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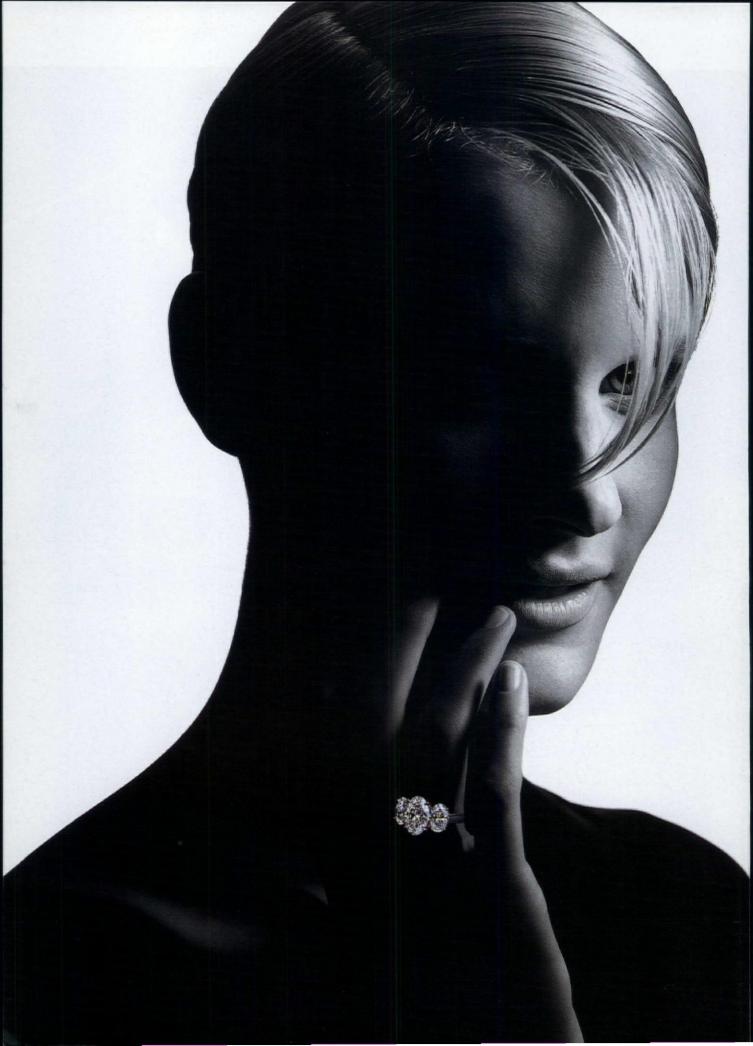








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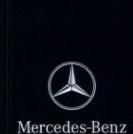
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First Principle: Artful Spaces 79

Paint Box 80

With artists Eric Fischl and April Gornik as his clients and his muses, architect Lee H. Skolnick designs a dramatic, compelling compound for living and working on eastern Long Island. BY SUZANNE SLESIN

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Gothically beautiful tropical plants will thrive in a heated, glassed-in structure with plenty of moisture. BY STEPHEN ORR

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A magnificent collection of modern art and the finest nineteenth-century furnishings get along famously in Brian Murphy's design for a Manhattan interior. BY SUZANNE SLESIN

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Seriously, isn't it time to put some fun into the busiest room in the house? Bright colors and unexpected shapes give appliances a whole lot of pizzazz.

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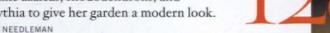
ON THE COVER The magic of an apartment designed by architect Laurence Booth lies in its subtle artistry and hidden assets. BY SUZANNE SLESIN

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Alex and Barbara Sgroi serve up fine cuisine and a vision of the good life at their farmhouse outside Toronto. BY FLIZABETH POCHODA

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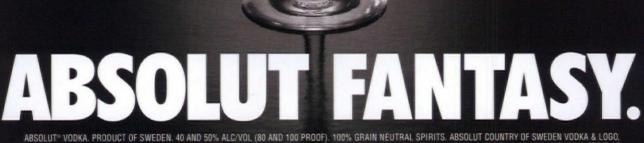
Henriette Suhr is confident enough to use old standbys like azaleas, rhododendrons, and even forsythia to give her garden a modern look. BY DEBORAH NEEDLEMAN











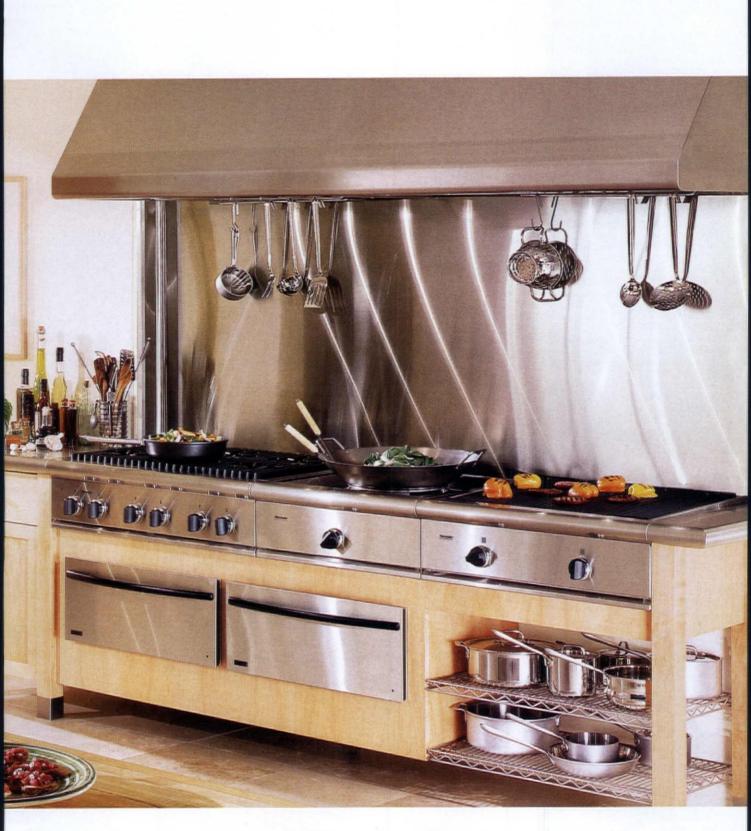
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February

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Domestic Bliss 32

Serious foodies enjoy shopping as much as they enjoy eating. They travel the globe—and the Internet—in search of pans and gadgets that will turn tedious tasks into labors of love. To send you off on your own journey: five of the best kitchen stores and six can't-live-without utensils. BY DAN SHAW

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Metals are having their moment. Some, like copper and gold, have been used since ancient times; but new technologies let designers use them in unusual ways, from meshlike fabrics to glass shot through with gold. Even aluminum and titanium are making their shimmering way into our homes. Silver-leaf wallpaper and industrial-looking lamps with gilded interiors—they're dazzlingly elemental. BY INGRID ABRAMOVITCH AND GEORGIA DZURICA

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Patrick Chassé creates a Down East landscape as nature intended but never got around to making herself. BY CHARLOTTE M. FRIEZE

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is a monument to the power and
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have you seen the cook's room?
BY SUZANNE SLESIN

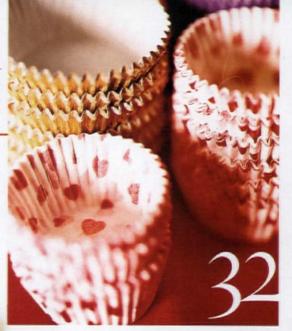
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BY VÉRONIQUE VIENNE





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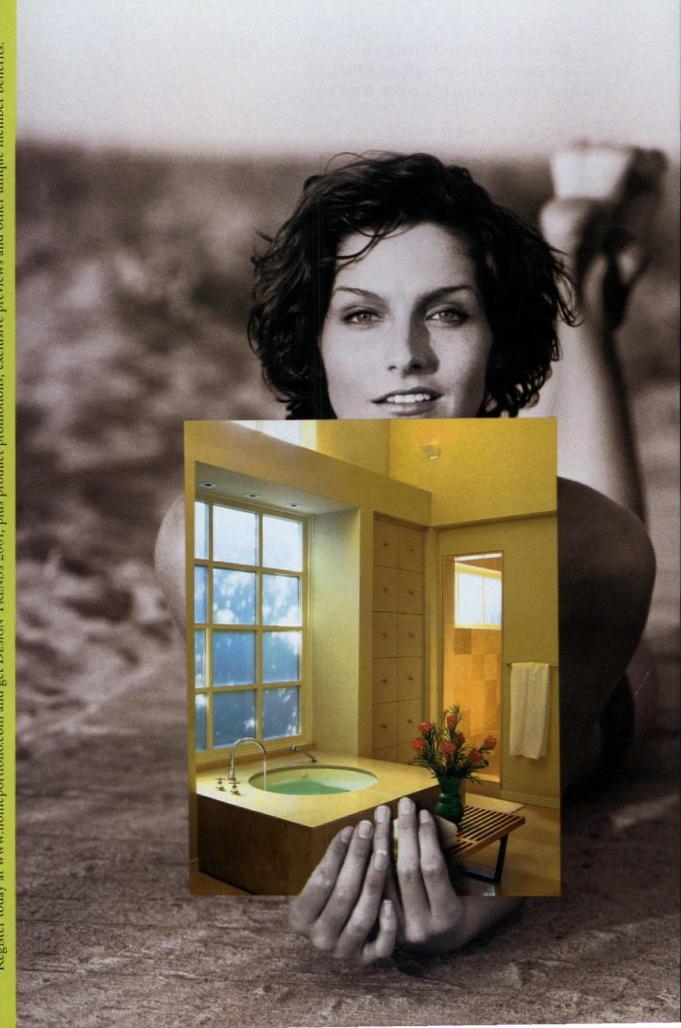


As a two-time Olympic champion and four-time World Champion, the breathtaking Ekaterina Gordeeva has carved an indelible mark on the sport of figure skating. Her Rolex makes quite an impression as well.





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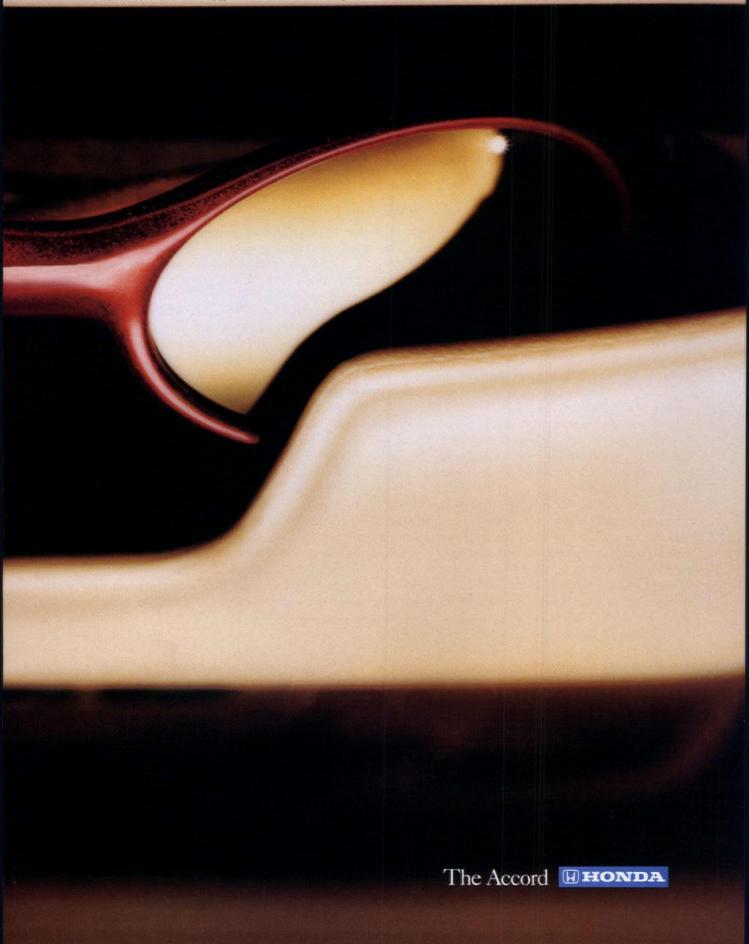
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welcome CAFÉ 222

CAME HOME, A WHILE AGO, at the very end of one of those days that began with a breakfast meeting and went through dinner, and I was relieved to enter my quiet, empty house (the kids weren't there). I was exhausted, and perhaps for that reason (although I am also chronically absentminded) I didn't really notice a couple of empty pizza boxes on the

kitchen table that hadn't been there that morning. A few evenings later, as I was sorting the mail, I discovered lots of Chinese food containers in the trash, and thought, that's odd, I don't remember eating Chinese food, and then promptly forgot about it. I was vaguely aware that certain foods were disappearing with alarming rapidity—things like

Pop-Tarts and Tostitos and Cheerios. And then one day I was home at lunchtime and, while I was working my way through a manuscript, I heard noise from the kitchen. Voices, music, laughter. Certainly the most relaxed of burglaries; it sounded like a party.

I marched downstairs to investigate, and stumbled into the lunch party my teenage son was throwing for four of his friends, a party that, as it happens, was a daily event. The table was strewn with soda cans, pizza boxes, and sandwich bags. Music blasted from the speakers on the sideboard. Several young men had already tucked into their meals, and I noticed (with some twisted pleasure) that my son had distributed linen napkins to his guests. One fellow was angled over the stove; appalled by the food selections at the local deli, pizza parlor, and Chinese restaurant (the three choices within walking distance), he was cooking the meal that has become a staple of the teenage boy's diet: ramen noodles. The whole scene was jolly,

hospitable, lively; lunch lasted 40 minutes. Everyone felt at home.

Well, the best decorating move I ever made in my kitchen was to haul in an old leather sofa, big as a barge, where we eat, read, nap, and talk while someone's cooking. But the second best move was to get rid of the adjoining family room (read playroom)—you know, the room with the playpen, the block box, the bins of toys spilled out on the floor. Once the days of babyhood were over, I packed up the plastic and put a big wooden table into that nook never mind that the dining room table is (redundantly) right next



door. This has become a homework table, and a drawing board, and, for the last few years, it is Café 222, named for our address.

