESLIE BRENNER

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Ketchups and mustards to thrill your grill by Lora Zarubin

As my friends know, I can't leave well enough alone. Sure, Heinz ketchup and Gulden's mustard will get you through a run-of-the-mill cookout. But why compromise when you can use truly great toppings like Tropical Pepper Company Banana Ketchup and Mendocino Mustard to bring out the flavors of your food? Whether I'm grilling beef franks or seafood sausages, I choose my ketchup and mustard as carefully as I choose my wine. But unlike special vintages, most of my favorite condiments can be found in supermarkets and health food stores.

From Niman Ranch (nimanranch.com)producer of some of the country's best beefcomes the Fearless Frank, the perfect vehicle for Bubbies's sauerkraut and dill relish. With a dollop of McIlhenny Farms mustard, it's heaven in a bun!

Bursting with the flavor of real tomatoes (and none of the sugary-sweet taste that ruins commercial varieties), Mulr Glen Organic Tomato Ketchup (muirglen.com) is my new gold standard—a classic with hamburgers.



I could eat the El Paso Chile Co.'s Cowboy Catsup (elpasochile.com) with a spoon—I love its smoky, spicy flavor that much. I use it instead of barbecue sauce on ribs, and spread it on garlicky beef sausages. Yum.



The Tropical Pepper Company's Banana Ketchup (800-257-6174) tastes like the Caribbean. This rich, fruity sauce is great on garden burgers and curried chicken breast, or used as a dip for grilled shrimp.



Bubbies Pure Kosher Dills and Relish

(bubbies.com) are the best I've tasted north of Delancey Street, and no picnic of mine is complete without them. Crisp and clean, Bubbies

Sauerkraut is a natural for franks, and divine on my charcoal-grilled Reubens.



For sandwiches made with leftover steak, Sierra Nevada Stout & Stoneground Mustard (sierranevada.com) is beyond. I also like the refined, smooth taste of the company's Pale Ale & Honey Spice blend with chicken wings.



The folks at Tabasco (tabasco.com) make the ultimate ballpark mustard, and I am its number-one fan. McIlhenny Farms Spicy Brown Mustard is divine on sweet sausages and brings turkey burgers to life.



I am convinced that Mendocino Mustard (800-964-2270) is the model upon which all honey mustards are based. Full-bodied, extremely smooth, with only a touch of sweetness, this California classic is great on grilled Gruyère sandwiches.



I like to transfer mustard into clay crocks from flea markets or gourmet stores (Dean & Deluca, 800-999-0306, ext. 269). Capped with corks, they go beautifully from fridge to table.









1999 Surfboards and

drums set the tone in

Lorraine Kirke's barn.

Music rooms hit the right notes

by Carolina Irving

Death to the media room! Bring back the salon, I say. What could be more luxurious than having your own private theater or performance space? I would trade any number of DVD players for the opportunity to experience the glamour of a music room like Cole Porter's ravishing Art Deco Paris masterpiece. There, surrounded by Armand-Albert Rateau's exquisite screens. Porter and his wife entertained luminaries like Stravinsky, Gershwin, and Coward. I am just as inspired by the late Balti-

who hired the brilliant Ballets Russes set designer, Léon Bakst, to create a private theater for the string quartet she had in residence each spring and fall. The walls are covered with Russian folk art patterns that make it an enchanting arena. Today, though the music room

is endangered, its spirit lives on in funky spaces like the barn-cum-

more hostess Alice Warder Garrett.

music room that Lorraine Kirke built for her children on Long Island. Bravo!

> 1929 I adore the organ in designer Paul Dupré-Lafon's music room.



1935 A leather-

modern salon

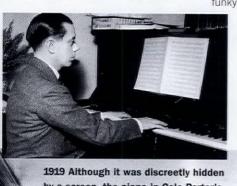
and-chrome piano

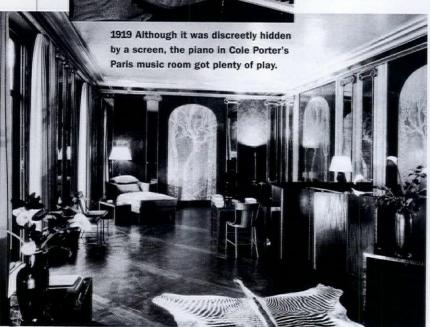
worthy of the most





1922 Alice Warder Garrett's theater at Evergreen, a house museum now run by Johns Hopkins University





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Sultry bloomers that are equal to a dog day afternoon

by Carol King



n a blisteringly hot August day when I was ten, I exclaimed to my mother, "I'm sweating like a pig!" "Carol Lee," my mother replied, "horses sweat. Men perspire. Ladies glow." Well, I'm glowing like a pig. It's too damn hot, and much of the garden is wilted. Except for the big-leafed, tropical-looking cannas. The cannas look great, if you like impossibly gaudy foliage and flowers. Redhot lobellas are beginning to fire up, and the tall Ageratum 'Blue Horizon' continues to go from strength to strength. As one after another potted plant shrivels in the heat, the luxurious ornamental sweet potato vine Ipomoea batatas 'Margarita' spreads its lush chartreuse leaves to fill in the empty spaces. After months of gathering momentum, the dahlias are finally blooming their shaggy heads off.

Some plants don't hit their stride until really hot weather arrives. Late-summer flowers are raw, raunchy, and almost too unrefined for polite society. Testosterone-laden kniphofias, or red-hot pokers, and sun-singed heleniums and rudbeckias strut their stuff stridently enough to be seen from the comfortable distance of an air-conditioned house. Even pristine-looking 'Casa Blanca' lilies can't help but exude the heavy-scented sensuality of a late summer's day.

Dahlia tubers are supposed to be planted in late spring, and need to be pinched, staked, watered, and fertilized to make them do their trick in August. Failing that, large plants can be bought now

to plop into spaces left by such heat wussies as forget-me-nots and Shirley poppies. "But it's so much trouble to dig dahlias up and store them over the winter!" cry some gardeners. Not necessarily. If I adore a particular dahlia, I'll confine the tubers to the

basement during the winter and resurrect them in spring. The more-ordinary dahlias I sometimes leave to freeze. Dahlias are plants, not puppies.

Verbena bonariensis (from Buenos Aires) is deservedly popular for its tall, airy stems and lavender flowers. Its cousins the old-fashioned verbena hybrids from South America are completely different. Dense and low-growing, verbenas form front-of-the-border sheets of solid color with accents of lacy foliage. Long a staple bedding plant in the South, verbenas are among the few flowers that show their colors while still wearing six-packs, but really get going when hot weather triggers masses of flowers. By early August, verbenas have grown into shamelessly colorful lingerie that shows beneath taller-growing plants.

In August, hydrangeas wilt in the heat. Butterfly bushes are still going strong, if faithfully and tediously deadheaded. Better still, the ancient Vitex agnus-castus, or chaste tree, resembles a butterfly bush on steroids. It was reputed to keep medieval wives chaste while their crusader husbands fooled around in the Holy Land, but it has never been clear to me whether vitex was applied, ingested, or worn. Whatever. August-blooming vitex has long, sexy, powder-blue-flower panicles and luxuriant marijuanalike foliage that looks more like an aphrodisiac than an aid to chastity.

In the inferno that is August, shed your fastidious good taste. When you embrace boldlooking plants from the world's hottest places, by summer's end you'll have, instead of a garden gone to hell, a hell of a garden.

HEAT WAVE HEAVIES

A short list of plants that enjoy the heat of August

-Stephen Orr



Abelmoschus manihot is an okra relative with hibiscuslike flowers.



Cannas with variegated leaves make the blooms seem almost secondary.



Wiry Verbena rigida grows taller than the more common verbenas.



Reaching heights of 6 to 7 feet, tithonia is one of the tallest of annuals.



Perilla is grown for its purple leaves, used in Japanese cooking.



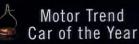
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At a recent Christie's Russian silver sale, a

Fabergé bunny fetched

a healthy \$88,125.

FROM RUSSIA WITH LUSTER

With czarist silver or Ch'ing dynasty bronzes, auction houses serve the ancien-régime tastes of the world's nouveau riche

NE BYLAW of socioeconomics is that new money tries to emulate old. As free-market reforms and the new global economy foster fresh fortunes around the world, auction houses and real estate dealers alike are enjoying the benefits (and in some cases the annoyances), while a nascent class of superrich acquire the luxurious trappings of the old aristocracy.

The growing market in nineteenth-century Russian silver is one example. In those days, Moscow and Saint Petersburg were fine places to be a silversmith. The market included both the vast Russian nobility and a growing bourgeoisie. What's more, it was a market with a shifting sense of style that offered craftsmen wide opportunities to create and sell new works. "Russian silver still appeals to the same class of buyer," says Gerard Hill of Sotheby's. "The new rich."

It also appeals to all tastes. Earlynineteenth-century Russian silversmiths,
in keeping with the Westernization
begun by Peter the Great, copied
the classic styles of continental
Europe and England, says Alexis
de Tiesenhausen of Christie's.
But by the later years of the
century, pride in Russian traditions was reborn. "The companies gave carte blanche to their

designers," says de Tiesenhausen. "They developed a level of workmanship you can't find in other silver."

"The Slavic revival movement at the end of the nineteenth century was represented in silver in fantastic ways," notes Mark Schaffer of the New York antiques store À la Vieille Russie. These included elaborate cloisonné *objets* in



THE MANALAPAN MONSTER

William Randolph Hearst's castle at San Simeon checks in at 64,000 square feet; Mar-a-Lago. Marjorie Merriweather Post's Palm Beach estate. 75,000. But if you want to live like an old-time tycoon, the 32,000 square feet at 1370 South Ocean Boulevard in Manalapan, Florida-with its master bedroom the size of most houses, 18 bathrooms, 12car garage, movie theater, and observatory-will do. All that the place lacks is a pedigree. Priced at \$30 million, the mansion, boasts builder Frank McKinnev (and no one is arguing), is the most expensive property ever built on specthat is, without a par-

ticular buyer in mind.

A gamble? With a number of multi-million-dollar spec homes on his résumé, McKinney says, he knows his market. "Someone at fifty-five has twenty quality years left," he says. "They don't want to spend even 10 percent of that time building."

McKinney estimates there are 50,000 people worldwide who can afford the place. Others in the business call the figure optimistic, and point out the cachet problem. While Manalapan has a higher per capita income, the town does not have the tony resonance of neighboring Palm Beach. To McKinney. that's a selling point: "If this house were in Palm Beach, it would cost fifty million."



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on the block

patterns suggested by traditional textiles; wares like silver *kovshy* — medieval single-handled drinking vessels — crafted in modern forms; and *objets*, from jewelry boxes to cigar cutters, modeled as figures from Russian folklore or sentimentalized country characters. While Carl Faberge's is the most famous workshop, some of the better bargains in Russian silver are the work of other masters of the era who also held the imperial warrant—the czar's seal of approval. Names to watch for include Ovchinnikov, Sazikov, Morozov, and Nicholls & Plincke.

Overall, auctioneers say, Russian silver is a better value than English silver of the era. Prices are beginning to tick up, however, thanks in large part to the interest of the new rich of Russia. "The market was deprived of its native audience for eighty years," explains Hill, "and that helped depress prices." As well, Russians did not use as pure a grade of silver as the English. "As silver, these pieces may be overvalued," says de Tiesenhausen. "But the newcomers to the field are more

interested in the craftsmanship. And as works of art, Russian silver is undervalued.'

But then there is the case of the tiger, ox, and monkey auctioned at Sotheby's and Christie's in Hong Kong late this spring. They were made of bronze and were only heads, but they could hardly have caused more of an uproar if real, live animals had got loose in the salesrooms.

The bronzes had once formed part of a zodiac fountain in the Old Summer Palace, a vast, opulent, imperial pleasure garden dotted with exquisite bijou castles, built near Beijing in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

The palace was looted and burned in 1860 by British and French troops, who had marched on the capitol in the European effort to force free trade on the Manchu rulers. The destruction of the palace stands as an act of national

A silver and glass jug, left, brought \$3,760 at Christie's, and a Sazikov cigar cutter sold for \$49,350.

humiliation that stings the Chinese to this day. Moreover, relics from the late Ch'ing dynasty, the last Chinese empire, are particularly prized by the newly wealthy of modern China.

"Christie's played up the Summer Palace provenance more than they ever had before," says James Lally, a noted New York dealer in Asian antiquities, who attended the sale. In doing so, says another observer of the market, "they were inviting an emotional reaction."

They got it. China's State Bureau of Cultural Relics sent

Christie's a letter protesting the sale. A similar letter was sent to Sotheby's Hong Kong, decrying the sale that same week of treasures from the Old Summer Palace. When the auction houses stood their ground, their sales were visited by demonstrators and hecklers. "These bronzes



were sold eleven years ago and no one said a word," laments one auction house representative.

members of the Chinese antiquities market are now wondering if China's newfound cultural chauvinism will affect auctions not only in Hong Kong but in New York, London, and other markets. Chinese officials in the United States would not answer questions about the possibility that the bureau of cultural relics might monitor auctions of Chinese antiquities abroad. Dealers, however, say that only on very rare occasions have Chinese government representatives been spotted at Western sales.

The primary effect of China's protest will be on cultural events rather than sales at auction houses or stores, says Amy Page, a journalist who is a longtime follower of the Asian antiquities market. "It may stop public exhibitions," she says. "I don't think collectors are going to lend pieces if they think the Chinese government will raise a fuss."

Other experts feel that the Chinese



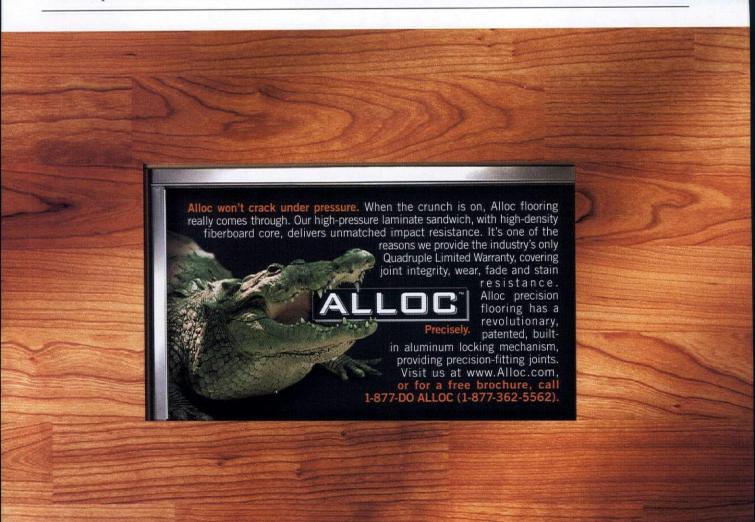
Auctioneers on the horns of a dilemma? China protested the sale of this imperial ox head, but it went for \$1 million.