The boys' conversation, as far as I can gather (okay, so I eavesdrop a little, wouldn't you?) ranges from comments about teachers to elaborate recitations of Saturday Night Live segments. It's been wonderful to follow the group's lives through the traces of what's left behind; I've watched the CD pile change from the Beatles to Bob Dylan to Ravi Shankar to Miles Davis (no Rage Against the Machine for this set; they leave all that to their younger brothers). Sixteen seems to be an age when boys shut down around their mothers; they're aware of every move you make, and they're ready to pounce with an ironic comment the moment you cross some invisible line. But they give off an air of vacancy. I guess it's the sort of thing that makes you really appreciate their moments of presence. I'll take my teenager's company any way I can, even if it is through the medium of our kitchen as it records his comings and goings.

Okay, so I've had to teach the guys some things about fine dining. We had a mouse invasion from food souvenirs left on the floor; the table sometimes develops a sticky film of spilled food—you can read it like braille: who had what for lunch. (Naturally I always make this discovery when the newspaper gets glued to the table.) I came home late

> one evening to find a burner still lit, the flame dancing merrily into the air. Still, I love Café 222. I'm pleased not only that my child has a key to the house, but that he feels free to use it and to share his table with his friends—yes, without asking permission; that's the point: it's *bis* house, too. After all, everyone knows love comes in through the kitchen door.

Dominique Browning, EDITOR

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HOUSE &GARDEN

contributors

► BRIAN MURPHY

A decorator in the classic mold, Murphy began his career in 1987 as an assistant to Sister Parish and Albert Hadley. After Parish-Hadley closed its doors, he started his own firm, Brian Murphy, Inc., where his expertise continues to wow discerning clients. For two art collectors, he designed a luxurious home where the juxtaposition of fine antiques and modern art is complex, stunning, and surprisingly fluid ("Master Strokes," page 96).

► LAURENCE BOOTH

Depth and diversity mark the work of Booth Hansen Associates, the Chicago architectural firm that Laurence Booth founded almost 20 years ago. In projects ranging from performing arts centers to private homes, his guiding principle is sensitivity to the "particular spirit" of each client, rather than an adherence to stylistic preconceptions. A tailored apartment that Booth designed in his home city captures one family's sophisticated tastes ("Sleight of Hand," page 112).







◀ LEE H. SKOLNICK

A rigorous approach to questions of perception suits this architect to collaborating with artists. "I'm looking for a direct connection to the imagination, using space and materials," he says. For Eric Fischl and April Gornik, he designed a dramatic compound of studios and living space ("Paint Box," page 80). With glass, steel, and cement, Skolnick developed transitions between nature and architecture so evocative and lyrical that it's not surprising he likens his practice to composing music. - SABINE ROTHMAN

FRANÇOIS DISCHINGER (MURPHY); RO

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SUMMERILL & BISHOP Shopping at London's Summerill & Bishop (100 Portland Road, W11; 011-44-207-221-4566) is a soulful experience. "It's not like a store—it's a feeling," says Beth Karmin of Los Angeles, who visits S&B whenever she's in England. "We bring back lavender water to clean the kitchen floor, and we've been caught going through customs with ironing boards." Those wooden ironing boards from Italy have the roughhewn sophistication that is S&B's trademark. "When we opened seven years ago, we decided to sell only things we'd have in our own homes," says June Summerill (with her partner, Bernadette Bishop, right), who has exquisite taste. "We like things made of wood and stone, and things made by hand. We don't like anything too sentimental." Their approach is simply seductive. "There isn't a shop like it anywhere," says Laraine Ashton, a former models' agent who is now a London housewife. "You feel uplifted the moment you walk in. I find myself coming away with candles and old linens and the odd potato peeler. Every time I walk in there I buy something, and so does everyone else." - D.S.



"When I was in Paris last time, I picked up a square ice cream scoop. When you use vanilla ice cream, it looks like a marshmallow"

-ANNE ROSENZWEIG, EXECUTIVE CHEF AND OWNER, THE LOBSTER CLUB, NYC



"My quail egg opener is like a little decapitator for eggs"

-ROSE LEVY BERANBAUM, AUTHOR, THE PIE AND PASTRY BIBLE "The word 'gadget' gives me the willies. It implies not too serious things. Things from the kitchen are serious. I like these heavy cookie sheets from Bridge. I get good exercise using them" —MAIDA HEATTER, AUTHOR, MAIDA HEATTER'S CODKIES



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domestic bliss COOKS'TOFR



"I can't imagine anyone living in the civilized world without a garlic press"

----FLORENCE PERCHUK, KITCHEN DESIGN CONSULTANT, ST. CHARLES OF NEW YORK

NASHVILLE

VIKING Like Graceland and the Grand Ole Opry, the Viking Culinary Arts Centers (877-599-9617, 877-584-5464) have become Ten-

nessee tourist attractions. "It's a foodie's heaven," says Yvonne Quiring, a housing official from Fresno, California, who planned a business trip around a visit to the center in Memphis. "I went to one of their brown bag lunches and learned about things like a



micro-zester and a stainless-steel *chinois*, which I never knew existed." The centers, run by the status appliance manufacturer, are both school and store, where aspiring gourmets can testdrive a \$5,000 range, learn to bone a chicken, and purchase exotica like French duck presses. "They don't make you feel stupid if you're not a French chef," says Nashville nurse Emily Schlenker, "but they have everything you need to help you become one." –D.S.

"Drum sieves are great for very fine purees. I use them for making mashed potatoes" —JAMES PETERSON, AUTHOR, ESSENTIALS OF COOKING

ETRIC

EATTLE

SUR LA TABLE As its foreign name suggests, the Sur La Table chain has an international point of view. Founded in Seattle in 1972, the chain has grown to 19 stores, which are packed with such must-haves as *couscoussières*, truffle shavers, and sesame seed roasters. "It's like walking into a candy store," says longtime customer Fiona Cameron. "The people who work there share your intense interest in cooking." Sur La Table (800-243-0852) not only stocks hard-to-find items, but also teaches people how to use them in cooking classes by such chefs as Alice Waters and Gary Danko. "The lineup has just gotten better and better," says Sandra Doyle, an Oakland-based mother who just received her MBA and attends at least one cooking class per month. "When my little one gets older, I will indoctrinate her." – JENNY GAVACS

ALEX HAYDEN (SUR LA TABLE): ERICKA MCCONNELL (VIKING); TI

"The Wonder Cup lets you

AUTHOR, THE PIE AND PASTRY BIBLE

squirt out ingredients so there

are no dregs" - ROSE LEVY BERANBAUM.



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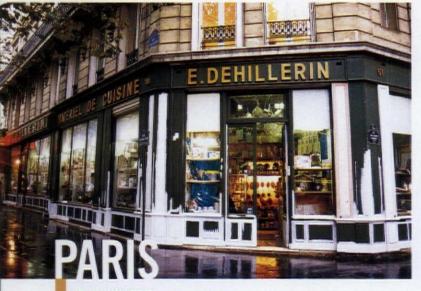
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domestic bliss COOKS'TO

'My fish basket is sort of like an iron maiden for fish"

ESSENTIALS OF COOKING



E. DEHILLERIN When people talk about E. Dehillerin of Paris (18 & 20 rue Coquillere; 011-33-1-42-36-53-13), it is always with the respect accorded landmarks like the Bastille. "More than any other place I've been in, I get the feeling that it's the original," says Gail Monaghan, a baker, teacher, and cookbook author who lives in New York City. Older than the Eiffel Tower, it was founded by Eugène Dehillerin in 1820, and remains a family-run business catering to the needs of French cooks. "Blessedly, Dehillerin does not have everything," says House & Garden food editor Lora Zarubin. "It doesn't cater to the wavering trends of food. It's a classic; it's truly French." The store does, however, offer newly designed products that appeal to culinary innovators like Jean-Georges Vongerichten, the four-star New York chef. "When you walk into the store, you get inspiration," he says. "We can't invent new ingredients, so we cooks need new techniques. The equipment helps with the techniques." Few Americans can resist. "It has things you can't find here," Monaghan says, "and it has more beautiful things than you find here." -J.G.



BRIDGE Before the food revolution, before gourmet shops and Zagat, amateur cooks with serious ambitions had only one place to shop in New York: Bridge Kitchenware (214

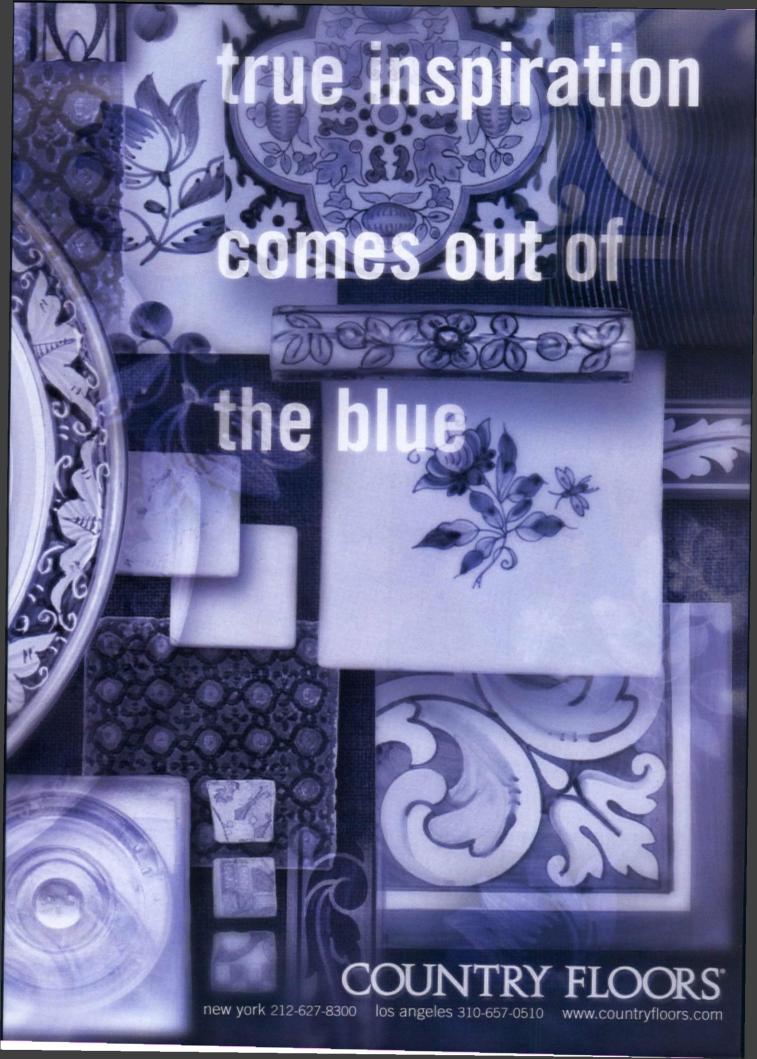
East 52nd Street; 212-688-4220). Founded in 1946 by Fred Bridge, the shop supplied top restaurants like '21' and El Morocco. In the '70s, Bridge started selling to select walk-in customers. "He used to keep the doors locked," says his widow, Carolynn



Bridge. "If he didn't like the look of you, he wouldn't let you in." A famous curmudgeon, Bridge demanded as much from his customers as he did from his equipment. "He had no tolerance for mediocrity," says Jack Weinstock, chairman of a New York-based clothing importer and a favored customer. Though Bridge died in 1996, the store remains nonpareil. Wayne Nish, co-owner of Manhattan's March restaurant, says, "It is a world unto itself."-J.G.

"If I could keep only one thing in my kitchen, I'd keep my Showtime BBQ. Unlike all the junk I've seen, this one works" —BEVERLY ELLSLEY, INTERIOR DESIGNER





domestic bliss

My kitchen essentials should be yours, too by Lora Zarubin

I love the slow, even heat you get by cooking with **earthenware** flavors seem richer, meats moister. When shopping for my collection of vintage French pieces, I make sure that the pots are lead-free.

RDER

> For the perfect salad, your lettuce must be absolutely dry. The brilliant **Zyliss Salad Spinner** does the job right, with a smooth pull-string mechanism and a bowl big enough for soaking greens; \$18.95, at NYC's Broadway Panhandler. 866-COOKWARE.

I have yet to serve a guest who can resist a zucchini gratin or fig clafoutis served in one of Le Bon Marché's little iron **La Cocotte pots**; in Paris, 011-33-144-398-000. Sized for individual servings, they fit easily on my Tuscan Grill and keep food piping hot.

Mundane prep work like chopping parsley, onions, or tomatoes becomes a pleasure with my supersharp white **ceramic knives** from Milan's G. Lorenzi; 011-39-02-760-228-48.

> No serious cook is without a mortar and pestle, and I have several. I use my wooden ones for grinding spices, and reserve my marble and stone ones for aiolis and remoulades.

> > Even the humblest chop tastes spectacular when seared on the **Tuscan Grill** I keep set up in my fireplace. Cooking over an open flame has never been so simple; \$130, at the Gardener in Berkeley, CA. 510-548-4545.