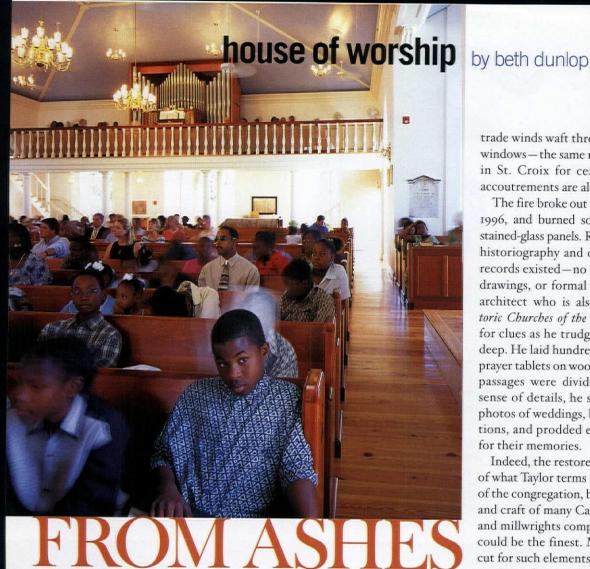
protests were simply grandstanding. "The demonstrations relate more to their internal politics," says Lally. "The people making noise were highly placed. They wanted to trumpet that they were recovering objects for the pride of China."

And, indeed, in an odd resolution to the events, the bronzes did go back to China—one to a Beijing antiquities dealer, the others to a new museum established by the China Poly Group, a state-owned consortium run until last year by the People's Liberation Army.

The irony is that, for all the clamor, the three heads together fetched \$4 million, more than double their estimated prices.

Are such potential profit margins worth the major auction houses' courting the ire of China? Christie's executives have so far offered no reaction to the Hong Kong brouhaha. Carlton Rochell, managing director of Sotheby's China and Southeast Asia division, says that the auction house is careful to make its catalogs available to anybody who polices the international arts market: "We will continue to be diligent in making sure that whatever lots we sell are appropriate." In the event of stronger protests by China, he says, "we'd probably enter a dialogue with the government." To what end, he leaves unclear. In the meantime, Rochell touts the fact that the free market brought about a happy conclusion. "I know it sounds self-serving," he admits, "but Sotheby's had a large hand in repatriating this stuff to China."





After a devastating fire, a determined St. Croix congregation rebuilds its historic church

FFICIALLY, IT is St. Paul's Episcopal Church, but it is called, more simply, "The English Church," a name that speaks of both time and place. It is a simple, neoclassical structure with an equally simple neo-Gothic bell tower, and a surpassing dignity and elegance. Built in 1812 for the English planters living in Danish-owned St. Croix, the church endured almost two centuries of volatile man-made history and treacherous hurricanes, only to suffer a fire so ferocious that almost all that remained were the three-foot-thick walls of coral rock and brick and the galvanized sheet-metal roof.

"In the end, St. Paul's was too important not to save," says William Anglin Taylor, the architect who oversaw its restoration. Today, St. Paul's is whole again, risen quite literally out of the ashes. Its ceiling is the pale blue favored by some church architects in the late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth centuries. Caribbean

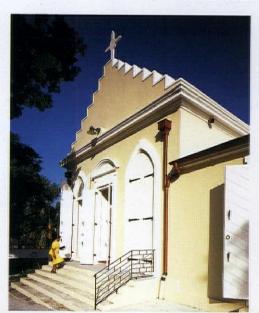
St. Paul's, above, has had a fully integrated congregation since the middle of the 19th century, way ahead of Episcopal churches on the American mainland. A parishioner, right, enters the rebuilt church through one of its arched doorways.

trade winds waft through mahogany louvered windows - the same mahogany that has grown in St. Croix for centuries. If the church's accoutrements are all new, they are true.

The fire broke out on the night of January 8, 1996, and burned so fiercely that it melted stained-glass panels. Restoration required both historiography and detective work, as scant records existed-no original plans, measured drawings, or formal photographs. Taylor, an architect who is also coauthor of The Historic Churches of the Virgin Islands, searched for clues as he trudged through ashes a foot deep. He laid hundreds of shards of the stone prayer tablets on wood tables to see how Bible passages were divided. To get an accurate sense of details, he scrutinized hundreds of photos of weddings, baptisms, and confirmations, and prodded elderly church members for their memories.

Indeed, the restored church relies on much of what Taylor terms the "collective memory" of the congregation, but it also invokes the art and craft of many Caribbean islands. Masons and millwrights competed to see whose work could be the finest. Mahogany timbers were cut for such elements as the beams, balusters, pews, windows, and shutters. Local limestone that had been used in the bell tower was discovered lying by a roadside, so the missing pieces were easily replaced.

Other elements of the church had originally been imported, and were again. The heart pine flooring arrived from the Carolinas, just as it had in 1812. Wrought-iron hinges and brackets came from Cassidy Bros. Forge, in Massachusetts. Dick Reid, a stone carver in







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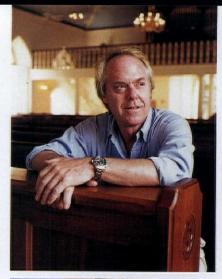
house of worship

England whose restoration work has included Windsor Castle, created new prayer tablets and the pulpit. From parishioners' photos, stained-glass scholar and restorer Jack Cushen of East Marion, New York, was able to discern the scenes of a large arched window whose center panel showed St. Paul surrounded by soldiers and disciples. The redone stained glass adds to the group Elisha Daniel Sr., St. Paul's longtime warden, who was baptized, confirmed, and married in the church, and who devotedly saw it through the entire restoration process.

For the carved wood, much of which would be copied from the originals, Taylor turned to Demetrius Klitsas, a master woodworker from Massachusetts. For the altars, however, Taylor asked a local artist, Jeri Hillis, to draw a template for Klitsas, with Caribbean foliage rather than the English flora of the original. Stylized carvings of sea grape, ginger Thomas, coconut palm, mahogany, bird-of-paradise, and banana leaves now adorn the altars.

One can picture St. Paul's original architect, anonymous today, armed with Isaac Ware's books of Palladio and a set of mathematical rules. The church is at once sophisticated and primitive, its strict proportions adhering to the Palladian ideal that informed so much English architecture of the time. "It is actually typical of a Caribbean great house, with its basic proportions and three-part symmetry," Taylor says. "The golden mean was the starting point." And as in a Caribbean great house, the windows-covered only with mahogany shutters-fling open to let air in and sounds of worship out. Each arched window has its own spring point and dimensions. Despite the formal proportions, the church is a mix of precision and improvisation.

In 1848, Denmark abolished slavery, and the island was integrated beyond the imaginings of those outside the Caribbean. To commemorate abolition, St. Paul's added a bell tower of native stone, but in the neo-Gothic style that had become popular. The tower is the church's formal entrance and is used for wedding and funeral processions,



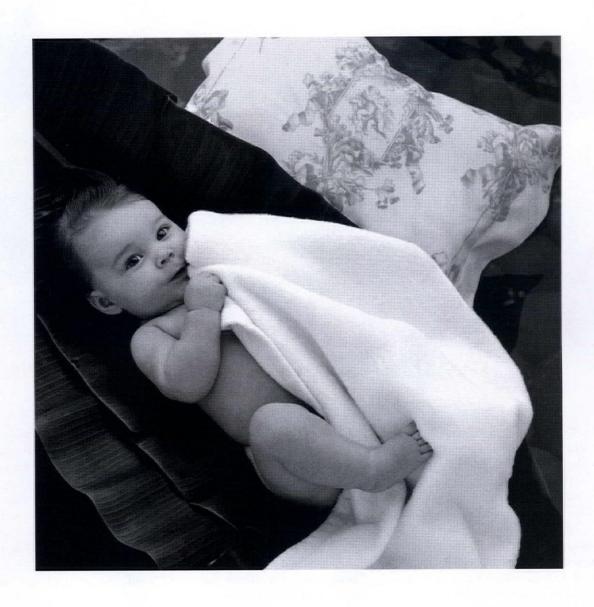


With no old plans or formal photographs to guide him in the restoration, William Anglin Taylor, top, had to work as both detective and architect. A neo-Gothic bell tower of local limestone, above, had been added in 1848, to commemorate the freeing of the island's slaves.

but on a given Sunday the parishioners stream through side doors.

After the bell tower went up, the church was fully integrated, and has been ever since. Eventually, the balconies where blacks used to sit came down. When the United States bought the Virgin Islands in 1917, the American Episcopal Church faced its own quandary, as mainland churches weren't integrated. "The church in St. Croix offered a paradigm for the equality of heaven as seen on earth," Taylor says. "At some point, God takes over and says, these are all my children."

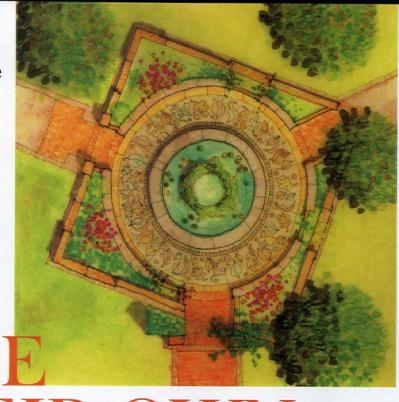
Beth Dunlop lives in Miami Beach. Her most recent book is A House for My Mother: Architects Build for Their Families (Princeton Architectural Press).



NATURE OR NURTURE?
YOU CAN'T GO WRONG WITH BOTH.

Peacock Alley

by ethne clarke



A PLACE OF THEIR OWN

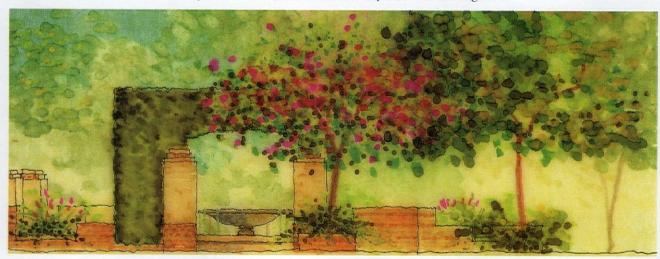
The greening of Chicago includes a splendid new garden celebrating the lives of women

HERE ARE MANY new parks and garden initiatives changing the face of the Chicago cityscape. Supported by Mayor Richard M. Daley and Commissioner for Cultural Affairs Lois Weisberg, the parkways, alleys, median strips, rooftops, riverbanks, and wastelands of the metropolis are blossoming. Horticultural energy crackles from community vegetable plots to private yards, while garden-minded citizens glow with approval for the city's greening, which now means more than tinting the Chicago River a liverish emerald on St. Patrick's Day.

The Daley administration's determination to improve Chicago's landscape stems not only from the mayor's own interest in gardening, but also from the fact that during the 1995 heat wave, scores of people died of heat exhaustion because the city itself was literally suffocating; decades of tree loss and buildover resulted in acres of unshaded space that absorbed the heat during the day, only to bounce it back at night. The city couldn't cool down, and the old, the ill, and the poor suffered the consequences.

Tree and median-strip planting, and the transformation of City Hall's roof into a garden

The central fountain, above, will be housed in a garden room whose walls are raised brick planters. The fountain itself (seen from the side, below) is a simple bronze bowl, spilling water.





green thoughts

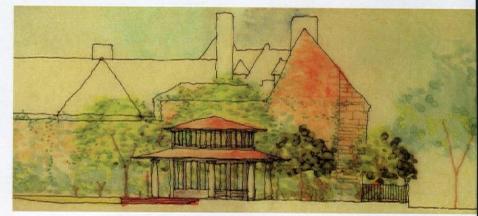
oasis, have attracted the most publicity to date, but there is another project that caught my attention on a recent visit to my hometown—the development of a new park and garden, to open this month, celebrating the contributions of generations of women, particularly Chicago women, to the economic, cultural, and social diversity of this country.

HE PARK is set within a four-acre site on Prairie Avenue, just south of the downtown area known as the Loop. Prairie Avenue was once the most salubrious address in Chicago, but with the industrialization of the near South Side, it fell on hard times. Today, it is recognized as a historic district and has been designated as an area for neighborhood revitalization.

Parks are often celebratory, and this one is no exception, but there is no hint of triumphalism in its homage to women's lives. "This is a small land-scape on a human scale," according to

its landscape architect, Mimi McKay. "The buildings surrounding it contribute a more gardenlike feeling, reminiscent of a home setting; and unlike the more formal Chicago parks, the Women's Park is extremely plant-intensive, and that is what makes it so distinctive."

and shaded veranda. A simple linear path frames the house, uniting the expanse of lawn behind it with the small orchard and the formal herb, perennial, and vegetable gardens that are laid to either side of the house. These little gardens will be historically

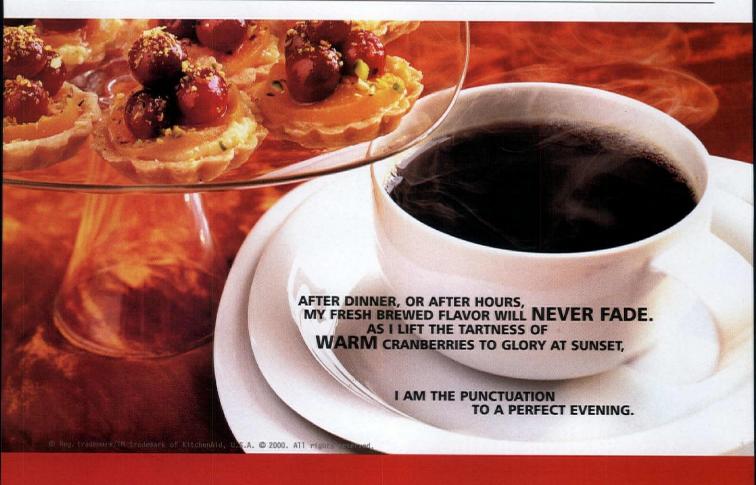


The summer house will face the open lawn and be used for performances.

The domestic setting centers on the historic Clarke House, which was moved here from elsewhere in the city. The oldest residential structure in Chicago, it is a charming white clapboard building with ornamental cupola

accurate for the period of the house, and are themed for medicinal and culinary herbs, dye plants, heirloom vegetables and flowers, and a rose garden.

After the construction and planting are complete, there will also be a



conservatory and an education center. The Chicago Botanic Garden will use the Women's Park as an educational outpost, and it is hoped that one day there will be a full-time horticulturist. If anything, the difficult part of the scheme will be caretaking such an intensively gardened public space.

A winding path explores the park perimeter, weaving through a densely planted belt of mixed flowering shrubs and perennials. There are seating areas along the path, and a circular summer house in one corner, to which visitors can retreat to relax. As project architect Tannys Langdon says, "We are making places here, not objects that decorate the space—there won't be any sculpture—and we hope visitors will respond by pulling up a chair for a chat."

Langdon goes on to explain that McKay's "looping path exploring the outer areas of the garden represents women reaching beyond their prescribed limits, and moving in and out of traditional roles." But since not all women find their fulfillment outside the home, there is also a fountain at the

approximate center of the plan that represents domestic achievement. According to Langdon, it is a deliberately quiet and contemplative fountain: "My original plan had been to construct the fountain from kitchen utensils. Water would pour quietly from one receptacle into another, representing the thousands of small homely acts that provide a steady center to so many lives."

who had a significant role in Chicago's history. These women are identified in a forthcoming book, *Women Building Chicago*, 1790–1990, a biographical dictionary (edited by Rima Schultz and Adele Hast, and published by Indiana University Press).

Some of the achievements are rather unexpected, like that of the two sisters who ran a brothel. "They were the best

The small scale contributes to the contemplative nature of the park

The small scale of the site and the intricacy of the planting contribute to the contemplative nature of the park; there are no tennis courts, basketball hoops, or open areas for energetic recreation. Instead, it is hoped that visitors will find repose, pause to reflect, or gather inspiration. To reinforce the inspirational ideal, the path is inscribed with quotations from famous American women, and will be further illustrated with plaques listing the names and contributions of more than 400 women

female entrepreneurs this city has ever had," McKay says, "and we have to recognize that some women lived and were successful in what was regarded as an acceptable manner, while other women lived their lives and made their marks less conventionally." Recognition of this fact may help to explain the park's name, the Hillary Rodham Clinton Women's Park and Gardens of Chicago—an apposite choice of an Illinois woman whose achievements are not unmixed with controversy.



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BRIGHT WHITES

HAD TO GO to Paris to register that something major was happening in Friuli. I was lunching at Alain Ducasse, the Michelin three-star eatery, perusing the wine list in search of a nice expensive white burgundy to wash down the coquilles Saint-Jacques aux truffes noires. Gérard Margeon, the chef sommelier, asked me if I wanted to try something un peu différent, specifically—you might want to sit down before you read this next part—an Italian white from Friuli, a 1995 Breg from Josko Gravner. I still don't understand what kind of

ago, when I tasted the Chardonnay of Silvio Jermann, a rock-and-roll lover who was experimenting with low yields, new oak, and weird names. (One of his wines was called, I kid you not, Where the Dreams Have No End, after a song by U2.) Gambero Rosso, publisher of Italian Wines, suggests that Jermann "more than anyone else represents Friuli oenology." Josko Gravner, the creator of the wine I drank in Paris, is an almost mythical figure in Friuli. He made his name with a series of powerful, heavily oaked white blends.

The crisp wines of Friuli are Italy's

international conspiracy was at work, but the Gravner turned out to be very good stuff, although I almost fell out of my chair for the second time that day when I saw what Ducasse was charging for it.

Once upon a time, Italian whites were usually forgotten before they were finished-all that generic pinot grigio and Orvieto had less flavor than San Pellegrino water, and only slightly more alcohol. But something exciting has been happening in Friuli, the area north of Venice that borders Austria and Slovenia. The region has prospered in part as "the chair capital of the world," and many of the vineyards are owned by furniture manufacturers who have invested heavily in technology. Friuli was the first region in Italy to adopt stainless-steel tanks and controlled temperature fermentation. Although some very good reds are produced there, the dry whites are especially compelling.

I sometimes think of Friuli as the Alsace of Italy. Like Alsace, it produces a variety of great white wines. Also like Alsace, it has a definite Teutonic accent, as is evidenced in the names of many of the estates. In addition to local varietals like *picolit*, all kinds of alien grapes thrive there, including tokai, sauvignon blanc, Riesling, Chardonnay, pinot bianco, and pinot grigio. Some of the most exciting wines coming out of the area, like Jermann's Vintage Tunina and Gravner's Breg, are blends of different varietals.

My first Friuli epiphany took place a decade

Recently, he has renounced the use of oak, preferring to age his wines in clay amphorae—he's sort of the wine-making equivalent of De Chirico, who helped invent modernism only to renounce it early in his career for a paint-by-numbers classicism. I've never been less than impressed by Gravner's wines, though at this point they seem absurdly overpriced.

answer to a great summer drink

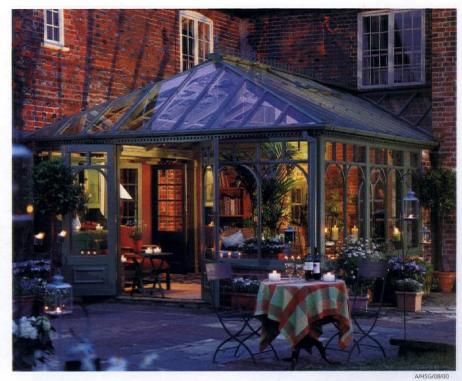
Happily, the renaissance of wine making in Friuli is extremely broad-based, propelled by established figures like Livio Felluga and Mario Schiopetto, as well as by newcomers like Dominic Nocerino, the proprietor of Sant'Elena, and the Bastianich family. Lidia Bastianich and her son Joseph purchased a vineyard near Buttrio after achieving gastronomic renown with several superb New York restaurants. Esca, Joseph's latest restaurant venture with superchef Mario Batali, features the seafood of southern Italy and a wine list heavy on the whites of Friuli. Anyone in search of mind-boggling food-and-wine matches should consider, as Esca does, pairing crudo (Italian sashimi) with some of the crisp, clean Friulian varietals like tokai and pinot grigio. "The brightness of these wines really seems to complement the lush texture and fattiness of the fish," says Wayne Young, one of Esca's sommeliers, who also recommends the wines with crustaceans. Both tokai and pinot grigio grapes can be incredibly wimpy and insipid, but when the yields in the vineyards are kept low and the fruit is allowed to fully

ripen, the results can be stunning. Tasting a pinot grigio like Polencic Isidoro's bold and piercing 1997 will ruin your future encounters with the ubiquitous Santa Margherita Pinot Grigio.

Like Riesling, tokai and pinot grigio generally seem to shine when they are kept away from wood. But the region also produces fatter, bolder wines, what are called grandi vini. Many of these are Chardonnay-based and acquire some of their power from aging in new oak barrels. This style, pioneered by Gravner, finds extreme expression in makers like Stanislao Radikon, whose Louisville Slugger-like wines could probably stand up to a strip steak. Personally, I tend to like Friulian wines in a slightly crisper, fresher style-wines like Felluga's Terre Alte, which is made without oak. But that's me. Among the virtues of this great region is the fact that, stylistically speaking, it's all over the map.

THE OENO FILE

1998 VIE DI ROMANS FLORS DI UIS This is definitely a grande vino, a gorgeous, mouth-filling blend of Chardonnay, Riesling, and a bunch of local grapes that I've never heard of. Who cares? This is one of Friuli's landmarks. \$33 1998 BASTIANICH VESPA This wine combines the Ginsu-knife brightness of steel-fermented sauvignon blanc with the flesh and structure of barrelfermented Chardonnay. \$26 1997 LA CASTELLADA BIANCO DELLA **CASTELLADA Starts off with a minty** nose. Seems to expand in the mouth as various fruit flavors kick in. Rich texture, long finish. A sensational blend. \$44 1997 LIS NERIS ST. JUROSA **CHARDONNAY A world-class Chard** reminding me more than anything of a Michel Niellon Chassange-Montrachet from a great year. \$22 1998 LE VIGNE DI ZAMÒ TOCAI FRIULIANO Very bright, citrusy flavors are complicated by mysterious spicy and smoky highlights. A lingering finish. \$24 1998 SANT'ELENA PINOT GRIGIO The perfect late-summer wine. Richer and plumper than the usual pinot grigio, but



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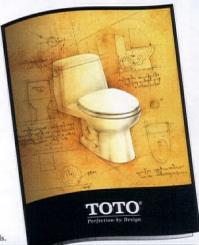
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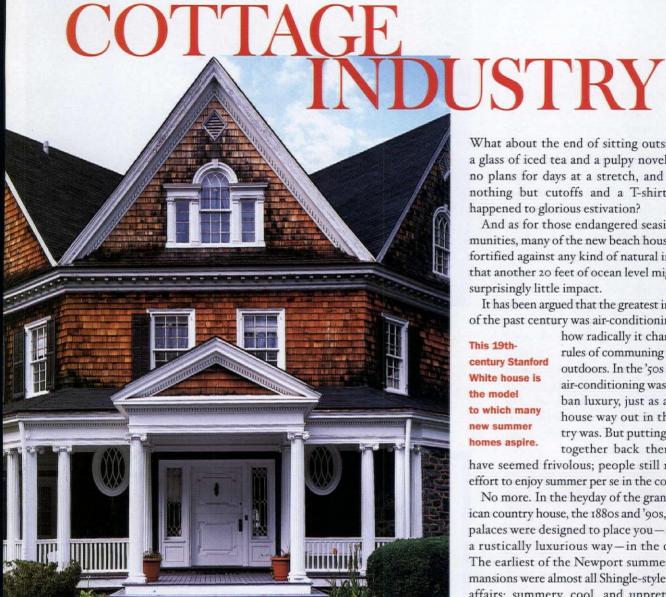


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passing fancies by david colman



OME PEOPLE find it difficult to get reservations in our fashionable summer watering holes. And yet I seem to get nothing but.

Call it what you like - summer house or country house—the once seasonal rural retreat has been totally winterized, with acres of insulation, thermal windows, and central heating. The problem is that the summer house has been completely desummerized.

That the past three winters have been the warmest of the twentieth century has prompted some reasonable concern for seaside dwellers the world over, as well as much hand wringing over the end of the snowy winters of yesteryear. But I say, what of the end of summer?

They may look like oldfashioned summer homes, but most new summer treats are urban to the core

What about the end of sitting outside with a glass of iced tea and a pulpy novel, having no plans for days at a stretch, and wearing nothing but cutoffs and a T-shirt? What happened to glorious estivation?

And as for those endangered seaside communities, many of the new beach houses are so fortified against any kind of natural intrusion that another 20 feet of ocean level might have surprisingly little impact.

It has been argued that the greatest invention of the past century was air-conditioning, given

This 19thcentury Stanford White house is the model to which many new summer homes aspire.

how radically it changed the rules of communing with the outdoors. In the '50s and '60s, air-conditioning was a suburban luxury, just as a second house way out in the country was. But putting the two together back then would

have seemed frivolous; people still made an effort to enjoy summer per se in the country.

No more. In the heyday of the grand American country house, the 1880s and '90s, pastoral palaces were designed to place you - albeit in a rustically luxurious way-in the country. The earliest of the Newport summer colony mansions were almost all Shingle-style wooden affairs: summery, cool, and unpretentious, even if large in scale. And when the grander houses started going up, people like Edith Wharton, who had cherished the place for its humbler aesthetic, took flight, and Newport became the place we know today, a marbled procession of seaside palaces with all the informal summer calm of a mausoleum.

It happened elsewhere, too. Biltmore, the neo-Gothic North Carolina house built by George Washington Vanderbilt, was sarcastically referred to by its own architect as "about ten miles long and two and a half wide." It would seem that such Vanderbilt-style grandeur is now out of style, if you judge by the vogue for replicating the Shingle-style homes of yore. But the new rusticity is just a mirage. The central tenet of the new country house seems to be as follows: big, new, and weatherproof on the inside, and

Here I A arents prefer MEAN OF DISCIPINE been climin



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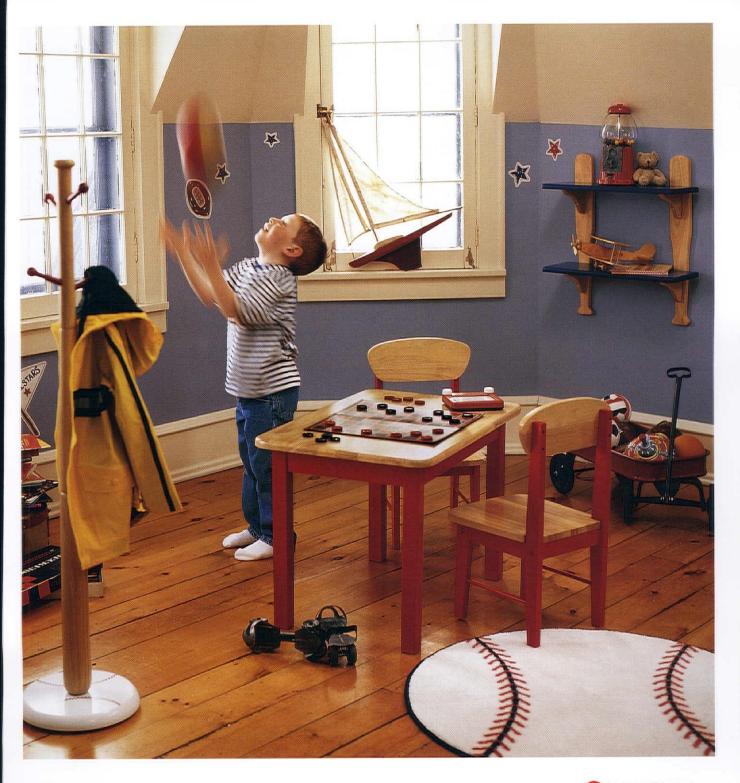








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passing fancies

quaint, old, and weatherworn on the out. Up and down the Eastern Seaboard, the old-fashioned style is back in force, but only as a look. Inside, one does not find a breezy exurban ramble but a climate-controlled suburban behemoth.

VEN JEFFREY COLLÉ, the Long Island builder who has made a name for himself with meticulously crafted, true-to-Southampton shingled country houses for the insta-riche, points out that behind the fine wooden wainscoting and beneath the 200-year-old doweled and plugged pine flooring, there has to be a great big central air-conditioning system, a security system, and a wide-screen TV—all the amenities of home.

So why even bother with the shingles? It's a funny thing. The Shingle style, with an esprit born and bred in casual, ramshackle American quarters, is incredibly elastic and kind. Which shouldn't be surprising, since it came back as a boon to modern architects

like Robert A. M. Stern, Robert Venturi, and Charles Gwathmey, who embraced it as a way of mellowing the rough edges of the sharp silhouettes on avant-garde summer houses.

The style, with its classy yet casual air, has also proved to be more forgiving of architectural silliness than other neotraditional styles, such as Georgian or Tudor, according to Alastair Gordon, author of the forthcoming book *Weekend Utopia*, a history of the modern beach house. And that newfound freedom has proved to be irresistible. "For one, you

on a disturbingly grand scale. As the owner of a small, open-to-the-elements beach house in Amagansett, Long Island, built by his parents in the early 1960s, he has watched dolefully as his new billionaire neighbors have added shingled thingamajigs—from whole wings to little garbage can shelters—to their rustic mansions. Gordon's own little house seems to be such an eyesore to his neighbors that he must constantly refuse offers to sell it for a teardown.

"It used to be that the summer house represented a longing for simplicity,

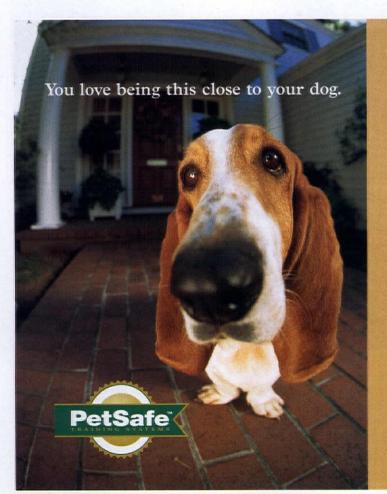
The problem is that the summer house has been completely desummerized

can add all the stuff you want—a cupola, a gazebo, a Palladian window," Gordon points out. But you have to keep building with the neotrad elements. "Neotraditional architecture exhibits arrival and status better than modern does," he says, "and if you break the formula, it doesn't look like old-line money anymore."