HOUSE & GARDEN - FEBRUARY 2001

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treasure hunt

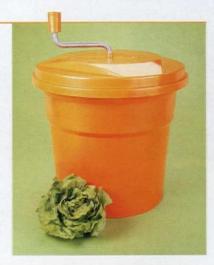
You don't have to know what you are looking for to enjoy shopping on ebay.com. House & Garden shoot production director Kelly Crane Winkler approaches eBay as if it were a treasure hunt. If she sees an interesting collection of old kitchen gadgets, she'll bid on them-even if she doesn't know what they are. That's how she got some turquoise-handled pieces that match her vintage Homer Laughlin china. "When the stuff arrived, it included something that looked like a fish spatula," left, she says. "We figured out that it's a pasta drainer that you hook on the edge of the pot to keep the noodles in. It was a great and unexpected discovery."

spicy stuf

Put some wit and whimsy on your stove and countertop by visiting **colorfulkitchen.com**. This site devoted to Italian cookware features curvy Vapoimmagine pressure cookers (\$150), colorful citrus juicers (\$12.95), limewood Legnoart trolleys (\$2,750), and peppermills with pizzazz (\$96), above, which are truly objets d'art.

shop like a restaurateur

If you're bored with fancy stores that sell professional-*style* gadgets, and you crave verisimilitude, log on to **nextdaygourmet.com**. The site sells everything from a set of color-coded utility tongs (\$60.79)—yellow is for uncooked poultry, tan is for fish—to movie-house popcorn makers (\$431.25 to \$600). Run by U.S. Food Service, a commercial wholesaler, the site is a haven for people who like no-nonsense tools, and is useful for anyone who entertains a crowd. Instead of resorting to Styrofoam cups at your next megabrunch, why not order a case of 36 "Navy" white ceramic mugs for just \$61.88? If you want to wash and dry enough greens to get you and your houseguests through a three-day weekend, a five-gallon salad drier, right, might be worth the \$206.25 investment. Where can you store all that lettuce? In a jumbo 30-by-15-by-7-inch Perforated Drain Box Kit (\$33.75), which the site also sells.



the eater's guide to gourmet literature

Bonnie Slotnick, whose cozy Greenwich Village shop (163 West 10th Street) specializes in out-of-print and antiquarian cookbooks, hasn't succumbed to putting her entire stock of books and ephemera on the Internet. "I prefer people to come in and browse," says Slotnick, who is the vintage book link on **epicurious.com**. Nevertheless, she is happy to search her shelves for you. I recently E-mailed her (**bonnieslotnick books@earthlink.net**) in search of an old favorite, the 1950 *Gourmet Cookbook*, and she responded within 24 hours with a copy in good condition for \$30. If you can't make it to Slotnick's shop, and feel like browsing, log on to **bibliofind.com/thevintagecookbookery.htm**. You can peruse the site's "shelves" (for example: 1921–1940, or Advertising Cookbooklets) just as you do at a brick-and-mortar store, discovering things you didn't know you wanted. On a recent visit, I found such delectable oddities as an undated copy of *The Republican Congressional Cook Book* (which includes General Eisenhower's beef stew recipe for 60) and a 1937 copy of *Brer Rabbit's New Book of Molasses Recipes*.—p.s.

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TO ORDER any of the five new books featured here, call 800-266-5766, Dept. 1820.

REQUIRED READING



Rustic, retro, or rigidly high-tech, the rooms where we make-and take-our meals speak volumes about who we are. Here are more than 100 inspiring scenarios.

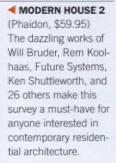




Alumin

VALUMINUM BY DESIGN

(Abrams, \$75) From Barcelona chairs to baseball bats, the twentieth century's favorite metal takes a star turn in this wonderful catalog, published to accompany the Carnegie Museum of Art's traveling exhibition.

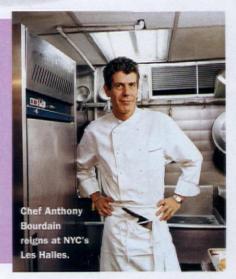


Favorites of the author of Kitchen Confidential

THE FRENCH LAUNDRY COOKBOOK by Thomas Keller (Artisan) "The ultimate in porn for chefs. Gorgeous, obsessively crafted food. Don't try this at home." WHITE HEAT by Marco Pierre White (Trafalgar Square) "Britain's original bad-boy chef. Defiantly retro. It's the only cookbook by a chef who actually looks like a real chef, and it's the only cookbook with a photo of the chef smoking." THE BELLY OF PARIS by Émile Zola "A gargantuan novel set in Paris's Les Halles marketplace in the 19th century. It contains

no recipes, but it is filled with dizzying and inspiring descriptions of food." **NOSE TO TAIL EATING by Fergus Hender**son (Macmillan) "Recipes from the chef of London's amazing St. John restaurant. A love letter to 'low on the hog' cuisine: offal, marrow, hooves, and jowls prepared in glorious old-style fashion." THE PROVINCETOWN SEAFOOD COOK-

BOOK by Howard Mitcham (Parnassus Imprints) "This is a classic, filled with recipes and anecdotes about Cape Cod/ Portuguese fish cookery."

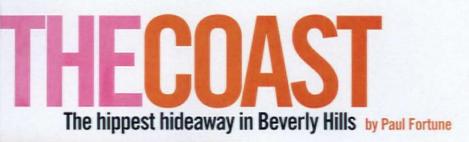


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At Maison 140, Kelly Wearstler redefines hotel chic.

omestic bliss

5

NCE UPON A TIME in the fairytale town of Beverly Hills, folks built their homes to resemble their favorite hotels. The huger the lobbies, the happier the people became.

Now, in an ironic volte-face, Hollywood hotels are being designed to resemble homes. The talented workaholic interior decorator Kelly Wearstler is at it again, and this time it's a small gem called Maison 140 (800-432-5444). Tucked away on a quiet street in Beverly Hills, it is fast becoming a hideaway for fashion editors and their followers.

Wearstler's look is wholly original (and makes the hotel-as-nightclub concept seem very passé). Think *Flower Drum Song* meets '60s Franco-Chinese brothel in the mind of a demented but classy Hollywood set decorator working on an early Fellini movie and you'll get the idea. It's *fabulous*.

The dervish-driven Wearstler barnstormed through France, London, and New York, stuffing containers full of Lucite lamps, faux Chinese mirrors, passementerie, and anything else her cunning eye latched onto. Then she raided one of my favorite sources in L.A., Keith McCoy & Associates, where she resurrected Floridian Bob Collins's '60s wallpapers in mad colors and Chinese patterns.

Maison 140 would be a perfect place for a gal to hide out after a little nip 'n' tuck, as all the top surgeons are within a gurney trundle, but it's not legal in B.H. to recuperate in a hotel. If it were up to me, I'd have chic silk-lined rickshaws ferrying those Demerol-dosed dames up and down the alleys betwixt clinics and Maison 140.

Not one to watch the lacquer drying, Wearstler is on to yet another hotel project. "It's the old Pacific Shores in Santa Monica," she trills, tossing a ticket to the parking valet while working her cell phone, "then a remodel of an old Palm Springs hotel, and then maybe another hotel, who knows?"

When is all this hotel hysteria going to stop? They're booked solid, but who on earth is staying at them? If anyone knows, it's Wearstler, and she's far too busy to tell.

what's passé is pretty phenomenal

If, like me, you find that as soon as you manage to purchase a Palm Pilot or a cell phone it becomes obsolete, you'll be amused to hear that you can now shop at a store in Venice called ... Obsolete.

Co-owner Kirk Blaschke, left, is an architect who worked in Frank Gehry's office before deciding to take a detour into retail (of sorts). He began to sate a lifelong obsession for artifacts of the twentieth century, and Obsolete now offers a collection of furniture, lighting, toys, and bizarre curios that are no longer manufactured. They are showcased as lost artifacts that will probably never be made again. Who's going to make a circus-clowncostume cupboard or a child-sized version of a factory golf cart?

All these delightful reminders of bygone eras are of museum quality, yet maintain a sense of fun. Obsolete (310-399-0024) is another spot to score an unusual wedding present that will never be returned.

bowled over

Mention American arts and crafts to me today and I conjure up images of turgid "loomings," clumpy ceramics, or driftwood assemblages. What happened to those incredible artists of the Cranbrook School and the prolific output of Saarinen, Wirde, Larsen, and Bertoia? As Paul Bowles reportedly sighed when he left New York for his Moroccan exile, "Everything's just getting worse."

As much as I see his point, I'm here to report that there is always a glimmer of hope out there, and it is embodied in the work of Vernon Leibrant. A former roofer from Everson, WA, he has taken his affinity



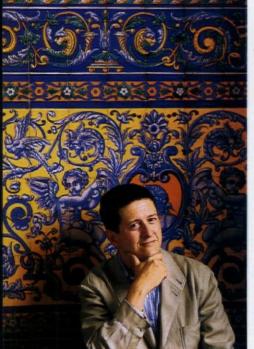
for wood in another direction by producing hand-turned bowls. Taking green trees that have been felled, he turns blocks of their wood into organic, simple shapes that curl slowly to produce a variety of superb pieces.

I was stunned at the selection available at Domestic, In Los Angeles (323-936-8206). It took weeks for me to decide on a three-foot-wide maple bowl. It's perfect for a Caesar salad luncheon for 20. Although I hate the term "functional art," these bowls definitely fall into that category. One thrilled recipient's Chihuahuas have co-opted hers for their bed!



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EUROPE Andalusia trumps Tuscany and Provence by Meredith Etherington-Smith



Architect Valentin de Madariaga Parias, above, in front of one of his restoration projects. Andalusia's grand resort, the Dehesa Montenmedio, top right. Manuel Máñez Moya's Casa Museo Ias Cúpulas, below right.

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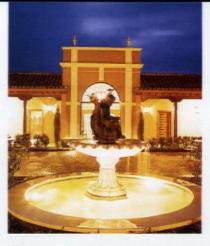
^M GETTING A TINY bit bored of bumping into friends who twitter on about first-pressed virgin olive oil and peeling medieval frescoes in touristy Tuscany and Umbria. That's why I love Andalusia, the still remote land of the horse, the bullfight, of gypsy nonturistico flamenco, tumbledown eighteenth-century *cortijos* (farmhouses), blinding white mountain villages that have not been prettified—and twentyfirst-century site-specific art installations.

I'm not alone in my enthusiasm. Cortijos and fincas (grander estates) set high in the remote cork forests on the hills between the coastal nightmare and Seville are being snapped up by chic Euros. Once they find their cortijo, they call in Valentin de Madariaga Parias, a brilliant Seville architect, to restore its pale-green tiled roofs, rejas (square iron window grilles), cool central courtyards,

and weather-beaten earthenware floor tiles.

De Madariaga also works very much in the present. He's the architect and landscape designer of choice at Sotogrande, that manicured paradise on the Andalusian coast. For **Jaime Zobel de Ayala**, former ambassador for the Philippines in London, for instance, he built a pool on the brow of a hill. As you're doing laps, all you can see is the coast, 100 feet below.

When I met Zobel, nephew of Fernando Zobel, the Spanish abstract artist, he was celebrating his successful exhibition of neon flower photographs at Madrid's PhotoEspaña 2000.



This annual exhibition in June is a virtually unknown new source for art-photograph collectors. Book now for this year's event.

Shopping for furniture and fittings to get the *cortijo* look has, until recently, been rather difficult, for the Spanish have come late to architectural salvage. Cortijo las Flores is next to Sotogrande in San Enrique. It's an antiques shop run by **Linda Cockerell**, who finds tempting *cortijo trouvées* including wonderful eighteenth-century garden urns and stacks of wrought-iron windows that would look fabulous in a loft, never mind a *cortijo*.

In Sotogrande itself, check out Letitia Airitio's antiques shop. Airitio goes in for a *finca* rather than a *cortijo* look. Think gloomy-but-fabulous eighteenthcentury Spanish palace. I hankered after a large portrait of what looked like an extremely grand dwarf, clad in black satin and white ruff. You might also visit the Sotogrande market on Sunday to check out the *brocante* dealers who spread nineteenthcentury china and *cortijo* bits and pieces on the pavement. And there's also the Sunday car-boot sale down the coast toward Marbella at Manilva—who knows what you might find there.

Antonio Blázques is an Andalusian with vision. High up in the hills on Andalusia's coast is his fabulous *cortijo*-style Dehesa Montenmedio. I arrived just after Antonio Banderas and Melanie Griffith had left. If they return next year, they will be able to look at contemporary sculpture, for Blázques has established a foundation with Marc Blondeau, Magda Bellotti, and the Swedish Wanås Foundation to commission site-specific sculptures for his cork-treed hills. Among the eight inaugural sculptors are Susana Solano and Roxy Paine.

rural genius Artist Manuel Máñez Moya's living monument

There's art, and then there's Outsider art. Accompanied by the local priest and other Andalusian chums, I went one evening to find Manuel Máñez Moya, an extraordinary Outsider artist whose home and museum, Casa Museo las Cúpulas, is in a hamlet high in the Andalusian hills. Moya's father and grandfather were carpenters whose main trade was making wooden ploughshares. He still plies the family trade, being in demand for his doors and gates made in the traditional cortijo style. But his passions are carving primitive, sometimes priapic, figures and huge groups out of whole trees and adding to his extraordinary self-designed and -built house. This is a series of pavilions made entirely out of wood, down to the last tiny nail. It is not only his home but an extraordinary museum of his work. His neighbor across the hill, the "red" duchess of Medina Sidonia, is one of this self-taught and original artist's many fans, both in Spain and, increasingly, abroad.



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to stay with the classic solar-powered frame.

Cold frames dramatically extend the growing season. In zone 6, having one can add almost two months to the growingcool season in autumn, and can make planting possible a month earlier in spring. If the frame is close to the kitchen, you can easily pop outside before dinner and pick a

Extend the season with a cold frame by Carol King

COLD FRAME is sort of a poor woman's greenhouse, without the headroom, and without the orchids. Although the thought of using one makes me a little nervous, my garden needs a cold frame. And I want a cute one.

A cold frame is simply an open-bottomed box with a sloped glass or Plexiglas lid. They can be ordered from catalogs and, though serviceable, are pretty plain affairs, made of aluminum or wood and Plexiglas. Because cold frames should face south to collect as much sun as possible, and will stay warmer in winter when snuggled up against a building, they often end up in full view of the rest of the garden. So looks are important. If you don't like the versions you see in catalogs, you could have a carpenter build a really goodlooking one that harmonizes with the architecture of your house.

One of my friends built what is basically a woodsided raised bed, with an antique storm window on hinges to serve as the top. He added rich soil up to a couple of inches below the top of the frame. Other gardeners insist that the bulk of the soil should be below ground level, for extra insulation.

Cold frames are called "cold" to differentiate them from hotbeds, which in years past were cozily heated by filling the bottom with copious quantities of fresh horse manure. Today, extra heat can be supplied by heating cables in the soil. Either way, it sounds like too much trouble, so I'm going salad bowl of fresher, more nutrient-dense greens than you could ever find at the grocery store. And since food is good but flowers are better, violas and pansies can be sown in late September, and will be flowering and hardened-off in time for early spring transplanting.

Last summer, I propagated a bunch of easy-toroot shrubs from cuttings. Today the baby shrubs are languishing in the sultry warmth of the basement, when instead they should be dormant in a chilled but not freezing environment. In other words, in a cold frame.

Oddly enough, keeping a cold frame cool is more difficult than keeping it warm. Even on frigid days, if the sun is shining, the temperature can quickly rise above 72 degrees, at which point baby lettuces and carrots will cook and the soil will quickly dry out. To keep you from having to check a thermometer every couple of hours, and to give you the freedom to go away in winter, a thermostatically controlled venting system lifts and closes the lid in response to temperature changes in the frame.

Though a cold frame requires a bit of effort, it solves more problems than it creates, and can be useful year-round. In really bitter weather, cold frames need to be covered with a blanket or straw to keep the soil from freezing. A custom-made cold frame is going to make my garden a much more beautiful place, especially since it will have finials and lattice-embellished sides and will be painted medieval brown to match the house.

THE TENDER TRAPS

Cold frame gardening in every season

-Stephen Orr

WINTER

 Protect less hardy plants and bulbs (usually those hardy in the zone immediately south of yours).
Store bulbs for indoor forcing.

Shelter young biennial or perennial plants.



Sow spinach, salad greens, and hardy annuals extra early. Harden-off of tender seedlings started indoors.



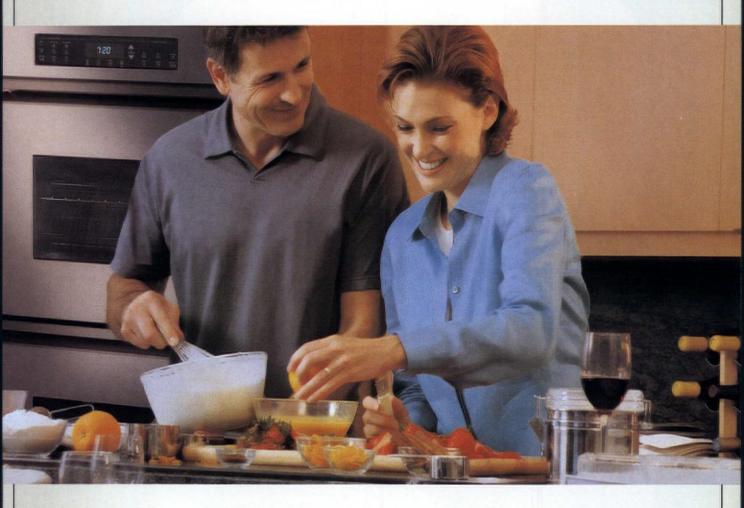
SUMMER Propagate cuttings by rooting in soil. Sow biennials for transplanting next summer.



 Start perennials and hardy annuals for next summer.
Sow cool season vegetables such as lettuce, endive, and parsley for late fall harvest.



Twelve dinner guests. Twelve miniature soufflés. Let's talk about the laws of probability.



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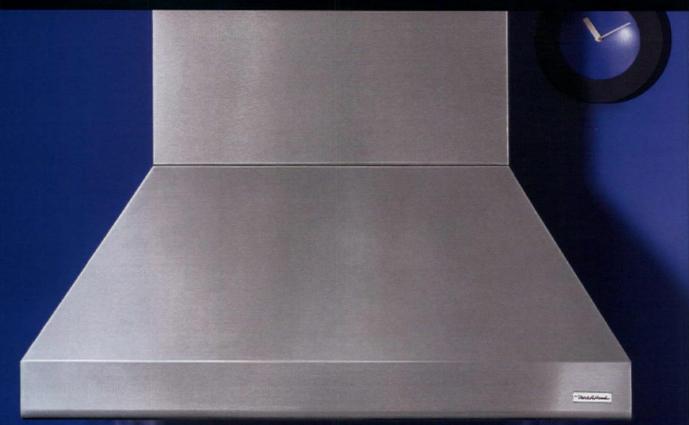
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object lesson

Go the Midas route. Small Squares gold foil on rice PAPER, by Anya Larkin, available at Pranich & Associates.

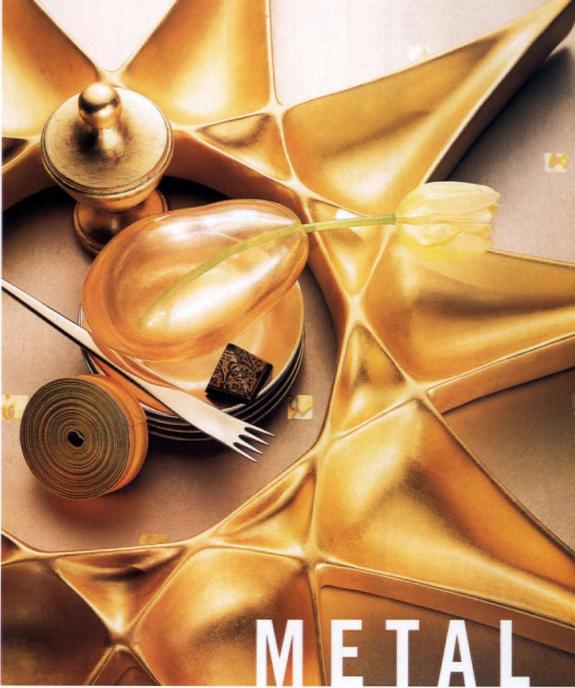
Spyrostar mirror FRAME, with 23k gold leaf, from Lawrence DeMartino Studio, NYC.

Gold-leaf FINIAL, from Stancil Studios, San Francisco. Salviati's Lapili VASE, by Laura de Santilana, NYC.

Carat cocktail PLATES by Philippe Deshoulières, and Christopher Norman champagne CHOCOLATE pyramid, both from ABC Carpet & Home, NYC,

Gold-plated FORK, from Mono's four-piece Tools set by Michael Schneider, from Moss, NYC.

Antique gold military dress RIBBON, from Tinsel Trading Co., NYC.



HERE'S A GLIMMER in our eye that would have made our chemistry teachers proud. Metals are having their moment, and a list of those favored by designers and architects—titanium, aluminum, gold—is straight out of that old chem-lab favorite, the periodic table. All these metals are elements. Some, like copper and gold, have been used in the decorative arts since ancient times, but new technologies let designers use them in unusual ways, from meshlike fabrics to glass shot through with gold. More recent discoveries, such as aluminum and titanium, are making their shimmering way into our homes. Silver-leaf wallpaper, industrial-looking lamps with gilded interiors—they're dazzlingly elemental.

WRITTEN BY INGRID ABRAMOVITCH AND GEORGIA DZURICA PHOTOGRAPHED BY LISA CHARLES WATSON - PRODUCED BY MICHELLE ROTMAN

object lesson



GOLD Au This is a gilded age, but you wouldn't know from looking at it. With technology driving wealth, white metals, which convey a high-tech look, have been the rage, while gold, the traditional symbol of opulence, has been almost nowhere to be found. Maybe that's why this luxe

metal is quietly making a comeback, and why it suddenly looks so fresh. In today's home, gold isn't polished to a scream, it's used in more subtle ways. Fabrics, such as Carleton V's Calder Sheer, are threaded with gold, and at night they reflect off every surface in a room. Gold fixtures are toned down with a satin finish, while gold leaf gives objects a burnished, handcrafted look. New technologies allow designers such as Steve Weinstock of Alchemy Glass & Light to fuse 23k gold into glass. Is it gilding the lily? New York special events designer David Beahm, who has literally done so, asks why not. "You can gild to be gauche, or you can gild to accent," he says. "Too much is never enough-within the confines of taste."

Maya Romanoff's Precious Metals WALLPAPER sets off Ingo Maurer's Pierre ou Paul gold-leaf pendant LIGHT.

Silver has been called the "necessary luxury." For centuries, "it was never solely a rich man's pleasure," writes Phillipa Glanville, the director of Waddeson Manor in Aylesbury, England, in *Silver: History and Design*. It was a serviceable staple for the table and, when cash was in short supply, could be converted to coin.

The most obvious property of silver is its shininess, which is really its reflection of all colors—the result of free electrons in its constitution. That quality is ideal for many interiors. Atlanta designer Stan Topol used silver-leaf covering on the ceiling to create a radiant background in the home of the country's biggest glass collectors. Donghia's Windowpane Silver wallcovering, a silver-leaf design with a finely grained pattern, reflects the soft glow of candlelight. Scalamandré blends silk with silver in fabric with a pomegranate pattern to bring luxury to the living room.

Fashion favorites Versace and Armani are among those making silver home accessories. Marshall Drake of the design firm Hirsch Bedner Associates has accented black granite floors with silver-plated, inlaid bands. "Designers are stretching the limits with silver," he says, "from very contemporary to very classic applications." Donghia's silver-leaf Windowpane WALLPAPER is a shimmering background for a silver-plated REGISTER COVER from Wainland's Inc., NYC.

Sabiha Malik Foster's graceful sterling CARAFE is from Nicole Farhi, NYC.

Jordan ALMONDS from New York Cake & Baking Distributors, NYC, add a festive touch.

Vivianna Torun Bülow-Hübe's sterling LETTER OPENER for Georg Jensen, NYC, is next to a sterling Calvin Klein BABY RATTLE. We Raise Our Mugs To The People Who Are As Passionate About What They Do As We Are About Our Coffee.

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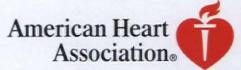
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object lesson

Copper goes from primitive splendor to modern chic. A stack of copper-glazed Cobsa ceramic Spanish TILES is from Simon's Hardware & Bath, NYC. The woven VEIL is by Sarah Schwartz for Proverbial, at Moss, NYC.

Martha Sturdy's artisanal BOWL is from Bergdorf Goodman.

Designer Russel Wright advocated "humanizing functional design." His superb bedside LAMP, ca. 1935, one of a pair, is from Capitol Furnishings, NYC.

WIRE MESH from Gerard Daniel Worldwide, Hanover, PA, covers the background.

Copper was the first metal that humans used, 10,000 years ago—and for five millennia it was the only metal they even knew.

Corrosion resistance has made copper popular for decoration and construction through the centuries. Copper is prized for its patina and for the way it weathers into the landscape with the seasons. Charles Gandy, president of Gandy Peace, an internationally known Atlanta design firm, works on many rustic properties. He uses copper for tile roofs and gutters, he says, "for the way the patina's going to look."

For interior use, copper can be treated against oxidizing with a sealer. Atlanta designer Jackie Naylor has used copper for a bathroom countertop with an integrated copper basin. She credits the popularity of lofts, with their open spaces and high-tech feel, for the resurgence of metals in decor.

Cu)

Sculptor-designer Martha Sturdy, who lives in Vancouver, British Columbia, has created a line of copper bowls. They are not pressed but spun from sheets the old-fashioned way, and given a rich look with added patina. "Copper and brass have a lovely crossreference," Sturdy says. "They can look fabulous in a traditional environment or in a very modern one."

In the United States, more copper is recovered and recycled annually than ore is mined. Because copper retains at least 95 percent of its value, it should be a staple for another 10,000 years.

object lesson

Whether it's for sports or music, titanium gets plenty of play. Put your pedal to the metal with an Axiom **BICYCLE** frame by Rob Vandermark, Seven Cycles, Inc., Watertown, MA.

How do you feel about heavy metal? Get rolling with a Classic SNARE DRUM from Dunnett Classic Drums, Vancouver, British Columbia.

Lightweight and functional, the single-wall CUP, TREK POT, and PAN set are perfect for camping, all from Snow Peak, Lake Oswego, OR.

Get the lead out! Go for the green with a set of Hawk Eye tungsteninjected titanium GOLF IRONS, from Callaway Golf.

It is present in igneous rocks, meteorites, and plants. Titanium is the fourth most abundant structural metal on earth, yet it has the shortest history of use of all the elements in the periodic table. It took until 1946 for scientists to figure out how to obtain the metal from ore. As strong as steel, but almost half its weight, titanium has been used for everything from space shuttles to replacement hip joints. It didn't become a household word until 1997, when architect Frank Gehry unveiled his Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain, sheathed in titanium panels so paperthin they seem to flutter in the wind. Gehry was smitten with the warmth of the material, which takes on hues from silver to gold to purple, depending on the time of day or the number of clouds overhead. An instant icon, Bilbao made titanium the metal for a new millennium. Despite its high price, titanium has begun to turn up in such objects as bicycles and cooking pots. It also now comes in colors, including the blue shade that British designer Julian Brown chose for a stylish new line of knives for the German company Boker. Though it is wonderfully light, don't be deceived into thinking this material is a lightweight, or that buildings or objects made of it won't endure. As Gehry, its biggest fan, vows, "Titanium is infinitely more permanent than stone."

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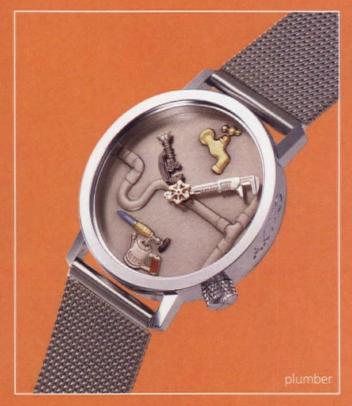
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object lesson

ALUMINUM -

Aluminum is earth's most abundant metal. but it took until the twentieth century for this element to become a design darling. Its fans included Palm Springs architect Albert Frey, who built his 1931 Aluminaire House out of it, and midcentury modern furniture greats such as Charles and Ray Eames and Warren McArthur. Discovered in the nineteenth century, aluminum was originally considered a luxury material. At first, it was used mainly by French jewelers to make elaborate hand-worked objects. The discovery of electricity changed aluminum's fate: chemists invented the electrolytic process, which strengthens aluminum by alloying it with other materials. Light, malleable, and now inexpensive to produce, aluminum became a staple in cars, tubular lawn chairs, and a host of other objects. Designers adored the metal, which was easy to mold into curves and other unusual shapes. "Aluminum became

associated with modernism and the idea of the future around the corner." says Sarah Nichols, chief curator of Pittsburgh's Carnegie Museum of Art. where the exhibit "Aluminum by Design" is on view through February 11. (It moves to New York's Cooper-Hewitt in March.) Aluminum is a favorite of product designers such as Marc Newson and Philippe Starck. Only now, Nichols says, "it has a history," evoking retro and cutting-edge in one metallic flash.