Gordon has seen this ballet mounted

where you would open the house in May and enjoy it through the summer, and then close it down," says Gordon. "This is all actually making it more complicated. These people who are overbuilding think they're capitalizing on empty space, but they're just creating more emptiness."

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Edward Steichen celebrates his favorite subject

s if photographed in the moon-light, a young woman admires the ghostly spires of giant delphiniums. Published in *House & Garden* in 1933, this nocturnal apparition, the work of fashion photographer Edward Steichen, betrays its creator's secret passion. Celebrated for his exquisite society portraits, Steichen was also an accomplished delphinium cross-breeder.

Captured in his Connecticut delphinium garden, the model—probably his second wife, Dana—is absorbed in contemplation, ignoring the lens. Her gesture reflects the photographer's growing desire to turn away from the world of glamour. More and more, Steichen would seek

refuge among his blooming interspecies. "Without this sustenance, I don't believe I could have remained alive and interested in my professional photographic activities in New York for as long as I did," he later wrote.

In 1936, he persuaded the Museum of Modern Art to put up a show of his flowers—the first time that MoMA gave living things the same status as man-made objects. But with his obsession now in the open, Steichen could no longer temper his frustration with the superficial world of fashion photography. In 1938, he closed his studio, exchanging his reputation as the highest-paid photographer for a quiet renown in botany circles.



Pictured: Kid's Biarritz club chair in Old America Ranch leather. Behind it: Zachary Sofa in white-denim slipcover over feather-blend duvet cushions.



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House Garden



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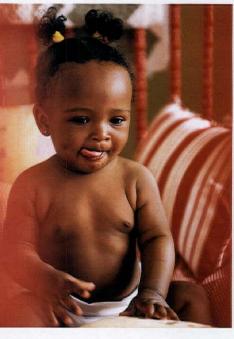


■ Your little ones deserve some big ideas. Whether they're still prelingual or talking a blue streak (on the phone, at least), their rooms should be as individual as they are. When they're babies, you can put them in a crib with flair. A few years later, they need space to play. And then there are teenagers—an opinionated crew. They told us what they want. They'll tell you, too. Listen up!

rooms to grow

The number of th

The nursery can be as chic as

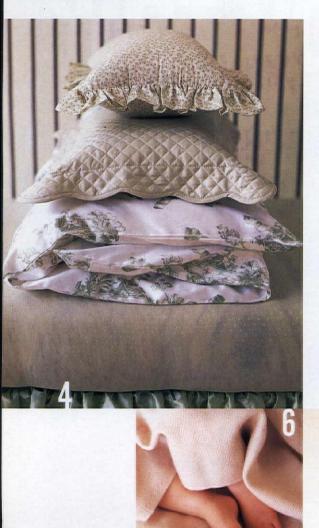


1 From top: Cashmere-covered baby water bottle, \$182, from Malo, NYC; crocheted blanket, \$135, from ABC Carpet & Home, NYC; tan cashmere blanket, \$199, by Baby Gap; cashmere pillow, \$271, by Malo; Oh, So Soft plaid blanket, \$68, by Sweet William, through babystyle.com; découpage stool, \$65, from Plain Jane Inc., NYC. 2 Jenny Lind-styled crib, \$595; bed skirt, \$160; and sheet, \$40, all by Plain Jane Inc. Blanket is Bangles & Bows fabric bordered in Carousel Stripe, both from Jane Churchill. 3 Pillow fabrics, **Carousel Check and Carousel** Stripe, from Jane Churchill. Pillows, back right and left, covered in Dressing Up, by Liberty, through Osborne & Little, NYC. Bumper, \$185, from Plain Jane Inc. Feathered Star quilt, \$250, from Judi Boisson, available at babystyle.com. Custom blanket and pillows made by Camille Casaretti, Brooklyn, NY.

Dally talk the rest of your house. Watch your little ones take their ones take



baby talk



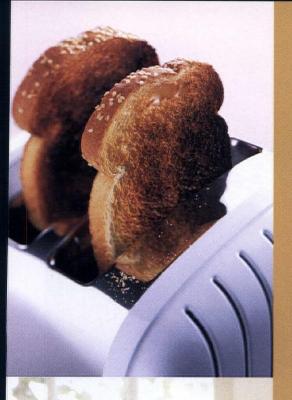
A traditional look gets a soft, sophisticated update

4 From top: Annabelle pillow, \$80, from ABC Carpet & Home; Ballad boudoir pillow, \$101, Daydream Duvet, \$135, and Ballad crib sheet, \$55, all from Peacock Alley. 5 Satin and velvet quilt, \$175, from ABC Carpet & Home. 6, 7 Cashmere blanket, \$346, booties, \$143, and hat, \$160, all from Malo; Ballad boudoir pillow, \$58, from Peacock Alley; blanket, \$95, from ABC Carpet & Home. 8 Casablanca Premiere Crib. \$1,169, by Bratt Decor; Daydream quilt, \$145, from Peacock Alley; bed skirt in silk taffeta from Christopher Norman, NYC, custommade by Camille Casaretti.









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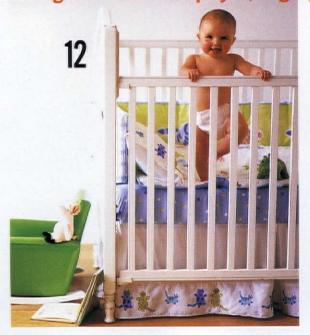
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baby talk



The modern bouncing babe exults in a playful, brightly colored, unisex space



9 Cashmere blanket, \$365, and ribbed cotton blanket, \$70, from ABC Carpet & Home. 10 Cat pillow, custom-made by Camille Casaretti, in Cats Chorus fabric from Designers Guild, through Osborne & Little, NYC; Cottontail pillow, \$48, from Anichini, NYC. 11 Pink chenille pillow, \$40, and vintage chenille pillow, \$75, from Plain Jane Inc.; Chenille Children's chair by Blue Moon, \$450, from Cradle & All, NYC. 12 Vinyl rocker by Baby X, \$250, from urbanbaby.com; Cottage crib, \$799, from Ethan Allen Inc.; bedding from P. J. Flower Inc., NYC, in Cats Chorus line: bumper, \$125; fitted sheet, \$24; crib skirt, \$25; embroidered pillow, \$55; and quilt, \$125. Sources, see back of book.

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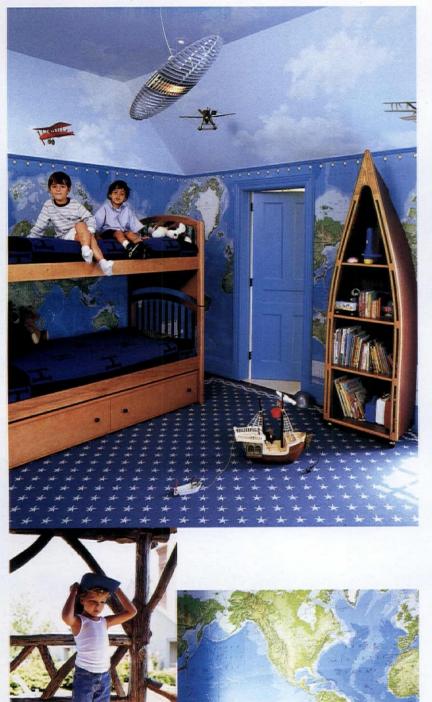
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rooms to grow



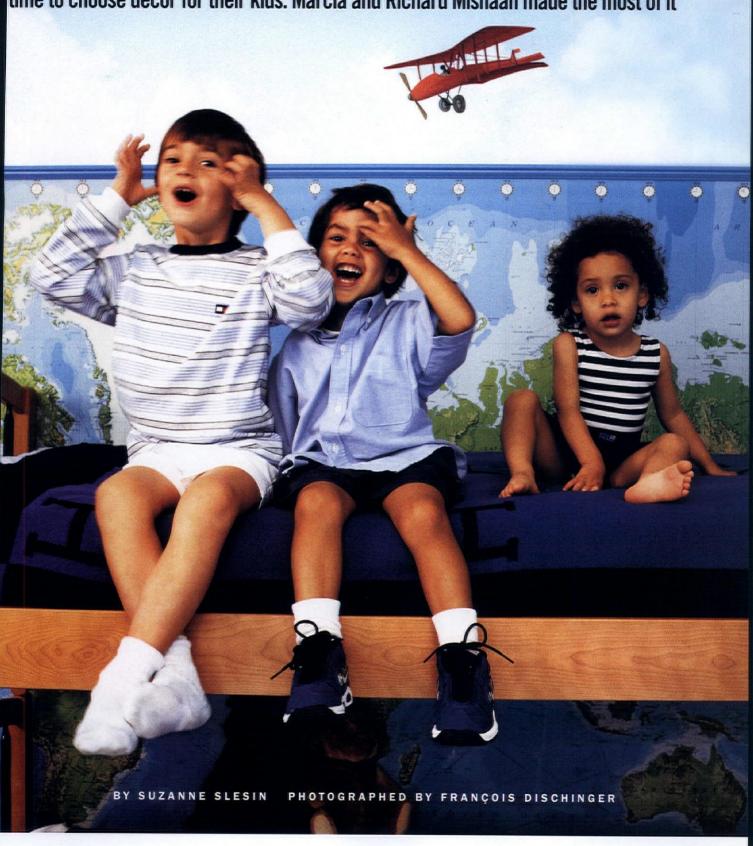


Parents have a brief, unopposed

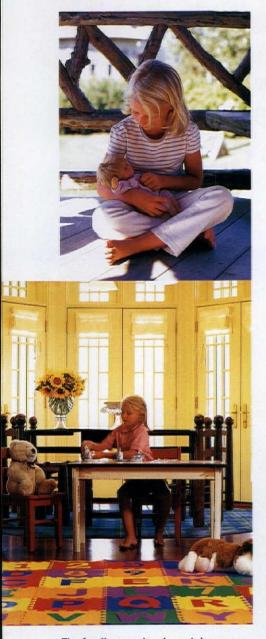


Even in these politically correct times, parents can decree that there are differences between boys' and girls' rooms. For him, left: Toy airplanes from Pottery Barn fly under a painted ceiling, fitted with a Luce Plan hanging light from the Lighting Center, NYC. The map-patterned wallpaper, educational as well as decorative, is available by special order through Homer, NYC. Books are stored in a canoeshaped shelf unit, available at Homer, NYC. The Small Stars carpet is from Stark Carpet, NYC. A Le Corbusier Grand Confort, Petite Modele chair, bottom left, is from Cassina. The bunk beds are from Bellini, NYC. The bedding on the bunk beds is from Hermès. The toy boat is from Fisher-Price. What could be sweeter for a girl than a woodsy mural, above, by James A. Smith, NYC, and a garlanded Petite Diagonal carpet from Stark Carpet, NYC. The wicker furniture was found at Punch, East Hampton, NY.

kids rule time to choose decor for their kids. Marcia and Richard Mishaan made the most of it



kids rule

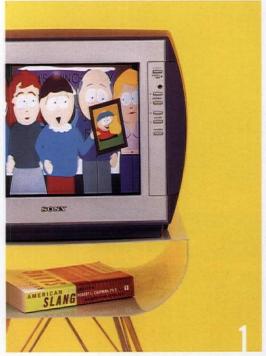


The family room has been taken over by the younger set. Bold colors, jaunty plaids, and a soft-fabric-walled playhouse-not to mention the stuffed toys-offer lots of things to do, even on rainy days. The wing chair and ottoman, right, are in a Designers Guild plaid, available through Osborne & Little, NYC. The English plaid rug is from the Saxony Carpet Company, NYC, and the old-fashioned rocking horse, from FAO Schwarz, NYC. The custommade cabinetry, designed by Richard Mishaan, houses a TV and stereo system from Pioneer Electronics. The wallpaper border is from Anna French Ltd.; the playhouse is from Le Bon Marché, Paris. Sources, see back of book.





opinions on design.
Their tastes may differ from yours, but peaceful, fashionable coexistence is possible



teen dreams

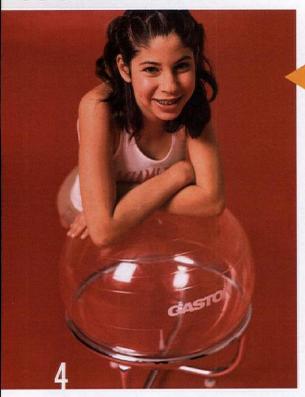




1 Satisfy your teen's taste for tech with a Sony FD Trinitron Wega TV, \$330, on a Star 68 table, \$155, by Johnny Lim for Pure Design, at the Terence Conran Shop, NYC. 2 IKEA's Give rug, \$24; Dondolo Rocking Chair, \$2,150, and Pouf, \$1,495, by Paola Lenti at Property, NYC. 3 True flower power lies in the Unikko fabric by Maija Isola for Marimekko, through DelGreco Textiles Inc., NYC. The Avalon chair, \$1,000, in Tang-Crush vinyl, is by Bob Williams for Mitchell Gold. A Philips CD radio cassette recorder, \$99.99, sits on Antonio Citterio's Mobil storage unit, \$800, at Kartell, NYC.



teen dream

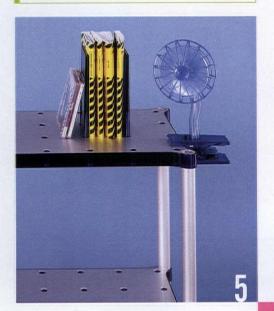


teens on room size

What do adolescents really want? Roominess. But even among space cadets, there's room for dissent.

- "Space is everything to me." Gigi Carty, 13
- "Bigger is always nicer." Gregory Zavistovski, 17
- "All my friends want a TV, their own phone, and more space." Tatiana Séré, 15
- "For a teenager, I think a smaller room is better. You can make it more intimate.

 My room is almost too big." David Gilbert, 18



"I would have a conversation pit. I saw it in the Beatles movie Help! and have been obsessed ever since."
—Lucie Steinberg, 14



4 Lucie loves Gaston's Bubble Stool, \$150, at C.I.T.E. Home, NYC. 5 Bookcase, \$795, Kartell; Milano Series fan, \$15, at Landmark Stationers, NYC. 6 Sir Leo Lick-A-Lot and Naughty Naughty Kieffer by Wendy Gardner, \$30 each, Totem, NYC. 7 Mark Jonas's neoprene shower mat, \$49, for Authentics, at the Terence Conran Shop. 8 Lounge light, \$24.99, at Target. 9 Pastoe's computer cupboard, \$2,197, at Totem; IMac DV, \$1,299, Apple Store; Milano Series card file, \$20; Philippe Starck's La Marie chair, \$185, Kartell; E.T.A. lamp, \$880, by Kundalini, at Property, NYC.