Aluminum takes shape. Philippe Starck CHAIR for Emeco, from ICF Group, NYC, holds a chain mail SHADE from Oriental Lamp Shade Co., NYC, and a BOULE SET from R. K. Alliston, London.

Razor SCOOTER, from Paragon Sports, NYC.

Stephane Rondel's single and double TRIVETS for Rondel Design, from Vivid, Seattle. Sources, see back of book.

III SHINE Precious metal objects require special cleaning

SILVER The best care for silver is frequent use and handwashing with a phosphate-free detergent. Clean untarnished silver with a phosphate-free detergent; rinse with warm water and dry immediately. Wipe with Selvyt lint-free cloths, and handle with Nutrile or cotton gloves.

Polish when necessary, probably every four to six weeks, with the smallest possible amount of polish. Tarnish is easy to remove when it's still slightly yellowish. Jeffrey Herman is a specialist in silver restoration and conservation and executive director of the Society of American Silversmiths (www.silver smithing.com). He likes products made specifically for silver. "It's best to use a less abrasive polish twice than a more abrasive polish once," he says. Throw out dried-up polish—it's too abrasive to use. Avoid dips if you can—they may contain thiourea, a carcinogen that can be absorbed through the skin. GOLD Treat solid gold as you would silver. Shine gold plate gently with a soft polishing cloth sold at jewelry stores. Clean gold bathroom fittings with a mild dish-washing soap.

COPPER Jamie Gibbons of New York's Retinning and Copper Repair Inc. (www.retinning.com) recommends Wright's Copper Cream, a paste applied with a sponge. Buckhead Plating Inc. in Atlanta suggests Pledge for use on dirty, dusty copper.

TITANIUM Wipe with naphtha, or clean with Sparkle or Simple Green diluted with ten parts water. Architectural exteriors can be cleaned as if they were windows.

green thoughts MAINE ATTRACTION

ALWAYS TRY to integrate my design expression into the larger landscape," says Patrick Chassé, Maine's preeminent landscape architect. "But with the Kryvicky design, I felt like a plastic surgeon," he says, adding with a twinkle, "and with the best plastic surgeons you can never tell."

The rugged Maine landscape he devised for

Patrick Chassé creates a Down East landscape as nature intended—but never got around to making herself

The house becomes one with the landscape as Patrick Chassé brings lowbush blueberry, huckleberry, sheep laurel, and other native plants onto the terrace. collector Jeffrey F. Kryvicky on a piece of coastline property near Seal Harbor seems totally a creation of nature alone. Intricately interwoven drifts of blueberry and huckleberry grow out of gaps in the moss-covered granite ledge. Towering spruce trees stand like spires against the horizon. Narrow paths, strewn with pine needles, meander as if made by wandering deer. In the mid-'80s, when Kryvicky first saw the hillside property, it was an undeveloped rocky woods that had not been cleared in more than a hundred years. According to locals, the site had no view: no water, no sunset, just trees. Undeterred, Kryvicky forged ahead, charmed by the natural power of the land. "My goal," he recalls, "was to re-create

> the wonderful feeling of the native vegetation surrounding the original Maine cottages, to integrate the house with the landscape—and the

views that had to be there. And I knew Patrick was the one to help me achieve it."

Clearing trees for the house was done selectively and by hand. Undergrowth vegetation and natural root systems were left intact. The woodland entrance to the property is intimate. Nothing jars. On arrival, you catch only a glimpse of architect Stephen J. Bucchieri's contemporary interpretation of

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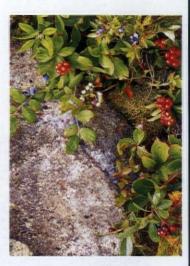
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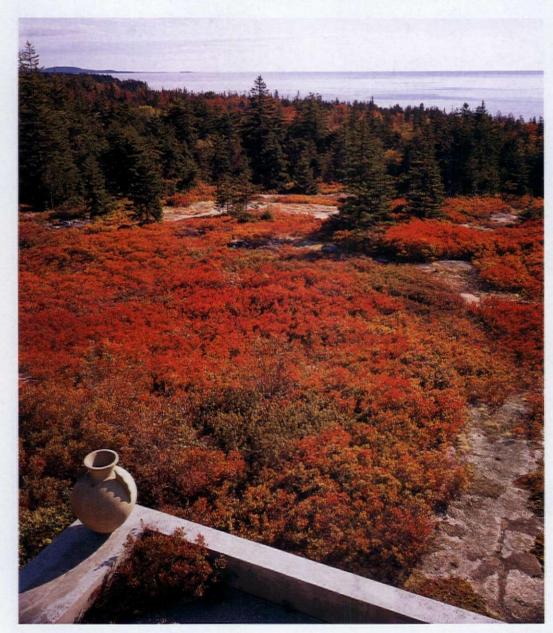
green thoughts

a stick-and-shingle-style house. A granite stone dust path, looking very much like a hiking trail, gently curves around spruce trunks and traverses granite ledges—some existing, some man-made, comprised of carefully placed stones of similar texture and color. Chassé augmented the woods with white birch, shrubs including *Viburnum cassinoides* and *Kalmia latifolia*, and native ground covers to create a colorful yet natural understory.

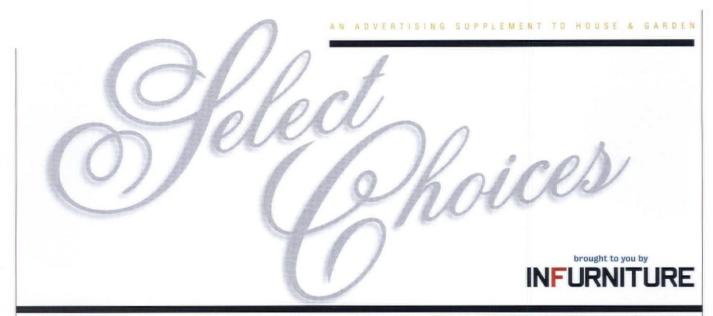
Walk through the house to the ocean side and you are catapulted into an open, dramatic, and somehow abstract landscape. Chassé pared away the forest, reducing the landscape elements to granite, low native shrubs, and a few spruce. The process, Chassé says, "was like pushing down a heavy duvet and pulling up a richly textured silk brocade comforter."

As Chassé created the clearing, the sparkling ocean was revealed in the distance. Now, a sparse covering of trees at the base of the hillside punctures the horizon and frames the exposed view. Chassé allowed the trees at the clearing's side edges to grow densely together, a move that blurs the boundaries and causes the property to appear larger than its five acres. "It's like the hide-and-reveal aspect of a Japanese garden and pond," says Chassé. "You can't tell





Every fall, huckleberry sets the clearing below the Kryvicky house, left, ablaze with color. The pot on the terrace is by Maine artist E. E. Soderholtz. In a perfect imitation of natural ground cover, above, Chassé groups bunchberry and blueberry with reindeer lichen and moss. Opposite page, from left: a close-up of an autumnal huckleberry twig; a velvety moss, Dicranum sp., makes a textural contrast with lichencovered rocks; hair-cap moss and wildflower seedlings are planted between terrace pavers. Sources, see back of book.



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whether the water stops or continues around the curve."

The landscape at the center of the woodland clearing is reconstructive garden surgery at its best. Ground-hugging native blueberry and knee-high huckleberry, which turns a fiery red in the fall, undulate over and around the granite boulders. "I used very broad swaths," says Chassé, "as that's what's most visually powerful in nature."

The natural look did not come easily. Although Chassé was able to acquire great quantities of blueberry sod from local farms, the black-fruited huckleberry is not cultivated. He had to transplant masses of the plant, which thrives in sandy soil, from corners of the Kryvicky property where it would not be missed, a delicate process similar to reweaving a fabric.

HASSÉ CONTINUED his careful replication of nature on the terrace, which is divided into three levels that climb up to meet the porch. The lowest level, nestled into the shrubs, is meant for private times. The second, furnished simply with a stone bench for quiet contemplation, serves as a connecting pathway. At the top is a dining terrace, with a retaining wall that seemingly slices through the landscape. It provides a perfect perch for Kryvicky's collection of pots made by the turn-of-the-century Maine craftsman Eric Ellis Soderholtz, who was a favorite of the legendary landscape architect Beatrix Farrand.

The pattern of the granite paving stones makes it appear as if an enormous diamond saw had cut horizontally across a mountaintop, exposing the veins that extend deep into the rock. In reality, Chassé and stonemason Jeff Gammelin cut out full-scale paper templates of each paving stone to assemble an organic pattern. Once the stones were in place, the wide, irregular joints between the rounded granite slabs were planted with moss, wildflower seedlings, and other diminutive ground covers.

Now, after years of editing, sculpting, and planting, the landscape Chassé created appears calm, peaceful, and as if it always existed and was always meant to be—a perfect interpretation of the Maine that Chassé reveres.



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on the block APPRAISING THE APPRAISERS by gregory cerio



The appraisal test case: a 1900 photograph, above, by the Alfred S. Campbell Art Co. of Elizabeth, NJ. House & Garden's Bonnie Bacon, right, marches out to face the judgment of the auction experts.



When seeking the opinion of auction house experts, it pays to have persistence-and a thick skin

HEN YOU WATCH Antiques Roadshow, an appraisal seems like a pleasant event. The expert is admiring and informative. Your object may be worth a bundle. Even those poor saps who bought fakes are let down gently, with a rueful smile.

Does it work that way in real life? Most large auction houses offer informal appraisals—known as "auction estimates"—free of charge. (There is a fee for appraisals made for legal purposes, such as estate valuations.) It's generosity, but not charity. Auctioneers, like anyone else, live for the fabulous find. Then again, the chances of that being the case are slim, all the more so when eBay and the *Roadshow* have everybody convinced

> their attics hold treasures. Would the average person making an inquiry be treated with kindness or scorn? We tried to find out.

Our test required the right sort of object, one without an established "price guide" value, since that would make things too easy. The item we chose was a photograph: a richly detailed image of an old man trudging up a path toward a tumbledown shack, and signed "Copyright 1900 by the Alfred S. Campbell Art Co., Elizabeth, N.J." It came in an Arts and Crafts frame of dark-stained quartersawed oak and chrome.

The photo seemed to have enough clues for an interested specialist to chew on. So, with editorial assistant Bonnie Bacon agreeing to play sacrificial lamb for in-person visits, we began calling on Manhattan auction houses.

DOYLE NEW YORK Each Tuesday morning, Doyle hosts walk-in appraisals. When Bonnie arrives, some 15 people are having items looked at or waiting their turn. The longest lines are for watch and jewelry appraisals. Within five minutes, she is summoned to a specialist's table.

Appraiser: "What do we have here?" Bonnie: "A photograph." Appraiser: "Is it signed?" Bonnie: "Yes." Appraiser: "Who is it signed by?"

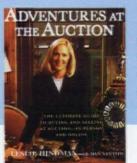
Bonnie's memory goes blank. The signature is hard to read; she stumbles.

Bonnie: "It reads 'Copyright ...'" Appraiser [*interrupting*]: "If it says 'Copyright' it's a reproduction."

bidder lessons TV's Leslie Hindman offers a Baedeker for buying and selling at auctions

If you're interested in auctions but have been intimidated by raising your hand in a crowded room ever since first grade, a new

book can provide some of the savvy you'll need to bid with confidence. Written by Leslie Hindman, host of the Home & Garden TV network's At the Auction and Appraisal Fair, and founder of the Internet appraisal service eppraisals.com, Adventures at the Auction (Clarkson Potter Publishers, \$32.50) is an excellent guide to the game, live or



on-line. If at times the book seems repetitive and simplistic (certain sections could be titled "Auctions for Dummies"), Hindman

> and co-author Dan Santow more than make up for it with an engaging anecdotal style and a comprehensive dissection of what goes on in the salesroom and behind the scenes. The book also offers useful glossaries of terms and other resource appendices, as well as a basic primer on objects in a dozen areas of collecting, from ceramics to clocks. We're sold.



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on the block

The remark is made with a slight chortle, possibly sarcastic. And his statement is misleading. The copyright mark does not necessarily indicate a reproduction. This print was probably one of many made from a negative. Bonnie soldiers on.

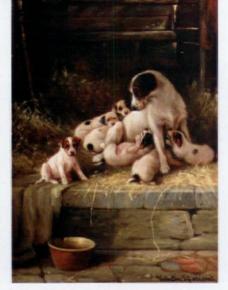
Bonnie: "Copyright 1800...'" Appraiser: "Well, it couldn't be 1800. There was no photography then."

Bonnie: "I'm sorry, I meant 1900." He looks at her stonily. She tries to continue. The guy seems uninterested.

Appraiser: "They sold these in department stores." [Pause. Blank stare. Bonnie cringes.] "There is no market for these."

Bonnie tries to think of something to say. The appraiser looks past her for the next client. ("Somewhere an ax fell—I heard the swish," Bonnie says.) She exits, tail between legs.

SOTHEBY'S We're politely instructed to send in color Xeroxes of the photo, front and back, plus information about its size, condition, and provenance. Having dutifully done so, we wait four weeks before calling again to see if Sotheby's experts



This Valentine Garland portrait of pups carries an estimate of \$6,000 to \$8,000.

have made an assessment. "Our experts are going through a"—pause—"larger appraisal right now," says the nice woman. "They should get to yours when they are done with that." The pause speaks volumes. This is an extremely civil variation on "Don't call us, we'll call you."

CHRISTIE'S We E-mail a digital image and a description. Less than two weeks later a response comes from a Christie's specialist. "The photograph would be below minimum for one of our sales," she writes, and suggests we contact a New York photo auction firm called Be-hold, which takes bids by phone and mail. "I believe they sold a work by Campbell in September 1992 for \$25." We write back with sheepish thanks. "Oh, not at all!" is the reply. "It does look like a nice photograph."

PHILLIPS Bonnie reaches the photograph specialist for Phillips by telephone, and quickly is asked if she knows who took the picture. "Not exactly . . . " Bonnie begins. The specialist butts in gently, saying that she's about to go out of town and that, in any case, Phillips plans no photo sale in the near future. "I'd suggest calling Swann Galleries—I think they could be more helpful," the specialist says. "Before I thought of what to say next, she was signing off politely," says Bonnie. "I felt like a total goober."

SWANN GALLERIES Events took a turn for the better when Bonnie contacted Swann, a small but highly regarded auction house known for its expertise in photography. Patiently questioned



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Tableware Featured: "Casa Azul" from The House of Villeroy & Boch.

over the phone by specialist Lucy von Brachel, Bonnie is generously, if perhaps not enthusiastically, enjoined to bring in the photo for a proper look. This Bonnie does a few days later. Von Brachel examines the photo carefully, and looks up previous Swann sales of Campbell Art Co. works. A couple had sold in the \$30 range in the early 1990s, though they were much smaller prints. Because of its size and appealing image, von Brachel feels this photo deserves more consideration. Turn-of-the-century firms like the Campbell Art Co., she explains, contracted with photographers to acquire interesting decorative images, which were then sold, often framed, the way posters are today. The problem was that the original photographers were never credited. That is too bad, von Brachel says, because the composition of the image seems to be way ahead of its time for 1900. Factoring in the great, and likely original, frame, and taking into account minor flaws, von Brachel judges the photo would fetch "a few hundred dollars" at auction. "I like it very much, myself" she says.

As Bonnie recalls: "I felt awash with relief. She complimented my taste, and didn't treat me like I was stupid for asking about it." After all, even the goobers get lucky sometimes.



A setter portait by Franklin Whiting Rogers is expected to fetch more than \$30,000.

"GOING, GOING, DOGGONE!" reads the press release announcing the February 13, Dogs in Art auction in New York, being conducted jointly by Doyle New York and the London auction house Bonhams & Brooks. Following on the "howling success" of last year's sale, the release continues, "paddles are sure to be wagging" at the 2001 auction, timed to coincide with the annual Westminster Kennel Club show.

Since all of the good puns are taken, we'll take a serious approach to this specialty auction. Certainly the prices command respect. Last year, a painting by late-Victorian artist John Emms sold for \$140,000. This year's auction includes a setter by the nineteenth-century American artist Franklin Whiting Rogers estimated at \$30,000 to \$50,000. At the low end, selected drawings by Lucy Dawson, an English illustrator once commissioned by the Queen Mother to draw one of her corgis, can be had for an estimated \$300 to \$500 each.

One twist: the pedigree of the depicted dog is more important to many buyers than that of the painting. Some collect only pictures of certain breeds, says Doyle vice president Alan Fausel. Others want portraits of "specific dogs, the progenitors of their own animals."

Then again, there is room for humor. Our favorite kitschy icons—original Cassius Marcellus Coolidge paintings of dogs playing cards—have fetched over \$70,000.



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rediscoveries KITCHEN PATRICIAN by suzanne slesin



The restored castiron oven was a marvel of its time. Smoke from the gas and wood stoves propelled the racks in the central rotisserie.

N 1910, after Moïse de Camondo, a member of a prominent banking family, inherited his parents' house on the rue de Monceau in Paris, he decided to tear it down and build himself a palatial new residence to house his extensive collections of eighteenth-century paneling, objects, and furnishings. René Sergent—one of turn-of-thecentury France's most esteemed architects, known for his celebration of classical French architecture—garnered the commission.

The new mansion was inspired by the Petit Trianon, Marie-Antoinette's exquisite folly at Versailles. Even so, it was considered the most modern great home of its day, because of the attention given to the latest conveniences electricity, indirect lighting, elevators, and a Paris's Musée Nissim de Camondo is a monument to the power and grace of French residential decor. But have you seen the cook's room?

central vacuuming system. A museum since 1936, the house remains a prime example of how an aristocratic (Camondo was given the title of count by Italy's King Victor Emmanuel II in 1867) abode functioned between the two world wars. Visitors have for years marveled at the scale and grandeur of the public rooms. But the recent restoration of the house's extraordinary kitchen seems to strike an even deeper chord. Aesthetically, the kitchen, with its glasspaned doors and partitions and its monumental stove, embodies an ideal of purity and efficiency that is reflected in many contemporary kitchens. Walls tiled all in white ceramic (apart from a thin black stripe) and a tiled ceiling allow the room to be washed entirely, and keep the formal dining room

Finally, no scrubbing or rinsing. We humbly suggest another use for your kitchen sink.

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rediscoveries

on the floor directly above completely insulated from heat, sounds, and smells.

"The white tile was installed for hygienic reasons, but the black line makes it look very elegant," says Marie-Noël de Gary, curator of the museum, who was instrumental in restoring the kitchen. "The whole was designed more like a restaurant kitchen," de Gary adds. "In 1912, home kitchens were hardly so sophisticated." Coincidentally, Sergent had had experience in a similar domain. Having worked on renovations of the Savoy and Claridge's hotels in London, he knew what was needed for a kitchen and its staff to function in the most capable way possible.

The suite of kitchen rooms includes an alcove where the copper pots were scoured, a staff dining room, and the chef's office. The

With its tile, glass, and monumental stove, the kitchen embodies an ideal of purity and efficiency



Glass-paned doors, top, allow daylight to filter into adjacent rooms. Lockers, above, provided staff members with a place to stow their personal possessions. The pantry off the dining room, left, features lead counters and an ozone water sterilizer. Sources, see back of book.



immense stove, which was manufactured by J. Cubain & Ses Fils and looks large enough to power a locomotive, was the most advanced of its day. "The contrast between the eighteenth-century rooms and the modern kitchen is very amusing," says de Gary, who marvels at the attention to detail and utility that was adopted in the design. Especially innovative, and surely appreciated by the kitchen staffers, is the use of glass that allows daylight into the space. "What's more," de Gary notes, "there were no chimneys. Instead, pipes under the floor allowed the smoke from the ovens to be directed to the exterior."

HE LIAISON between the kitchen and the dining room, as well as access to the street, was very important," she adds. "The dining room was just above, and there was an elevator for the staff." Adjacent to the dining room is a special pantry for washing crystal and porcelain, equipped with an ozone sterilizer to provide pure drinking water for the table. The countertop is lined with lead, which, like zinc, is a soft metal that protects objects from breakage. At its height, the daily running of the house was handled by a staff of up to 15 people-including chefs, a head butler, a valet, and a laundress. Each had his or her own numbered locker in which to stow a personal table napkin, bowl, and medicines-another health-oriented innovation.

The liveliness of the house slowly began to diminish in 1917, after the count's only son, Nissim (after whom the museum was named), was killed in combat. At his own death, in 1935, de Camondo's house and its collections were willed to the Union Centrale des Arts Décoratifs. A few years later, his daughter, Beatrice Reinach, and her children were deported from France by the Nazis, and died at Auschwitz. The illustrious family came to an end.

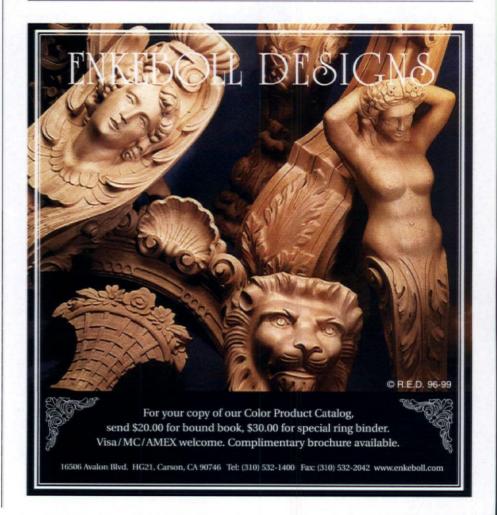
For more information, contact: Musée Nissim de Camondo, 63 rue de Monceau, 75008 Paris. Tel: 011-33-1-53890640. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays.



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Uncorked COUNTRY SLICKERS by jay meinerney

onday, 2 to 3:45 p.m. Lunch with Jean-Luc Columbo, who looks like a compact, 44-year-old version of Jean-Pierre Léaud, at La Côte de Boeuf in downtown Marseilles. The namesake dish is seasoned with a nonstop monologue about food, wine, boats, cars, marriage, and music, and washed down with a bottle of 1986 Margaux.

Tuesday, 12:45 A.M. JLC drives north at a terrifying speed on the A7, listening to Screamin' Jay Hawkins. "Ze good sing about ze robbery," he says. "Now some of my employees who didn't understand before, zey have respect for what we are making."

8 A.M. Columbo stands on a rocky terrace above the Les Ruchets vineyard, watching the sky and pacing back and forth with a cell

Jean-Luc Columbo dresses up the earthy wines of Cornas

3:50 P.M. Slaloming through traffic in Marseilles, JLC steers with one hand and clutches a cell phone in the other, as he shouts at the head of the security firm responsible for the alarm system at his winery. Two nights ago thieves made off with more than a hundred cases of wine, including his '98 Cornas Les Ruchets.

4:15 P.M. Negotiating hairpin turns along the Côte Bleue in his BMW, JLC listens to the weather forecast on the speakerphone, then calls his wife, Anne. They decide to assemble the harvesters to pick Les Ruchets the following morning, ahead of the rain.

4:20 to 4:45 P.M. JLC tours the vineyards that he has leased near St. Julienles-Martigues, a ruggedly

beautiful, vinous backwater some 20 miles from Marseilles.

6:30 P.M. JLC swirls, sniffs, tastes, and spits some 20 cuvées of new juice in the cellar at Mas de la Dame, one of many wineries for which he consults. (Here in Les Alpilles, two hours south of Cornas, the harvest is already in.) He scribbles notes and offers comments to the owners and their wine maker.

9 to 11:15 P.M. Dinner with — redundancy alert! — a snotty French wine critic in Saint-Rémy, the town where van Gogh convalesced.

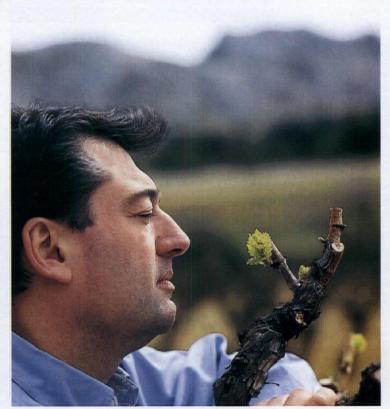
Columbo with one of the gnarly vines of Les Ruchets vineyard phone clamped to his ear, while some 25 harvesters, myself included, work the precipitous slope beneath his feet. Clinging to a gnarly grapevine, I dig the toes of my sneakers into the granitic scree of the hillside and struggle for purchase. Far below is the gray ribbon of the Rhône River, stippled with silver. I'm not worried about the river. If I slip, I'll probably be impaled on the steeple of the neo-Gothic church in the village long before I reach the water.

10 A.M. Pause to thank God this isn't the morning after my previous visit, when JLC cooked for me and opened 15 bottles of wine, which

we sampled till 2:30 in the morning. Every part of me aches. What kind of masochist first thought about planting vines on these slopes?

The vineyards of Cornas are among the steepest in the world. The south-southeast exposure is ideal for catching sunlight and for providing shelter from the wind. This is textbook syrah *terroir*. But Cornas has never gotten the respect accorded to Côte-Rôties and Hermitage, neighbors to the north, where the wines are also made from the syrah grape. I have to admit that until recently I never met





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uncorked

a Cornas I liked. Even admirers like Robert M. Parker, Jr., have admitted that the wines were "rustic." To me they often evoked old socks, new tires, and chicken coops. The fruit—sometimes baked, due to the powerful sun—often died in the bottle long before the mouth-searing tannins did.

VER THE COURSE of this century, the difficult-to-work vineyards, which date back to Roman times, almost disappeared. A few diehards, like Nöel Verset and Auguste Clape, hung on, making big, hairy wines that developed a small, devoted cult. Among those fans were the young oenologist Jean-Luc Columbo and his wife. In 1982 they moved to the village from Marseilles and established a highly influential and sometimes controversial wine consulting business. In 1987 they bought their first vineyard parcel on the hillside and set out to make a great Cornas under the Columbo name. The thieves who sought out Columbo's top cuvées of Cornas only confirmed the judgment of wine critics in France and the United States.

I like to compare Columbo to secondgeneration bluesmen like Muddy Waters and Howlin' Wolf, who electrified and urbanized the rustic blues of the Delta. Traditionalists are suspicious of the new sounds. When Louis Jaboulet of the famous Hermitage family first tasted Columbo's Cornas, he said, "It's great, but it's not Cornas." Which I translate to mean, "Where are the stinky old socks?" Like Angelo Gaja (whose driving reminds me of Columbo's) in Barbaresco, and Etienne Guigal in Côte-Rôtie, Columbo has offended purists with his use of new oenological techniques and new oak barrels, which some say disguise the regional flavors.

If Columbo has the same effect on the market as did Gaja and Guigal in their regions, his neighbors may have to bitch all the way to the bank. In the meantime, Columbo's single-vineyard syrahs, while not cheap, cost about a third of the price of Guigal's Côte-Rôties. And Columbo is winning new converts for Cornas. There's no question that quality has improved in recent years, even among makers who eschew new oak. In the '90s, delicious wines have been turned out by Clape, Robert Michel, Alain Voge, and Thierry Allemand. Cornas at its best is powerful, black, peppery, and earthy, often smelling like truffles. It needs big food, preferably game. The '97 and '98 vintages were both very good, and the '99 is even better.