There are about 31 million teenagers in the United States—11 % of the population

66 House Garden · AUGUST 2000

FEND!





teen dream

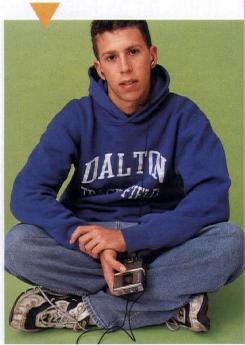




STAT Girls spend \$91 a week; boys, \$87; 1999 total: about \$150 billion

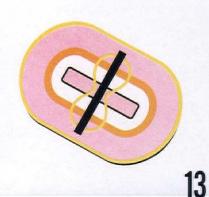
"My walls are **painted black**. I finally was able to convince my parents two years ago. I was really into Metallica, so it's kind of goth."

—Gregory Zavistovski, 17





10 Room's Pop-Up storage unit, \$45, at Property. 11 Allez bed, \$1,200, Desiron, NYC; Safety Knit striped pillow, \$125; thermal blanket, \$119; Hard Denim sham, \$75; Static sheet, \$54, all from the Ralph Lauren Home Collection, NYC. Orange blanket, \$115; Orange pillow, \$65; Gravel Green Euro sham, \$115; Bungee pillow, \$75, all from Tommy Hilfiger Home's TH Utility line. 12 Philippe Starck's ICI Pari radio, \$115, for Lexon, at the Terence Conran Shop. 13 Karim Rashid's mouse pad, \$12, at Totem. 14 Mesh Can, \$30, U + Studio Collection, Umbra.





teen dream





15 Your kids can have the world on a string with the Continental clear globe, \$45 to \$165, by John M. Szal for Spherical Concepts, at Moss, NYC. 16 Sarah's sitting pretty on floor pillows covered in black and white Spank fabric, from Pollack, NYC. 17 Classic clocks by George Nelson-Ball, \$250; Sunburst, \$270; Star, \$250-are available through Vitra, Easton, MD. 18 Orb Magnetic CD Rack, \$42, at the Terence Conran Shop. 19 Karim Rashid's vinyl Soul Vessel, \$24, at Totem, NYC, holds Poppy note cards, \$24 for a set of 12, from IS, NYC.



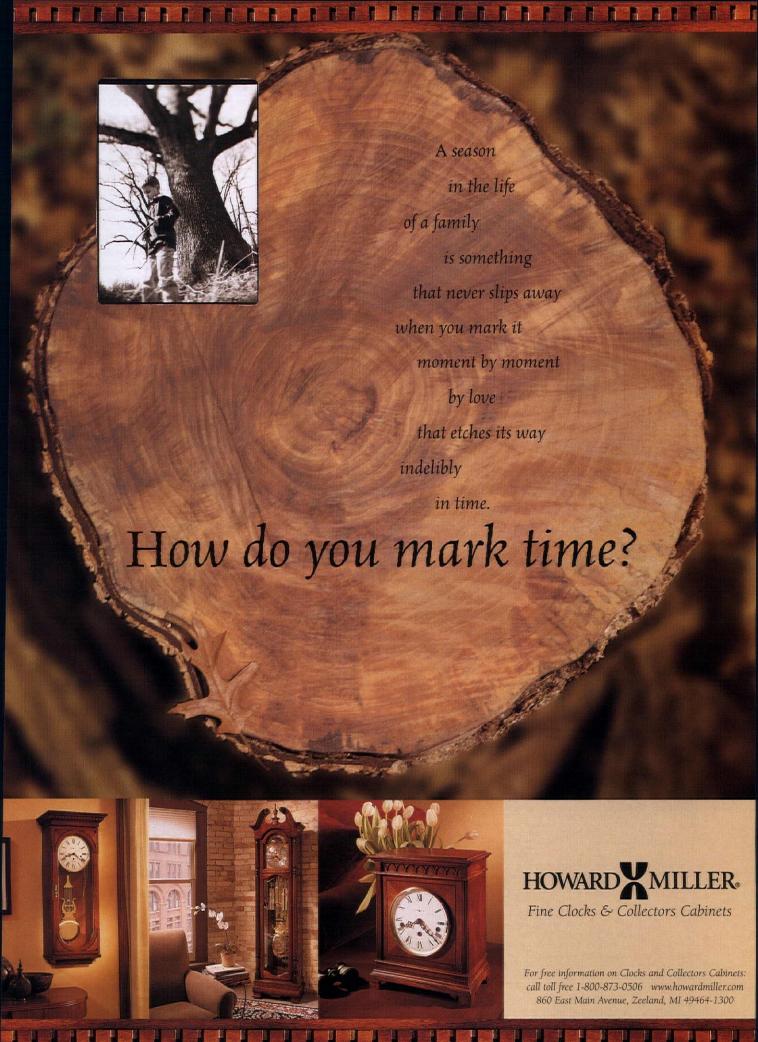


"Blow-up furniture is for trendy 13-year-olds, rather than people my age who are looking at stuff they can bring to college."—Sarah Johnson, 16

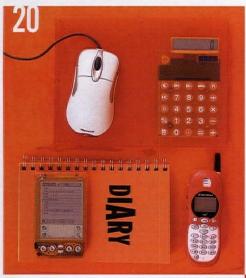
teens on technology

Teens are totally wired. As Kate Marvin, 15, tells us, "I think people like to have connections to the outer world from inside their rooms." Yakety-yak!

- "Everybody has a cell phone—Nokia with the color covers. It's the latest thing to have." Ashly Sands, 17
- Ashly's not kidding. More than 17 percent of teenagers plan to purchase a cell phone in the next year.
- Half the teens in a recent survey use a computer almost daily at home.
- "Computer bootlegging and MP3" cut down on buying CDs." Myles Lennon, 16
- "On my desk, I have everything I need to get through life: my computer, my CD player, and whatever food I'm eating." Demetrios Yatrakis, 17



teen dream





"I would love to have a **completely modern** bedroom. Wooden floors. No carpet. And a long, long desk. I would not want a girly room. When I get older, that's the way my room will be."—*Tatiana Séré, 15*

percale sheets, \$28 each, and cases, \$25, dress a Nathalie Bed, \$1,470, all from Garnet Hill. Cosmic pillow, \$20, Tommy Hilfiger Home; Goodnature Pillow, \$95, Jonathan Adler, NYC. 24 Arjang chair, \$49, IKEA; Poly-Cube Lights, \$75, Property.

STAT 16.9% of teens bought a scented candle in a three-month period



teens on color

The kids we know have strong color preferences—and many are true blue.

20 Microsoft IntelliMouse Optical, \$54.95, and Milano Series

Mousepad II, \$16.50, at Landmark Stationers; Motorola V. Series cell phone, \$99 to \$199; Industrious Diary, \$9.50, from IS; Handspring Visor Deluxe, \$249, at Staples, Best Buy, and CompUSA. 21 V-Tech cordless phone, \$59.95. 22 Polo chair, \$120, at the Terence Conran Shop; Kenneth table, \$200, from Foundation, Brooklyn, NY. Glüp beanbag, \$395, by Ligne Roset. 23 Pot Art Daisies

- "I like all tones of blue. I think my love for it started with my interest in the North Carolina Tar Heels, who are famous for their sky blue color."

 Andrew Rheingrover, 17
- "I want to make my ceiling blue and sponge-paint clouds on it, or stars—they're really magical."

 Daisy Robinson, 13
- "My walls are sky blue. It calms me down when I'm angry."

 Demetrios Yatrakis, 17
- "My furniture is silver. My bed is silver. My walls are silver." Ashly Sands, 17



House Garden Out & About



Larry Lasio for House & Garden



Miguel Elias for XYZ Total Home

House & Garden Color Showhouse

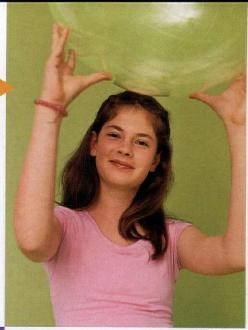
Amir Ilin, Don Di Nova, CKD, and Tracy Bross for SieMatic, Küche + Cucina, and InnerAsia Christopher Coleman for House & Garden

teen dream

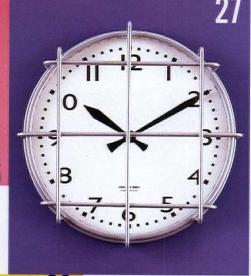


"My room now is modern, but I want to change it and make it more grown-up and fancier. Maybe if everything were one **color theme**, it would feel fancier."

—Emily Opper, 15









25 Placed on their sides, the Sutra chairs, \$320 for the large size, and \$190 for the small, can be used as side tables, by Kundalini, at Property. Kids will want to reach for the Star Lamp. \$250, by Tom Dickson for Euro Lounge, at the Terence Conran Shop. 26 Think pink! Goodnature pillow, \$95. from Jonathan Adler, and leather DKNY pillow, \$200. 27 Gym clock, \$24.99, at Target. 28 A chic Honey Maltesers bag, \$575, from Anya Hindmarch, NYC, hangs on the Sygma Clothes Hook, \$22, by Marc Newson for Alessi, at Moss. 29 Garbino trash can, \$7, by Karim Rashid for Umbra. Sources, see back of book.

teens on stuff

Your kids may be pack rats, but they're aware of the clutter.

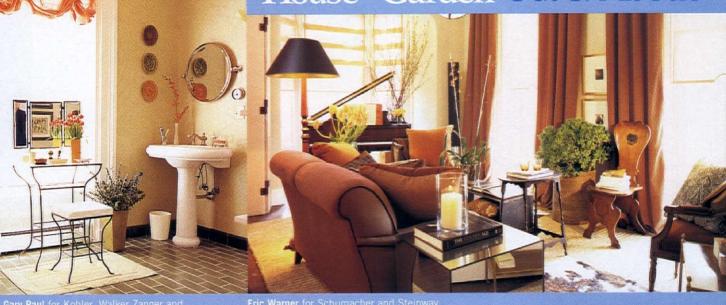
- "I just got a coatrack. I used to throw clothes on the floor. Now I have a place to put them." David Gilbert, 18
- "Excess junk is not one of my favorite things to deal with." Fanny Katz, 13
- "It's always messy in my room, so I don't like to be in there. It's hard to concentrate." *Emily Opper, 15*
- "I try to put up images that represent who I am. I have a newspaper with David Cone's perfect game. I have a Post front page that says 'Puff Baddy.' I have a sign that says 'Giuliani Is a Jerk.'" Myles Lennon, 16

100% of the boys we talked to say comfort is important to them





House Garden Out & About



Gary Paul for Kohler, Walker Zanger and

Eric Warner for Schumacher and Steinway



Anthony Antine & Ho Sang Shin

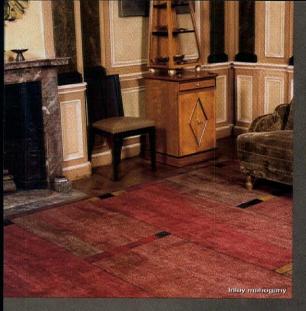
In conjunction with *House & Garden*'s April 2000 Color Issue, House & Garden unveiled its Color of the House & Garden Color Showhouse check out





Hicham Ghandour for B&B Italia

Gerald Tolomeo for Osborne & Little





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House Garden



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When sultry summer weather arrives, we like our romance stripped down to the bones. Give us cool, sleek lines and streamlined, elegantly chiseled profiles. But we also want some lyric abandon, rooms with windows that can open as wide as an embrace. The pulse quickens.

The Cabin Lounge sofa is by Bobby McAlpine; the Gallery table is from William Word Antiques, Atlanta.



BY DAVID FELD

PHOTOGRAPHED BY WILLIAM WALDRON

STYLED BY ADAM GLASSMAN

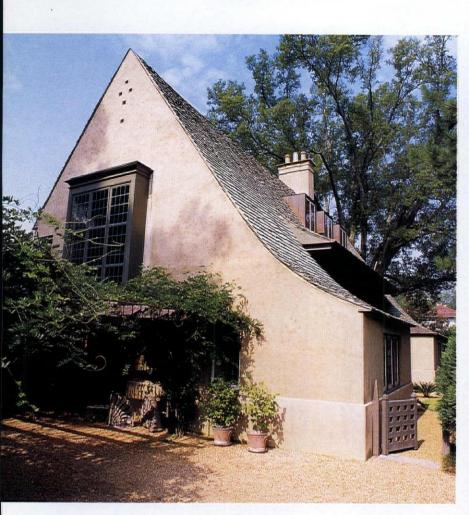
is based in Montgomery, Alabama, but he has clients in every corner of the country. Among design cognoscenti, his work is as highly regarded as that of his urban peers, and his clients are as sophisticated as they come.

One of McAlpine's chief influences is the early-twentieth-century architect Edwin Lutyens. "He was a great combination of romanticist and classicist," McAlpine says, "but his work appeals to me because he was playful as well as academic." McAlpine cunningly integrates the Lutyens style with a definite southern twist. Too often the term "southern style" prompts visions of heavily draped, chintz-filled houses stuffed with furniture and accessories. But there is also an ethereal and gracious quality in southern design. McAlpine takes these traditions, adds a lot of Lutyens, and creates a singular vision that is recognizable wherever he works.

The exterior of McAlpine's Montgomery residence is based on a Lutyens house, Homewood, in Hertfordshire, England. Putty-colored stucco, a high, sweeping, cedar-shingled roof, engaged columns, and leaded windows give the outside of McAlpine's house a fairy-tale look. A rustic Cotswold-style stone and plaster wall surrounds the heavily wooded property, on which an enormous live-oak tree stands.

But behind the almost whimsical exterior is a very contemporary space. The entry is at the side of the house, a McAlpine trademark.

than in his Montgomery, Alabama, house



Almost dim, with seven-foot ceilings, it has somber limed cypress paneling. The atmosphere here is that of a Tudor house, thanks in part to leaded casement windows and a stone floor that is, in fact, not stone at all, but concrete pavers. A salt treatment pitted and pocked the material, giving it the appearance of old stone.

The sixteenth-century feel quickly dissipates: the entry opens into a vast, light-filled living room with a 17-foot ceiling. Overhead, a suspended cypress "bridge" connects the guest room with the master bedroom.

It's in the living room that the designer's ability to tame grand space is most evident. McAlpine has divided the room into three seating areas, and covered all of the furniture in similar hues of white or oyster cotton, velour, or even "sunbrella" fabric. The former color scheme was moodier—sage, mustard, dusty blue. This time, McAlpine limited himself to a pale palette because he wanted the house "to be a little edgier."

There are several antique chairs and couches, most from the eighteenth or nineteenth century. McAlpine copied antiques for his cinched-inthe-center "waist stools," and designed the Cabin Lounge sofa, a freestanding banquette surrounded by an upholstered screen trimmed

The Tudor-like exterior of the house, above, belies the contemporary look within. McAlpine divided the living room, opposite page, into three seating areas. Upholstered chairs flank a Jacobean table with an iron lamp atop it, all from Herron House Antiques, Montgomery, AL. A McAlpine waist stool completes the grouping. The sawhorse table is from the Scott Antiques Market. Draperies at the French doors and throughout the house are cotton scrim, available through Rose Brand, NYC.