In 1995, Columbo started a *négociant* line of wines produced from purchased grapes from all over the Rhône Valley. They represent excellent value. Now that he has made his mark in the northern Rhône, the hyperactive Columbo plans to revive the sleepy town of Saint-Julien-les-Martigues to the south. My advice to the villagers is: batten down the hatches and put all your money into vineyard real estate.

THE OENO FILE

1997 JEAN-LUC COLUMBO LES RUCHETS CORNAS

An amazingly elegant and approachable young Cornas, with a core of plummy, rich fruit, and smoky, oaky highlights. It's Cornas dressed up for the city—like Jimmy Stewart in a Brioni tuxedo. The '98 needs more time, but it will probably be even better. \$48

■ 1998 JEAN-LUC COLUMBO LES AUVES SAINT-JOSEPH Perhaps the best wine I've

tasted from this appellation north of Cornas. Great syrah, like a polished, early-blooming Hermitage. \$24

 1999 JEAN-LUC COLUMBO LES FOROTS CÔTES DU RHÔNE This surpasses his terrific '98 Côtes du Rhône. It smells and tastes like ripe blackberries and finishes with a long sigh. The perfect vin de table. \$18
1999 JEAN-LUC COLUMBO LES FIGUIÈRES

CÔTES DU RHÔNE (BLANC) A beautiful aperitif—light, slightly sweet, and ethereally fragrant—made from 60 percent Viognier. A junior Condrieu. \$16

■ 1998 JEAN-LUC COLUMBO LA CHANCE DE SAINT-LUC CÔTES DU ROUSSILLON This is a big,

fleshy, spicy Grenache/syrah from the deep south of France. A little oak and a lot of sunny fruit. Great value. \$15

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first principle atttul spaces

Architecture, says one of its talented contemporary practitioners, Lee H. Skolnick, includes the craft of storytelling. Rooms are made not only to suit the needs and emotions of their occupants but also to exude harmony. "An architect," he says, "is an interpreter who uses a vocabulary of texture and light to realize ideas." Patterned light falls on a silk-covered 17th-century Indian daybed placed by the door of a Long Island house.

Art comes first at the home of Eric Fischl and April Gornik, where a covered entranceway between twin glass-walled studios leads to the heart of the compound.

With artists Eric Fischl and April Gornik as his clients and his muses, architect Lee H.Skolnick designs a dramatic, compelling compound for living and working on eastern Long Island

PA



BY SUZANNE SLESIN PHOTOGRAPHED BY ROBERT POLIDORI STYLED BY MICHAEL REYNOLDS



Heightening the anticipation of arrival, mahogany and steel gates in the covered walkway open onto a raised courtyard, above. A strip water fountain runs in the middle of the walk, cascading down between the inside and out." the entrance steps. In April Gornik's light-filled studio, below, a work table is set up near two of the artist's imaginary landscapes.

HE APPROACH is heart-stopping. Two glass pavilions, glistening at dusk, rise up among the trees. A covered walkway between the structures leads to a wide, slate-paved courtyard. Across it, the front door opens onto an atrium of ceremonial proportions, where water slips over rocks, and steel windows frame another dramatic view. "Isn't it beautiful?" asks

Eric Fischl, who, with his wife, April Gornik, recently completed the house and studio compound on eastern Long Island.

It was a three-way affair. The two well-known artists - he for his strong figurative and deeply psychological paintings, she for her extraordinary meditative landscapes-collaborated for two and a half years with Lee H. Skolnick, an architect based in New York City and North Haven, New York. Long and close work might have stretched the bond between clients and architect to its limit, but instead, says Skolnick, "it made it much stronger." He came to understand not only his clients' basic living needs but also their complex feelings about the relation between a landscape and a house's interior. Responding to his clients' fascination with water, for example, Skolnick installed a mini-waterfall in the atrium and framed the pond and bay views."The house expresses Eric and me in a particular way," says Gornik, who was especially involved in crafting the interior. "We stayed away from

strong colors and used materials that were not so far removed from their original state," says Skolnick. "They are very refined, not rustic, and blur the lines

"You can be in different spaces in the house and feel you are in another part of the world," says



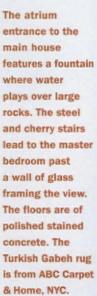
In Eric Fischl's high-ceilinged, oak-floored studio, a painting incorporates the furnishings of the master bedroom. Several of the artist's watercolors hang on the wall.

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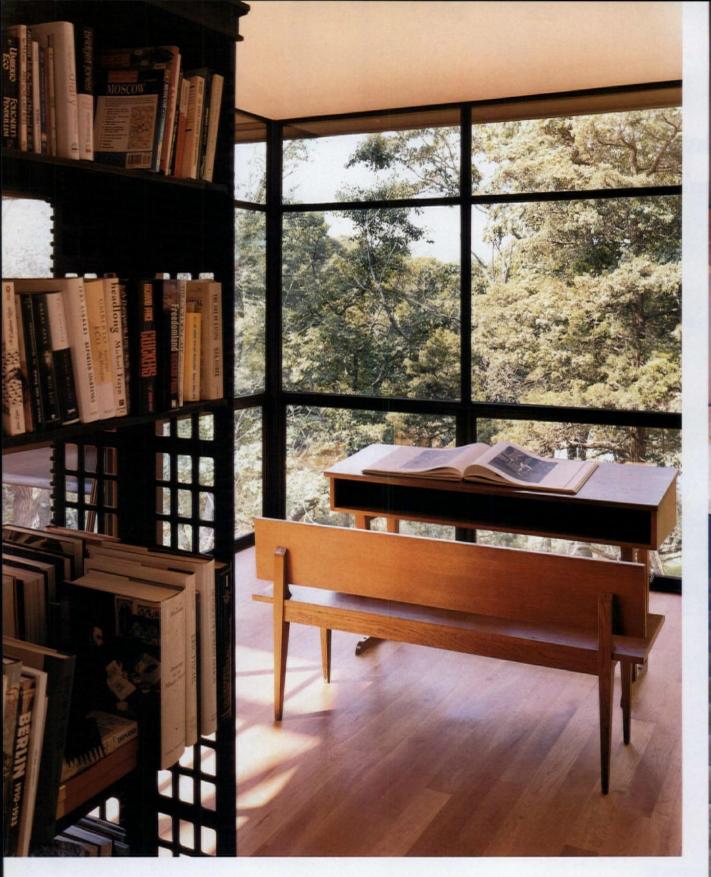
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Likened by architect Lee H. Skolnick to "a glowing lantern," the library, opposite page, floats above the living room, which is furnished with Jean Michel Frank-style sofas and Dosa pouls from Salon Moderne, NYC, and a Ming table from Modenature, Paris. The photo collection includes works by Bill Brandt, Erica Lennard, and Cindy Sherman. The library interior, above, features a 1950s French school desk and bench from Frank Rogin, NYC, and 1890s Stanford White cast-iron shelves from Urban Archaeology, NYC.



"THE MATERIALS WE CHOSE ARE REFINED, NOT RUSTIC, AND BLUR THE LINE BETWEE

1 1

The dining room, this page, situated between the main house and Fischl's studio, is furnished with cherry Wishbone chairs from Dennis Miller Associates, NYC, and a table designed by Fischl and fabricated by Tom Brokish, NYC. The Raja hanging lights are from Lee's Studio, NYC. The walled courtyard, opposite page, both views, unites the studios and the main house. Sources, see back of book.

ISIDE AND OUT"-LEE H. SKOLNICK





the architect, who wove into the house many of the ideas the couple brought back from their travels. These included a stained and polished cement floor the artists saw one in a friend's house in Texas and elements inspired by Pompeian villas and by Arts and Crafts, Japanese, and Mediterranean design.

To Skolnick, adding such features was part of what

he calls his "narrative or interpretative" style. "Every project our firm does," he adds, "tells a unique story." In that vein, the most dramatic design element is the library—a building within a building, suspended above the atrium and the living room. "A big effort was made to make it look effortless," says Skolnick, who mastered the engineering feat that allowed for the steel structure (he calls it "a glowing lantern") to look as if it is floating in the 30-foot-high main living space. "It's a folly, and feels like a tree house," says Fischl. "The whole room becomes like a sculpture installation."

The artists delight in the complexity that the spaces offer. "There is no direct line from one room to another," Fischl says. Adds Gornik: "There is not one morning I've woken up and not said I can't believe I live here." Fischl, whose recent paintings include scenes of the bedroom, says, "It's a magical place. Every room gives you a different reverie. You feel calmed down or energized. To live in the house of your dreams is intense." One gets the feeling that both Gornik and Fischl are up to the challenge.

PHOTOGRAPHED BY MICHELE GASTL PRODUCED BY STEPHEN ORR

WINGED BEAUTY

Dalechampia dioscoraefolia You'll have to look closely to see the flower of this eye-catching tropical vine, opposite page. It is the tiny ball shape in the center, rather than the two large magenta bracts. Recently brought into the nursery trade from Central America, this rampant grower usually delivers its largest flock of butterflylike blooms when the roots are restricted to a small (approximately 8-inch) pot.

TROPICAL SKULLCAP Scutellaria costaricana

Don't be scared off by the name. In a warm, bright place, the sunny flowers of this perennial, this page, will brighten even the most Gothic conservatory all year round.





o much for native plant gardening—these tropical imports are utterly exotic. In northern zones such tender plants will thrive outside only during warm, humid summers. Most don't like it below 60 degrees, and at the first sign of a chill they demand to be put inside. Not just any inside, though: these guests prefer their own greenhouse. (A dry, centrally heated home lacking in sunlight guarantees leaf drop.) It needn't be as grand as Paxton's Crystal Palace, but some sort of heated, glassed-in structure with plenty of moisture is necessary to mimic the more equatorial homelands of the plants. They will grow quite easily in this environment, rewarding you with lots of strangely beautiful blooms and providing a perfect impetus for teatime conversation in your conservatory.

YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW

Brunfelsia australis A rich gardenialike scent has made this shrub popular throughout the tropics. The common name comes from the flower's fading, over time, from blue-violet to white. This variety carries its scent in the daytime, while its white-flowered sister, 'Dama de la Noche,' saves her heavy perfume for the night.

PASSION FLOWER

Passiflora x violacea 'Form #3'

Imaginative 17th-century priests in the New World reportedly used this plant to teach lessons about Christ's crucifixion (or Passion) through the flower's complex arrangement of stigmas (nails), corona (crown of thorns), and ten petals and sepals (the 12 apostles minus the disloyal Peter and Judas). P. x violacea is the oldest documented Passiflora hybrid.

PELICAN FLOWER

Aristolochia grandiflora The alarming flowers of this Central American vine are huge. They unfurl to a width of 8 inches and have a signature long, dangling tip. The mottled carrion color and the scent of the blooms seem to draw pollinating flies.

PARACHUTE PLANT

Ceropegia sandersonii From southern Africa comes this odd milkweed relative whose intricate blooms look like a squadron of alien paratroopers. A dry-situation succulent, and therefore suitable for the average home, C. sandersonii is the much rarer of the two regularly cultivated ceropegias. Sources, see back of book. **MASTER STROKES** A MAGNIFICENT COLLECTION OF MODERN ART AND THE FINEST **19TH-CENTURY** FURNISHINGS **GET ALONG** FAMOUSLY IN BRIAN MURPHY'S **DESIGN FOR A** MANHATTAN **INTERIOR**



A glass and steel door, opposite page, allows visitors to see the 1938 Joan Miró as soon as they step off the elevator. Claes Oldenburg's *Giant Gym Shoes*, 1963, sits under a 19th-century table. Alberto Giacometti's *Portrait of Annette* hangs in the library, this page. The 19th-century Italian chairs have been covered in leather.

> T'S THE SORT of interior decorating project that most designers would simply call divine. Brian Murphy, a New

York-based designer and 13year veteran of the venerable Parish-Hadley firm, certainly found it so. There it was, a suite of rooms of palatial proportions overlooking New York's Central Park, owned by two art patrons and world-class collectors of contemporary painting and sculpture. And, maybe best of all, the clients had expressed the wish to use the space to celebrate "luxury, antique furniture, and classical architecture."

Even Murphy, who opened his own company about 15 months ago, was surprised. "Most people who have this kind of aggressive art seem to favor a more austere environment or a typical white box," he says. The designer found himself in the unusual situation of having to tone down the design so that the apartment "would not look too grand." That could have been quite a challenge, when masterpieces by Miró, Giacometti, Rothko, Dubuffet, Pollock, Lichtenstein, de Kooning, Bacon, and Warhol-for starterswere waiting to be put on display.

Columns separate the large, square dining room from the breakfast area, where a 1943 Jackson Pollock painting is near a 19th-century English mahogany table surrounded by English Sheraton chairs. Girl with Piano, 1963, by Roy Lichtenstein, and Bay, 1959, by Ellsworth Kelly, hang over 18th-century Italian consoles. The 18th-century gilt-wood mirror is by Robert Adam. The trompe l'oeil draperies are carved wood from Chez Soi, NYC. The decorative finishes are by Robert Hoven, Inc.



BY SUZANNE SLESIN PHOTOGRAPHED BY FRANÇOIS DISCHINGER STYLED BY JOE MAER

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But, having worked with Murphy on other houses, the clients knew exactly what they wanted. "The youngest of our four children had gone to college," the wife says, "and we wanted this apartment to be designed to show our paintings in the best light."

Decorated in the 1970s by Denning & Fourcade, who, Murphy says, "pasted fabric all over everything," the entire apartment had to be gutted and reconfigured. "The anomaly here," the wife adds, "is that although we are committed to contemporary art, we like the feel of a prewar apartment."

Nineteenth-century Italian gilt chairs, re-covered in buttery leather, a set of early-nineteenth-century Swedish chairs in a leopard-print velvet, an eighteenth-century Italian console, and an enormous backto-back sofa, so large it had to be reupholstered in situ, are some of the furnishings that were used to parallel the strong presence of the art.