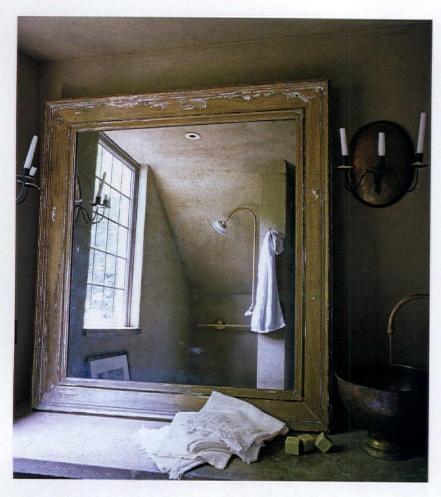


in 6,000 nailheads. "I'm lucky I have such a patient and talented upholsterer," McAlpine says. "Anyone else would have been driven crazy by all the nailheads I wanted."

French doors, hung with theatrical sheers, lead to a small, enclosed garden with a lily pond. Two huge concrete trestle tables opposite the doors hold rows of pillar candles above and provide storage for firewood below. The approach is both dramatic and practical. "The firewood serves as a textural play," McAlpine says. "I wanted something rustic to juxtapose with the lines of the furniture."

HE DINING LOUNGE IS behind the double fireplace. Because McAlpine prefers a multipurpose area to a formal dining room, he has furnished the lounge with an oval walnut table that is a family piece, a high-backed couch, Irish

Chippendale chairs, and more waist stools. Off the dining area is a small study, concealed behind more cypress paneling. Heavy beams, a large pastoral painting by Atlanta artist Michael Dines, and two couches give a sense of coziness after the lofty living hall. The lounge, opposite page, is a cozy retreat. The sofas are McAlpine designs. The club chair is from Joseph Konrad Antiques, Atlanta; the wooden chair and stool are from Sheffield Antiques, Montgomery, AL. Michael Dines's painting Untitled is from the Lowe Gallery, Atlanta. Rustic elements play off sophisticated ones in the guest room, above. McAlpine designed the daybeds, made by Tom Berry for Custom Crafts, Montgomery, AL. The antique chandelier is bone and iron. Deco chairs are from Jeff Jones Antiques, Atlanta.



The guest bath, above, has a genteel rusticity that complements the look of the guest room. The mirror and sconces are from Karla Katz & Co. Antiques, New Orleans, McAlpine made the sink from a copper bowl. Shower fixtures are from Sunrise Specialty. Emeryville, CA. Simplicity rules in the master bedroom. opposite page. McAlpine designed the mirrors, made by Kevin Reilly Design, and the extra-long bed, made by Tom Berry for Custom Crafts. The stone ball finial is from Travis and Company. Sources, see back of book.

Twin white oak staircases lead upstairs, one to McAlpine's bedroom, the other to the guest room. The master bedroom is simplicity itself, with a nine-foot-long bed that McAlpine designed to accommodate him and his beloved greyhound, Joe. Theatrical sheers, suspended from tracks on the ceiling, surround the bed, which is recessed in a window and flanked by two old mirrors that rest on the floor.

The guest room has two high-sided daybeds covered in hairy calfskin. McAlpine hung additional theatrical sheers here so that guests can close off the space when they want more privacy. A bone-and-iron chandelier reemphasizes McAlpine's love for playing rustic elements off refined ones.

Though the house initially seems to be rambling, it's actually symmetrical. "It's all about rhythm," McAlpine says. "I like to throw things off balance, but ultimately everything ends up evolving into a symmetrical plan. It's actually the end result. I start with asymmetry. It's very calming to discover the balance at the end, but if the symmetry were readily apparent, it would get boring—there would be no sense of discovery."

David Feld is a writer and stylist based in Dallas.





Architect Jaquelin Robertson organized the interior spaces with such homey Arts and Crafts touches as wall panels and a fireplace with plate rail. Designer John F. Saladino chose old-time details: the blue handmade tiles from Ann Sacks Tile & Stone, rattan chairs with cotton bonnets from Nancy Koltes, and an antique Stickley sideboard. He also designed the table and chandelier.

BY WENDY MOONAN PHOTOGRAPHED BY ERIC BOMAN



T'S A RARE (and brave) client who dares to commission a house from a famous architect and a leading interior designer. But that's what one New York investment banker did when he asked Jaquelin Robertson, former dean of the University of Virginia's architecture school, to design a summer cottage, and then went to prominent New York interior designer John F. Saladino to decorate it.

But what might have led to a clash of visions turned out to be a successful collaboration in the attempt to create a uniquely contemporary East End Shingle meets Arts and Crafts house.

The idea began with Robertson.

"Special sites tell you what you should be doing," says the principal in the New York firm Cooper, Robertson & Partners. He has designed 32 private houses in addition to working as a city planner. The land his clients had bought was set in a cedar forest, not far from the ocean, in East Hampton, New York. "This particular lot told me it was not the site for a clipped-lawn, privet-hedged, Hamptons-style house," he explains. "It's more a place where someone at the end of the nineteenth-century would have done a quirky, Shingle-style house with big, overhanging roofs. I got interested in how Arts and Crafts ideas could permeate such a place."

A nostalgia-inducing screened porch, this page, sits at one end of the house. The pillows on the rattan seating are covered in Jane, a cotton by Hinson & Company, NYC. The media room, opposite page, features a Brian Kane coffee table from Metropolitan Furniture Corp., Burlingame, CA. The wool rug is from Stark Carpet, NYC.





"IN THE END, THE HOUSE WAS A MASTERPIECE CREATED BY TWO CHEFS"
—JOHN SALADINO





Robertson placed the house at the corner of the rectangular lot, preserving the property behind it as woodland. From the motor court, the house looks fairly traditional, with a shingled front, a round tower, and dramatically pitched roofs in the manner of Frank Lloyd Wright.

EDAR SHINGLES were laid down in alternating horizontal bands, a thin one for every three thicker ones. "This is an organizing device," Robertson says. "It gives pattern to the exterior and modulates the scale."

In plan, the house is the shape of a boomerang, curled around the motor court. The longer, outer side of the house faces a wide swath of lawn and woods; the shorter, court side contains all the hallways. "That's the simple advantage to the boomerang," he says. "Inside the house, people circulate on the shortest route, while the longest exposures, for windows and porches, overlook the private side of the house."

The client's wife, a professional caterer and dancer, wanted the kitchen at the middle, as a kind of control center on the ground floor. The family room and garage are to one side; the dining









"Interior openings are always exciting to me," Robertson says of the pass-through he cut in the wall between the bar and the reading nook, opposite page. "You get a peekaboo into another space." Saladino complemented the dark walls with a border painted by Ruthann Olsson of Norfolk, CT. ■ For the master bedroom, above, Saladino designed a headboard covered in butter-soft hide from Keleen Leathers Inc., Westchester, IL. The sleigh chairs are from Saladino's own furniture line. Olsson painted the hollyhocks on the shutters. The bed linens are from Nancy Koltes; the Versailles linen carpet is from Stark Carpet. Sources, see back of book.

room, living room, and a reading nook sit at the other.

Enter Saladino, who, after discussions with Robertson, adopted an Arts and Crafts palette that extends from gray to lavender to beige to green. "Since the house is near the ocean," Saladino says, "I used aqueous colors that allude to sky and water." The dining room and living room share a raised fireplace in the Arts and Crafts style, framed with handmade wisteria-blue tiles beneath a high plate rail. The plaster walls are a sandy gray. Saladino used cool, summery colors for the fabrics in the reading nook, which Robertson separated from the rest of the living room with a wooden screen.

To go along with period pieces, such as a Stickley sideboard and Louis Comfort Tiffany candleholders, Saladino created softly proportioned, upholstered furniture, as well as a few items that could have come straight from a nineteenth-century workshop. "The exponents of Arts and Crafts always preferred things handmade," Saladino says, "so I designed the cherry dining table with old-fashioned exposed butterfly joints." He also created two chandeliers with antique, translucent mother-of-pearl glass tiles attached to fragments of an old Stanford White fire screen he found.

Long an admirer of Robertson, Saladino says, "We circled each other with our different interpretations of the style, but in the end the house was a master-piece created by two chefs. It started with a friendship and ended in mutual respect." Which proves that a client can dare to play with two fiery imaginations (and egos), yet not get burned.

WRITTEN BY MAC GRISWOLD PHOTOGRAPHED BY EVAN SKLAR
PRODUCED BY STEPHEN ORR



splendor in the SSS

USING GRASSES AND OTHER FLUID PLANTS, LANDSCAPE DESIGNER EDWINA VON GAL RECONNECTS A LONG ISLAND HOUSE TO ITS LANDSCAPE



the perfect views in the Hamptons, where most houses stand on tiptoe just to catch a glimpse of what Charlie Moss and Susan Calhoun are surrounded by. Their view extends across a long tidal pond toward more than 70 untrammeled acres of meadow, field, and marsh owned by their neighbor, a landscapeloving Maecenas. A few houses lie along the distant low ridge, but development apparently comes no closer.

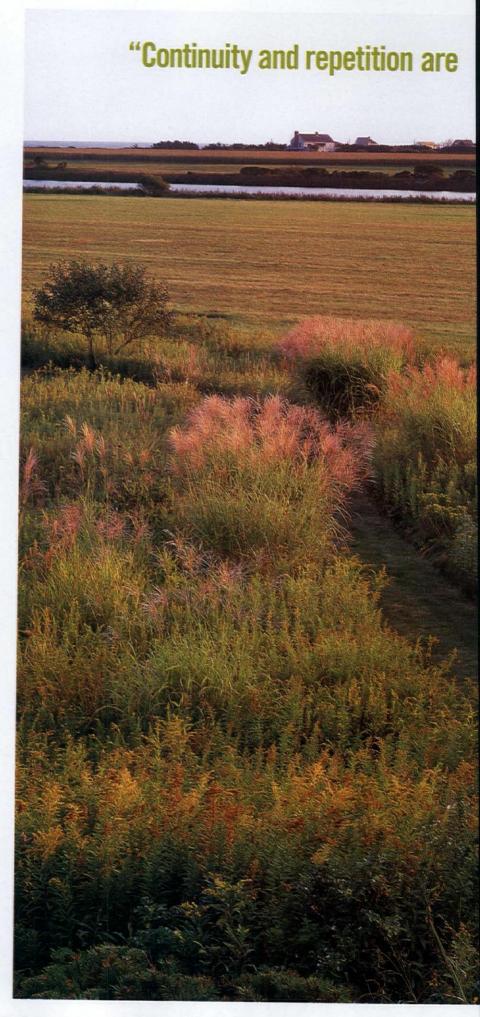
As for evidence of gardening, on neither shore are there any fancy horticultural fringes—just bayberries, goldenrod, and wild grasses. Twenty years ago, when the Calhoun-Moss side of the pond was still a potato field, the couple moved the former Wainscott post office from Main Street to their three-and-a-half-acre parcel there. The site has since grown to 11 acres.

Multiple additions have softened the house; and the landscape, once a typical foundation planting, has been greatly simplified, so that it melts at the edges like a summer ice cream cone. This is what you hope a casual garden will look like when it has really grown into itself, when the problems of integrating daily life into such a spare maritime landscape have been solved.

But time alone didn't dissolve these boundaries; it took intelligence and skill. "How were we going to get from cut grass to the wild?" Calhoun remembers wondering. "We knew nothing—we wanted a home. We wanted a lawn where children could run. As for plants, we only knew we wanted things that moved, things that were easy."

Edwina von Gal, the landscape designer who came to the job at the suggestion of architect Kate Gormley, agrees. "The views were massive, uncontrolled views, and the shrubs were suburban," she says. "But the biggest question was where to stop the lawn.

"See those bayberries (Cont. on page 135)



what's important to every landscape"—Edwina von Gal













Near the driveway, top left, sturdy perennials like Montauk daisies mix nicely with the grasses. Tall varieties of grass surround an informal lunch on the porch, top right. A simple bench, above right, nestles into a large clump of *Pennisetum alopecuroides* 'Hameln' near the lawn. The bocce court, enjoyed here by the Moss children, above left, is encompassed by more waving stands of grass.

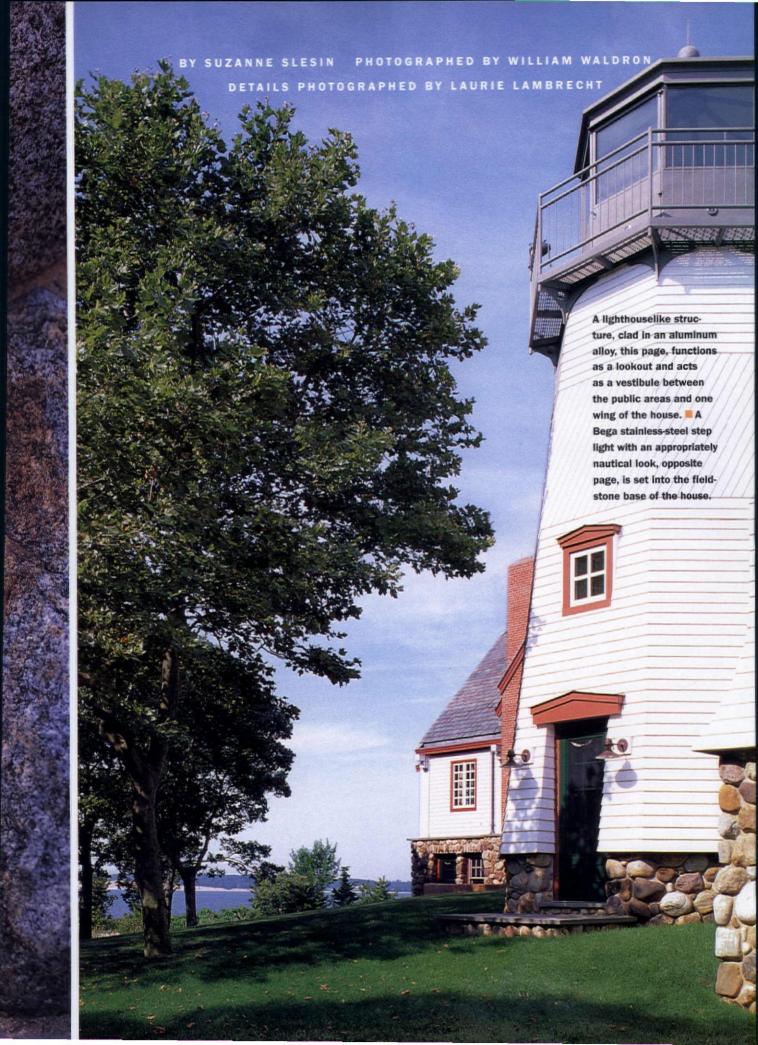
The seed heads of *Miscanthus sinensis* 'Zebrinus,' opposite page, almost seem to be covered in ice when they are in full summer bloom.

everything



shipshape

A nautical-minded family tailor a house to their interests—without going overboard







O BE OR NOT TO BE a cliché was the question. The clients had an interest in all things nautical: Donald Brennan had a beloved and enviable collection of antique ship models; his wife, Patricia, had spent many childhood summers on the water on Long Island's North Fork. It was there that the couple found a small cottage (originally built for a shipbuilder) that could be added onto as a weekend retreat for their six grown-up children and expanding number of grandchildren. "Unlike some of my clients, my parents like to do things differently," says Patrick Brennan; he and his brother, Donald, were the architects of the house. The interior designers took a different tack, too. "We wanted it to look new, and were sick of all the typical Hamptons decorating, of white slipcovers, rattan, or English chintz," says Edward Zajac, who

is a partner with Richard Callahan (Patricia Brennan's brother) in the New York firm A & I Design Partners.

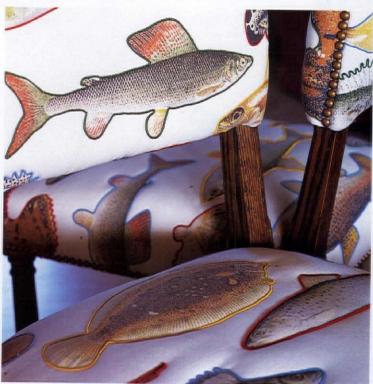
The architects and interior designers worked together from day one, adding three separate wings to the original structure. There are ten bedrooms ("not really enough at peak times," Patrick says) and a lighthouselike structure that functions as a link between the public rooms and one of the wings. "My father wanted a lighthouse," Patrick says. "We resisted doing it for a long while, because we felt it would

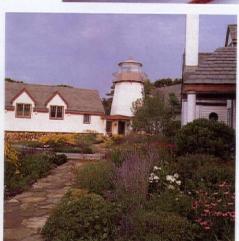


A timbered room that recalls an upside-down ship's hull, left, houses the Brennans' collection of antique ship models. The window is reminiscent of the stern of a frigate.

The sofas, opposite page, by

A & I Design Partners Inc., NYC, are upholstered in a Brunschwig & Fils stripe; Clarence House's Matisse covers the pillows. The mantel is lined with Dutch nautical tiles from Country Floors, NYC. The lanterns on the mantel are from Ann-Morris Antiques, NYC. The wall lamps are from Christopher Norman, NYC.





Cotton fabric from Country Swedish, NYC, covers chair seats and backs, above, in the living room. Outlining the fish with cord by American Custom Quilting, NYC, adds an extra decorative touch to the interior. Once a small cottage, the house, left, has been enlarged with three new wings.



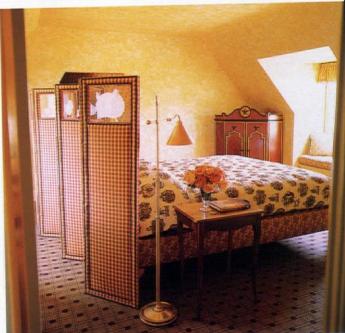








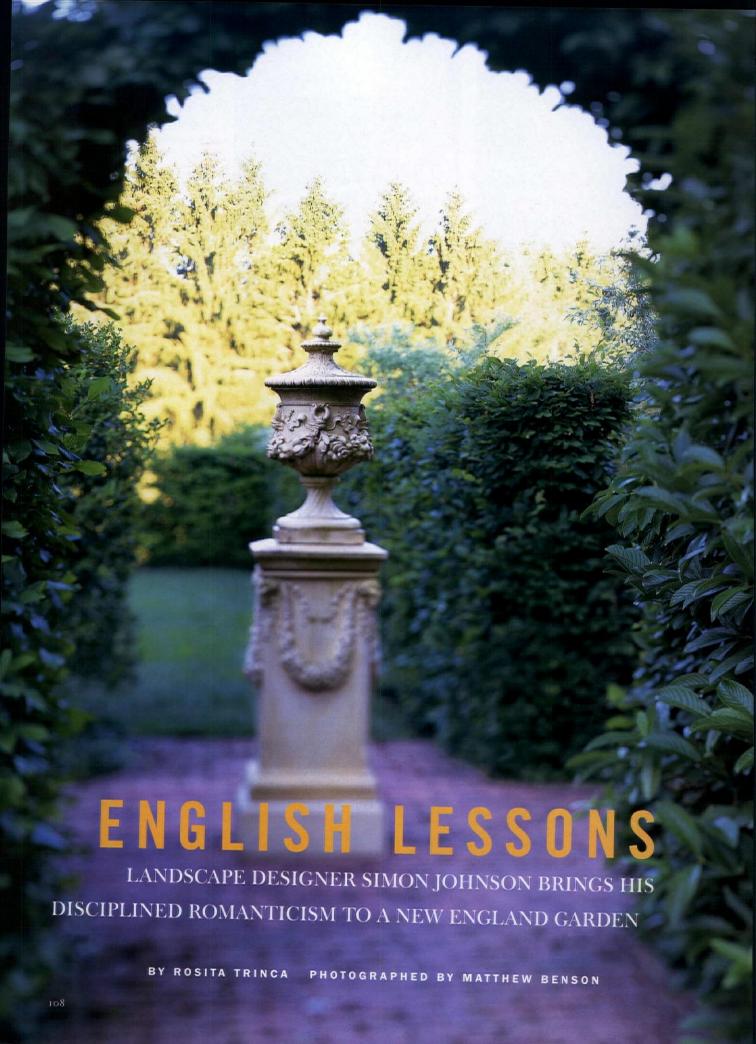
Sherbet-hued, Swedish-style chairs, a painted floor, and leather-covered doors, opposite page, lift the dining room out of the ordinary. A screen with etched-glass shell motifs, below, from A & I Design Partners Inc., NYC, acts as a headboard in the master bedroom. The bedside table is from James Graftstein Ltd., NYC. The curtain fabric is from Brunschwig & Fils; the carpeting is from Stark Carpet, NYC. Emma Oakley, left, rests on the porch. Sources, see back of book.



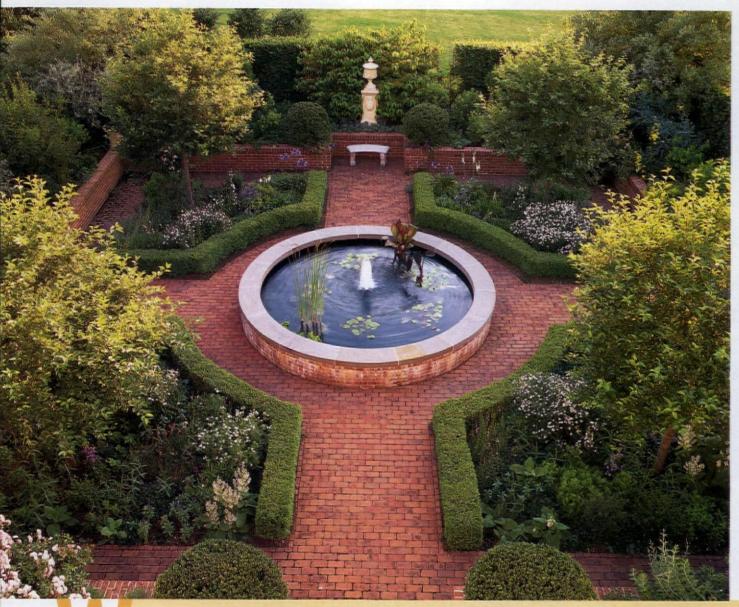
be too difficult to do in an interesting way." Clearly, they solved the problem, constructing a lighthouse in a marine-grade aluminum alloy and equipping it with Russian naval binoculars that turn it into a giant lookout.

The major addition to the cottage, however, is the dramatic vaulted-ceiling room that houses the large antique ship models. The room resembles the inverted hull of a ship, with heavy timbers, industrial rivets, and an angled window inspired by the stern of an old-fashioned frigate.

It's hard not to think of the architecture and interior decor as a "theme," but Zajac cheerfully dismisses the idea. "Let's not call it that," he says. "We did so many things that are really different." Sure enough, the furniture—including the sherbet-hued, Swedish-style dining room chairs—the leather-upholstered doors, and the choices and treatments of fabrics enhance the unconventionality of the decor. In the living room, easy chairs are covered in terra-cotta-colored cotton canvas overstitched with taxicab yellow thread; the outlines of large-scale fish on a printed fabric have been cord-quilted to make even more of the pattern. "The idea was to avoid doing anything boring," Zajac says. Callahan sums it up: "I call it 'nautical but nice.'" Both landlubbers and old salts would surely agree.







The sunken garden, above, reflects Johnson's use of symmetry. Enclosed by hornbeam and anchored by crab apples, its tones are silver, white, and blue. ■Nymphaea, a water lily, floats in the pool, below. Glory-bower, opposite page, creates fall interest.

WHEN ENGLISHMAN Simon Johnson crossed the Atlantic to design this 12-acre garden in Greenwich, Connecticut, in 1995, he brought a clear, crisp view of symmetry with him. Aware that he could not merely "transplant" the ideal of the English garden, he welcomed the challenges of the North American landscape, with its extremes of temperature, thin topsoil, and voracious deer.

Beneath his polite English exterior, Johnson is fiercely opinionated on the subject of gardens. So when the owners of the property gave him a simple brief—pool, tennis court, sense of proportion and symmetry, as well as something evergreen to soften the leafless months—Johnson responded well. It was his sort of job.

In association with the doyenne of English garden designers, Penelope Hobhouse, and with Boston-based landscape designer and horticulturist Nan Sinton, Johnson assembled a list of trees, shrubs, and perennials that would thrive on the site.

He set the scene with generous curves for the entrance drive. A









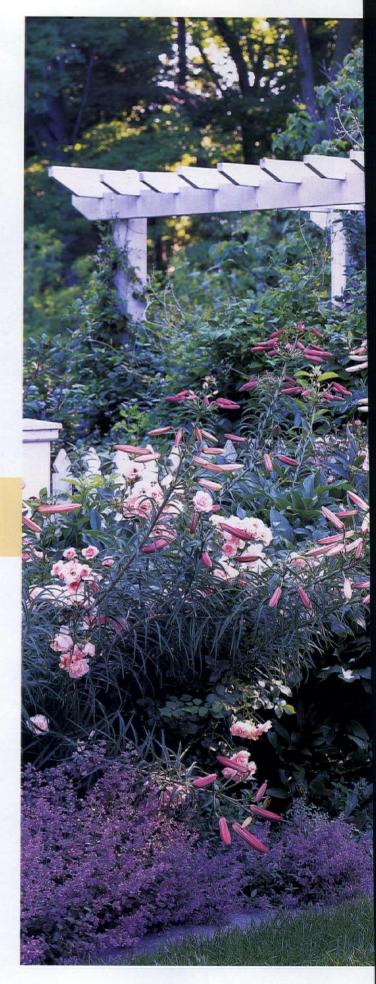


The kitchen garden is surrounded by the scents of lilles (Lillium regale), roses (Rosa bonica), above and right, catmint (nepeta), and honeysuckle, among other fragrant bloomers.

delicious sense of expectancy is heightened as the approach sweeps through broad lawns punctuated with massive rock outcroppings. The arrival forecourt, with its brick and limestone detailing, satisfies the need for welcome and intimacy. Rectangles edged with hardy box enclose shaped *Magnolia stellatas*, and the brick facade of the house is softened by espaliered hollies ("an experiment," says Johnson), viburnums, ivy, and controlled wisteria.

HE NEO-GEORGIAN house, built in the late 1980s, lies at the heart of Johnson's plan. The four acres surrounding the house are the most strongly designed of the 12 acres, with views framed by a tight interplay of varying textures of green and very defined axial lines running out from the house to the wooded landscape beyond.

Despite the symmetry and the firm, logical progression that connects the spaces in his design, Johnson has created a garden that is both languid and dreamy. He continues to work on it, and he continues to enjoy the stimulation of North America, where he finds climate and clients demanding: "Both keep me on my toes. There is a zest, a zip, an appetite for adventure that is different from England. I love the plants and the people." This garden has all the hallmarks of healthy cross-pollination.



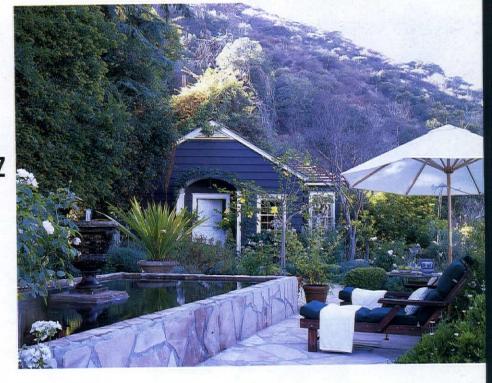
Rosita Trinca writes frequently about gardens.





SCENE STEALER

IN THE FOOTHILLS OF HOLLYWOOD, FILM PRODUCTION DESIGNER RICHARD SHERMAN HAS CREATED A HOME WITH CINEMATIC PIZZAZZ



her friend Richard Sherman's house one night, when she suddenly realized that there were no electric lights in the room. "The chandelier, the table, and the wall sconces were all lit by candle," she says. "For me, that defines Richard's style—that he would have the taste, and also the energy, to light his dinner party that way."

Hearing the story, Sherman responds with self-

deprecation. "When you get to be my age," says the 44-year-old film production designer, "everything looks better on a dimmer switch."

In a town mad for midcentury modern, Sherman lives in a 1930s Cape Cod in Hollywood. The quiet retreat, built by a sea captain, is perched just high enough above Hollywood Boulevard so that on a still night you have to strain to hear the crackle of the honky-tonk below. Almost every room has a fireplace and a view of Los Angeles



To soften the formality of the living room, above, Sherman chose large, comfortable seating. Covered in white, the pieces offset such varied objects as a zebra rug and an Etruscan urn that once sat in Morton's restaurant.

Sherman uses a room in the guesthouse as his study, opposite page.

The 19th-century English portrait was purchased for the film Paris Trout.

The linen curtain fabric is from Diamond Foam & Fabric, L.A.



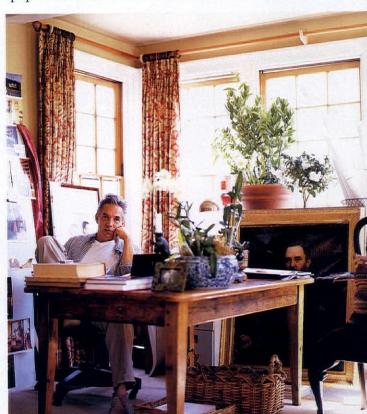
that pans past the skyscrapers of downtown to the ocean. It is the perfect setting for Sherman's decorating mix, which fuses everything from eighteenth-century Swedish furniture to Hollywood relics into a seamless whole. "People look at things and wonder where to put them, but I don't worry about that," says Sherman. "Everything finds a place."

that owes much to his two careers, one as a designer for such movies as *Gods and Monsters* and the upcoming Bess Myerson story, *Queen Bess*, and the other as a refurbisher of Hollywood and Beverly Hills houses, which he buys, reconstructs, and then sells.

To unite his disparate finds, Sherman uses muted, almost oblique colors on the walls, such as olive green or robin's egg blue. Each room has cohesion and personality without distracting from its contents. "I used to be afraid of color, but now every room's a color," says Sherman. "I learned this from cameramen, who hate white walls. They're just blah."

Another Sherman technique is to cover the furniture (he favors soft pieces such as wing chairs and sofas) in shades of white. The strong accents come from accessories: a vase of purple flowers, red throw pillows, a bowl of lemons. "The basics of these rooms are easy," he says. "The flowers and fruit can make your big statement, because they can always be changed. It's harder to remove furniture."

Having established the backdrop, Sherman weaves just about anything into the decor, from a zebra rug to a Federal bull's-eye mirror. He creates vignettes, topping a Jacobean desk with French garden urns from the Jack Warner estate auction. And while he has many valuable antiques, he won't hesitate to put a \$1.99 lamp base from the L.A. store Lamps Plus with a \$400 shade. "He has an amazing eye for filling up space with a lot of stuff that doesn't fall into clutter,"









says Bill Condon, director of Gods and Monsters.

For that film, which won an Oscar, Sherman had four weeks to assemble the house of the main character, James Whale, the real-life director of the Frankenstein movies of the 1930s. Sherman's set was strikingly stylish, with its Tootsie Roll brown walls, tufted-satin bedroom suite, and Swedish Deco furniture. This glamorous pastiche was inspired by Sherman's idols, prewar decorators such as Elsie De Wolfe and Billy Haines. But to Condon, the set was also reminiscent of Sherman's own home. "The things he has might suggest fussiness or grandeur," Condon says, "but they never feel that way. He's so good at creating an inviting, cozy room."

RONICALLY, SHERMAN originally set out to find a modern house when he discovered the Cape Cod on a quiet gated road at the end of La Brea Avenue. He loved the white arbored terrace that runs the length of the living room, and the fact that every room has a door leading outside.

In fact, he had been a guest there years before, when it belonged to a jazz club owner. Sarah Vaughan was there the morning Sherman visited, drinking champagne on the porch. The house was sold to Sheena Easton, who hung bubble-gum pink draperies and installed pink kitchen tile and then rented the place to Diane Keaton. She was still in residence when a real estate agent showed the house to Sherman, who noticed that the dressing room was lined with Keaton's bowler hats and small, round glasses.

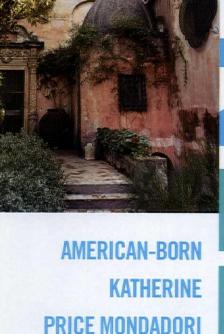
Entering a house with that kind of Tinseltown provenance, and a past as layered as his own design sensibility, Sherman knew he had come home.

The bedroom, right, doubles as a sitting room and offers a panoramic view of Los Angeles. Sherman has decorated it with a quirky mix of finds from movie sets and auctions, including, above, a 19th-century portrait above a Jacobean table. He added slats to the pergola on the columned outdoor terrace, opposite page, for shade and shadow play. The wicker furniture is from Pier 1 Imports. The custommade orangerie boxes are filled with giant bird-of-paradise. Sources, see back of book.

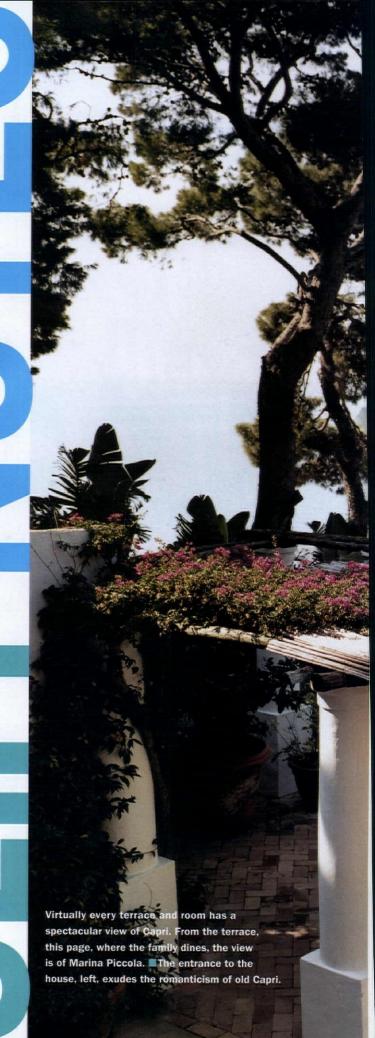




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TIMELESS
STYLE OF ISLAND
LIVING IN HER
CAPRI PALAZZO



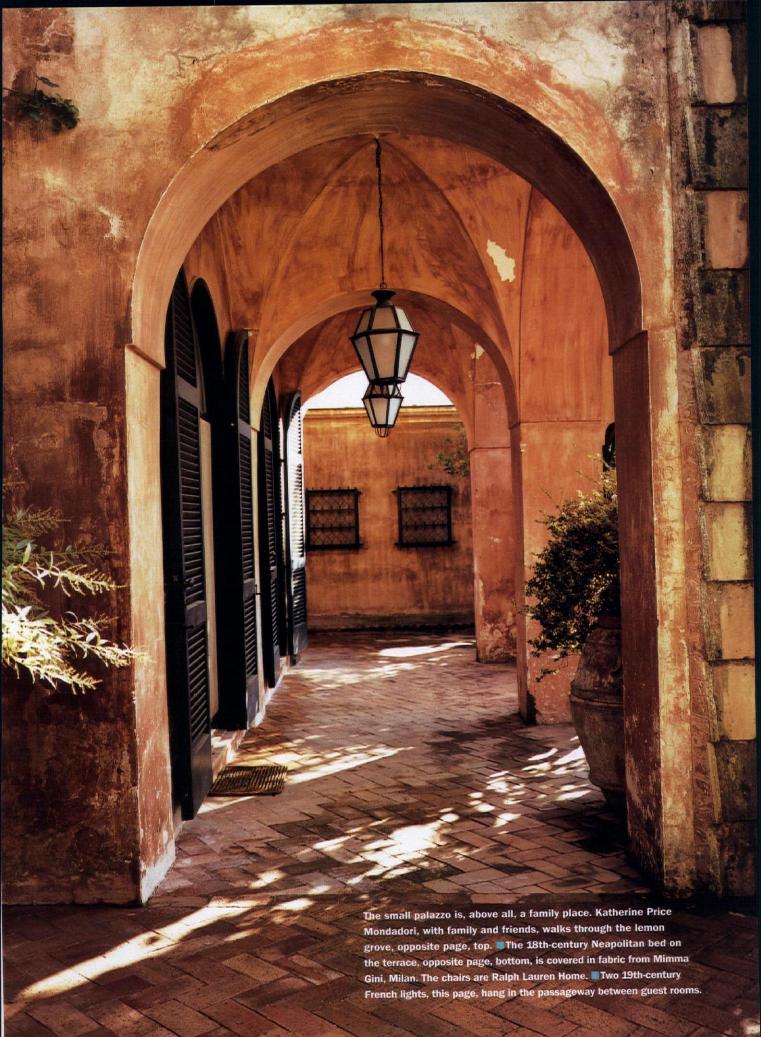


MERICANS AND ITALY. It's the same old story: love, hate, mutual emulation. Katherine Price, best known in Italy as Katherine Price Mondadori, was a belle from North Carolina when she first set foot in Italy. It was a summer trip, and Capri was on the itinerary. How could it not be? It was the early 1970s, and this small island off the coast of Naples was still experiencing its long apotheosis as the "isle of love"—full of good, cheap restaurants and immaculate rocky beaches, where Hollywood stars mingled with bohemian members of the Anglo-Italian aristocracy, dolce vita style.

"I remember the laid-back elegance of









Capri, the total lack of formality," Price Mondadori says. "There was one house that belonged to the mother of a friend. It was elegant, and yet totally casual. I loved it, and something clicked inside of me. That's what I was after."

Thirty years later, Price Mondadori's home in Capri still bears the mark of this youthful and quintessentially American pursuit of romantic Italy. It's a small palazzo, perched high on the Via Tragara, a stone's throw from Capri's massive Faraglioni rocks. An unassuming gate leads up to a vaulted, ochre-colored loggia. There, a delightful sixteenth-century carved door, smiling angels and all, beckons to delights within. A few more steps and one is caught in a web of terraces, airy rooms, fountains, and porches, all held together by the

most breathtaking views of the island and the sea.

The house was originally built by Edwin Cerio, a member of a sophisticated Anglo-Neapolitan family that settled in Capri in the 1860s. "They wrote books, painted, cultivated the land—and had a good life," Price Mondadori says. Cerio, who built some of the most beautiful houses on the island, created this one as a studio for his wife. It is a complex structure, held together by Mondadori's personal and anachronistic version of life on Capri.

"I created my house again and again—took it to pieces and then started all over again," she says. Today her home has an almost monastic feel. Eastern and Middle Eastern elements seem to lose their predictability in the deliberately haphazard blend of English and Italian seventeenth—and





THE PALAZZO HAS AN OUTDOOR ROOM FOR EVERY MOOD

eighteenth-century furniture. Vintage Louis Vuitton trunks, used as side tables, are like tangible memories of a time when going to Capri was still something of an adventure.

But the interiors, with their stark simplicity, are just a prelude to the layered architecture of the terraces and gardens. "There is an outdoor room for every mood, for every moment of the day," Price Mondadori says. The fish pond near the entrance is a temple of tranquillity, reflecting the sky and echoing the sea below. On another level is the garden-cum-dining room, scented with white flowers and lavender. Then there is the inevitable Mediterranean citrus garden and, last but not least, the potager, where she grows many of the vegetables she turns into sauces for winters in Milan.

"It is a homemade home," Price Mondadori says with some pride. But judging from the timeless views of the island, and the almost unreal silence, this house offers something more than a homey feel. It is a place where one can live the way most Italians have forgotten. It is America's Capri.





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Page 77

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Pages 13-28

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Splendor in the Grass

(Cont. from page 96) down by the pond?" von Gal asks. "I wanted to connect them with the house landscape." She points out nearer clumps of bayberries, along with bumps of mugho pine, that do move wildness toward the house in a gentle progression. The natural field and the swath of grasses that von Gal planted knit the landscapes together.

"There were no spaces here," von Gal says. "The contractor had pushed everything back around the edges. We moved those ordinary shrubs around and got rid of the foundation planting look."

Now there are shaped spaces everywhere. The area for the drive court has been split in two by a hedge of white rugosa roses. The courtyard is dominated by cryptomeria, the evergreen that looks like a Victorian feather duster; and a series of cryptomeria "rooms" stretches behind the garage toward the view side of the house.

"Edwina clusters things," Calhoun remarks. "It's never one green apple; it's a lot of green apples." The way von Gal works best is in making these series, or clusters. In addition to the two drive courts of different sizes, and masses of foliage of one species, like the cryptomerias, there is also an orchard of hawthorns and various fields of grasses expanding around the house.

"Continuity and repetition-using something intensively throughout-are what's important to every landscape," von Gal says. "It can be either a design element or a plant." Here she has repeated both plants and spatial features in a series of variations.

About working with von Gal, Calhoun says, "Edwina makes you rise to the occasion. She asks you to dance with her, and she also makes you want to go to work, thinking things through."

Their dance has remade the landscape using ordinary materials that blend almost indistinguishably with the existing natural materials, a trademark of von Gal's designs. "If you make an unusual garden, you have to put it in a box somewhere and place it off to the side," she says. "It becomes an ornament, not a landscape."

Mac Griswold is the author of The Golden Age of American Gardens (Abrams).



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days. With products flying out the door of booming beauty salons in New York and Los Angeles, Frédéric Fekkai is hardly from hunger. In fact, his is the right stuff of twenty-first-century meritocratic dreams.

Wake up and smell the minting of American Express platinum cards: the idea of social class is thoroughly démodé. Snobbery is so last century.

"All those snooty remarks like 'Who will do the bride's hair?'—that's just outmoded thinking," comments Paul Wilmot, the public-relations executive and fashion-events planner. "There is no social class. There's only an achievement class. The funny thing is, people who consider themselves part of the privileged class are often undereducated in every way, clinging to some patrician idea of upbringing or background. That's fine, for them, but it's not very modern."

"The old society has given way to the society of accomplishment," noted author Louis Auchincloss has observed.

"Dumb, good-looking people with great parents have been displaced by smart, ambitious, educated, and antiestablishment people with scuffed shoes," writes David Brooks in *Bobos in Paradise: The New Upper Class and How They Got There*, a smart and amusing book published recently. Brooks's bobo signifies "bourgeois bohemian."

From fashion to decorating to social life, the message today is "the mix." But is it necessary to accept all of the mix?

"My generation is so widespread in terms of where we come from that you've got to accept everything,"

says **Brooke de Ocampo**, a member of New York's young social guard. "The only thing you can be snobbish about is manners,

since they don't cost a thing."

"Listen, I love the mix," Wilmot adds, "but I do believe in some enforced snobbery about not associating with people who don't possess the fundamentals:

FINE ROMANCE between pharmaceuticals heiress Elizabeth Ross Johnson and hairdresser extraordinaire Frédéric Fekkai, both of Manhattan, seemed remarkable for one reason recently: they appeared unusually happy. To support our many local shrinks, happy romances are held as the exception in New York.

Frédéric Fekkai, meritocrat

It was romance as usual until a social scribe scribbled, "Who will do the bride's hair?" if Libet, as she is known, marries Frédéric. Strange remark. You really couldn't get farther off the social beam these

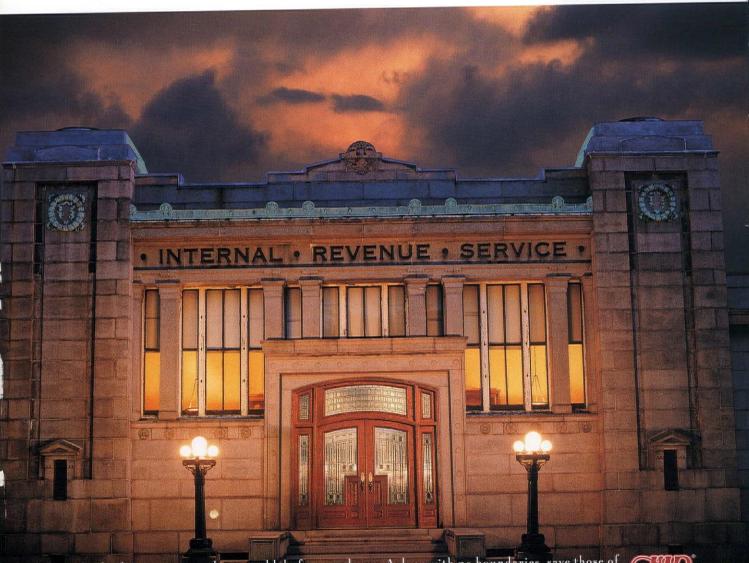
"THE ONLY THING YOU CAN BE SNOBBISH ABOUT IS MANNERS"—BROOKE DE OCAMPO

good manners, hygiene, respect for other people's space, giving good food to your guests. It is all there for the learning. Why be polluted by people who don't appreciate these fundamentals?"

Indeed. And as for the query about who will do Elizabeth Ross Johnson's hair? She recently cut it quite short, thank you very much, so it doesn't matter. She can do it herself.

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