Along with Murphy, the New York-based architectural firm Ferguson Shamamian & Rattner was hired to create rooms that would suit the large scale of the paintings. "The object was to create tall, clean walls and to concentrate most of the architectural detailing on the ceilings and floors," says Oscar Shamamian (also a Parish-Hadley alum), noting the extra-wide hallway that has been turned into an addition gallery space.

Wall space, and as much of possible, was the major presite. The clients point out pocket doors that open blocking any of the art,







"MOST PEOPLE WHO HAVE AGGRESSIVE ART FAVOR



A MORE AUSTERE ENVIRONMENT"—BRIAN MURPHY

A large back-to-back sofa, covered in Bernardette gauffrage velvet from Old World Weavers, occupies the center of the living room. The walls are hung with contemporary masterpieces, from left: Yellow Ochre Scroll, 1948, by Jackson Pollock; The Word II, 1954, by Barnett Newman; Les Disques Dans la Ville, 1918–1919, by Fernand Léger; San Francisco I, 1950, by Clyfford Still; and Browns, 1957, by Mark Rothko. The Swedish armchairs are covered in Leopard Velvet, from Brunschwig & Fils, NYC.







minimal window treatments, such as the elegant yet demure balloon shades that are contained inside the frames, leaving the walls unobstructed. The paneled library was designed without bookshelves for the same reason. (The clients' extensive collection of art books is in a study near the master bedroom.) Because the couple entertain often, opening their home to friends and museum trustees, a former breakfast room was annexed to the large dining room, which can seat 60. "They wanted a glamorous Russian look," says Murphy, who had the floor stenciled and the walls painted in a pale green *stucco lustro* that can

be buffed smooth when paintings are moved or are out on loan.

Columns separate the two areas of the dining room, providing what Murphy calls "a nook that is all Pollock" (where the couple can have breakfast and look out on the park) and flexibility for seating configurations. "We wanted a different feeling for what we thought was our last stop," the wife says. "We're not doing this again." They probably won't have to. Brian Murphy created interesting contrasts by juxtaposing monumental paintings with unusual antique furnishings. In the gallery, left, Roy Lichtenstein's *Mirror* hangs above an 18th-century console. A leopard-print velvet-covered chair, top left, sits in front of a 1957 Mark Rothko in the living room. A detail of Ellsworth Kelly's *Bay*, 1959, top right, is

visible above an 18th-century Italian console. Hallway doors, opposite page, open onto Andy Warhol's 1964 The Week That Was. The 19th-century French chandelier is from Marvin Alexander, NYC. Sources, see back of book.



WHAT'S COOKIN', GOOD-LOOKIN'? Seriously, ISN'T IT TIME TO PUT FUN INTO THE BUSIEST ROOM IN THE HOUSE? IN A RANGE OF



HAPES AND BRIGHT COLORS,

APPLIANCES ARE FULL OF PIZZAZZ

Opposite page: Four Half Pint microwave ovens, \$99 each, from Sharp Electronics. 800-BE-SHARP. This page: Juice Extractor, \$79.99, by Philips, exclusively at Target. 888-304-4000.



Opposite page, clockwise from top left: Philips Toaster with Warming Rack, \$49.99, exclusively at Target; telescopic swivel ventilator, \$1,200, and Vario electric BBQ grill, \$810, both by Gaggenau, 800-828-9165; Müller

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refrigerator, \$3,800, at Sonrisa, 800-668-1020; Malibu

Retro credenza, \$595, and locker, \$795, both by Rutger Anderson for Skypad, available at Basics Furniture, NYC, 212-691-5595; and the KitchenAid Superba designer dishwasher, \$1,049, 800-422-1230. This page: Fourburner range, \$3,600, from the Wolf Appliance Company LLC, 800-332-9513.

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SLEGGENT THE MAGIC OF AN APARTMENT OF HAND

A dramatic stairway of concrete and steel ribbon leads from the foyer, this page, to the bedrooms. In the living room, opposite page, tables by Archie Held, from Sloan Miyasato, San Francisco, parade in front of the fireplace. The Christian Liaigre Brousse sofas are from Holly Hunt; the wool rug is from Edward Fields Inc., NYC.

DESIGNED BY ARCHITECT LAURENCE BOOTH LIES IN ITS SUBTLE ARTISTRY





ERENITY has become a powerful leitmotif in decorating. To many people, that means living in a subdued interior without sacrificing an inch of elegance. So, architect Laurence Booth, a partner in the 20-year-old Chicago firm Booth Hansen Associates, approached the renovation of a sprawling duplex on the city's famed East Lake Shore Drive with even more than his usual enthusiasm.

The apartment is in a 1915 Benjamin Marshall building. "Marshall, who designed the Drake Hotel as well as many of Chicago's most coveted residences, was a genius," Booth says. "He made apartments feel very gracious and homelike, with wellproportioned rooms." But, the architect continues, "the space was set up for the 1920s, when no one went into the kitchen and all the attention was focused on the front rooms." Booth and his clients agreed that the original layout was due for a change. "While the apartment had good bones," Booth says, "it was dowdy."

Booth wanted to reconfigure the space to take advantage of his clients' contemporary, rather casual lifestyle, which involves cooking, and lots of it. His modus operandi included a restructuring that allowed for a spacious kitchen, a home

office, pantry suites, the installation of dramatic steel and concrete stairs, and the design of what Booth calls "more dynamic molding systems," in which carefully detailed woodwork unites the rooms. "High craftsmanship was involved," says Booth, who worked on the project with architects William Massey and John Joyce, "but it's not tugging at you. It's there as a casual enrichment."

Because most of the windows face north, it was important to allow as much natural light as possible into the back of the In the living room, opposite page, an Adam-style lady's writing desk acts as a counterpoint to the pared-down interior. A 17th-century Old Kyoto screen, this page, top, is in the dining room. The Klismos table is from Holly Hunt, the chairs from Dakota Jackson. The master bedroom, above, is paneled in curly maple.



apartment and to keep the cabinetry and palette light. The clients used curly maple for the woodwork in the luxuriously proportioned double-island kitchen, where all the equipment and appliances are hidden behind sleek doors and drawers, and in the paneled master bedroom, where the cabinetry creates a serene and elegant frame. "We looked for a continuity, a sweeping connection, throughout the apartment," Booth says. "Rather than talk about style, we discussed how one would feel in a room."

Choosing and placing the furnishings, many of which the clients had acquired over time, became a collaborative effort. One of the clients had had previous experience with renovations and decoration, and knew that she wanted to incorporate some of her "best antiques," including an Adam-style desk and a seventeenth-century Japanese screen. But "after three children and many dogs," she was ready to buy some new things, including a dining room table and chairs from Dakota Jackson, a console and mirror from J. Robert Scott, and some side tables from Todd Hase.

Ultimately, it was a kitchen appliance that brought what she describes as "a bit of pizzazz" to the apartment. "Subtlety is good," she says, "but I needed a little something more." That came in the form of the majestic Aga stove, the third one in her life. "Some people buy cars, I

> buy stoves," she says. "She chose the color red," Booth says, "and that turned out to be the perfect fit." Not that the client needed a seal of approval. "I wanted something dramatic," she says. That's exactly what she got—and much, much more.

Honed black granite, on the countertops and the rear wall, contrasts with the pale cabinetry. The red four-oven Aga cooker is the star of the kitchen; all other appliances are hidden behind curly maple cabinetry. A KitchenAid mixer from Williams-Sonoma sits next to a pot filler. Sources, see back of book.



IGH CRAFTSMANSHIP WAS INVOLVED, BUT IT'S NOT TUGGING A



OU. IT'S THERE AS A CASUAL ENRICHMENT"-LAURENCE BOOTH

trade secrets DUTS AND RECIPE FOR A KITCHEN: SUBTLE FINISHES, STATE-OF-THE-ART APPLIANCES, AND A PINCH OF LOGIC

MATERIAL WORLD

The large, open room includes a sitting area, below, which extends beyond the kitchen counters and faces the striking red Aga cooker. The materials complement the subdued palette and tailored detailing throughout the apartment. A curly maple wall opens to reveal a wide-screen TV and a workstation. —SABINE ROTHMAN





COOL CUSTOMERS

Booth Hansen often specifies Sub-Zero's 700-Series because the products can be seamlessly integrated with wood cabinetry. The pantry, top, is fitted with freezers. Near the stove, middle, are a large refrigerator and two refrigerated drawers. The prep island, bottom, also hides refrigerated drawers.

ON THE HOT SEAT

A Chicago Faucets pot filler poised over the Aga's warming plate eliminates the need to cart pots from the prep island's sink to the stove, which sits in an alcove Booth jokingly calls "the Aga altar." If any cooker should be lionized, this is it. A cast-iron, gas-powered machine with four ovens and three hot plates-each calibrated at a different temperature-it cooks gently, using radiant heat. Cold Spring Black granite with a honed finish visually ties the back-splash to the floor and counters.





New Zealand–based Fisher & Paykel's DishDrawer is the "it" appliance. Sporting two dishwasher drawers that can be operated (and installed) independently, it is expensive, but the small loads use just 2.4 gallons of water. It is available in three standard finishes, but was adapted in this kitchen to match the cabinetry. The overall kitchen design allows the cook to progress in a circular motion, from the pantry to the cleanup island, with the DishDrawer as the last stop.

HIDE AND SEEK

For convenience, both the preparation and the cleanup islands are equipped with KitchenAid garbage disposals. Since the client dislikes exposed electrical outlets, cords, and switches, a flip-down drawer front hides each disposal's Franke air switch as well as two plugs. This design element eliminates the need for a deep overhang to hide a power strip, and contributes to the sleek look of the countertops. Each island also has two Franke stainless-steel sinks. Sources, see back of book.



COUNTRY FARE ALEX AND BARBARA SGROI SERVE UP FINE CUISINE AND A VISION OF THE GOOD LIFE AT THEIR FARMHOUSE OUTSIDE TORONTO

The idyllic setting of the house and restaurant, this page, makes it an attractive destination for Toronto diners. The mantel in the living room of the house, opposite page, is from Harbourfront Antique Market, Toronto, Ontario; the screen is from Mermaid Antiques, Elora, Ontario.

WRITTEN BY ELIZABETH POCHODA PHOTOGRAPHED BY MELANIE ACEVEDO PRODUCED BY JUDYTH VAN AMRINGE

THE REAL

5.1



The use of plaids throughout the house gives it the feel of a Scottish cottage. The seats of the chairs in the dining room, above, are covered in patchwork done by **Barbara Sgroi; the Classic** Malcolm wallpaper is from Ralph Lauren Home. The tin panels in the pantry, right, are old ceiling tiles. The master bedroom, opposite page, has bed curtains in **Twilight Wellington by** Waverly. The bedspread and plaid curtains are from Ralph Lauren Home.



T'S UNLIKELY THAT Alex Sgroi's head will swell enough to fit the outsized straw hat that sits—like an unofficial sign—atop a pole at the end of his road. But he has had the kind of improbable success that would tempt the pride of an

ordinary man. Here in what Sgroi describes as "the middle of nowhere" (actually, only an hour and a half from Toronto), he and his wife, Barbara, a journalist, took what had been their weekend home, turned it into a permanent residence, and then decided to open what has become an extremely popular restaurant in three rooms that adjoin the house.

Their success has more ingredients than Alex's combination of Italian and French cuisine. People drive out on the weekends (and occasionally during the week for private parties) as much for a vision of the good life as for the remarkable food. Barbara is well aware that having a restaurant in a setting like this is a fantasy common to many of their guests, and part of her job is to perfect the mise-en-scène—the comforting tableaux of country life that guests can glimpse from the restaurant.

> A charming pen for fowl, constructed higgledy-piggledy from old doors and different sorts of fencing, and an exuberant herb garden have the kind of insouciance typical of Alex's cuisine. The interiors are more disciplined. The rooms are done in what Barbara describes as Scottish cottage style: an orchestration of plaids and prints, of flea market stuff and carefully acquired collections. The family kitchen, as opposed to the freewheeling cooking space in the restaurant, owes its look to a house the Sgrois had in France. It too exudes a sense of sophisticated rural calm, with ironstone plates arranged in racks, a collection of copper pots for every conceivable use, an antique bed refashioned as a rustic table, and cupboards filled with homemade preserves.

When she has finished arranging the flowers for a Saturday night,







Barbara says, the atmosphere around the place resembles the excitement of an opening at the theater—cheerful, optimistic, warm. If the reality is a degree or so off from the fantasy, if the plumbing fails and the mayor is coming with a group of guests, Alex can cope. Good restaurants, he knows from his two Toronto establishments, Garbo's and Alex's, run on a certain mixture of chaos and improvisation. Unlike many chefs, he does not see himself as a god of the kitchen; he can make an excellent wine for his family's consumption and cure his own prosciutto, but the plumbing and the pressure are also part of the deal. That's part of the romance of the kitchen, and Alex Sgroi is, as everything in his surroundings suggests, the most romantic of chefs.

The kitchen, opposite page, features a table made out of a bed purchased from the Christie Antiques Show. Old ironstone and Richard Ginori plates sit in copper-backed dish drainers. In the pantry, this page, the cabinetry is by Shelburne Kitchens & Custom Woodworking, Shelburne, Ontario.

trade secrets HOME A CHARMING KITCHEN IS A PROFESSIONAL CHEF'S WORKABLE FANTASY

WORK ETHIC

While the Sgrois' house may seem like an archetypal country cottage, fantasy meets function in their kitchen. There, Alex prepares family meals as well as six-course menus for some 70 guests who come to his restaurant each weekend. Therefore, each element that looks the part must also work. Witness a large farm table that provides ample workspace, and a well-used restaurant stove. —s.R.



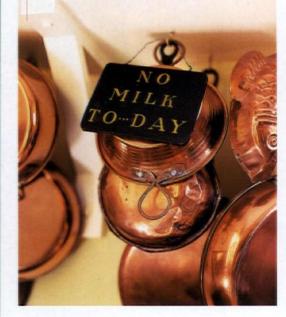
BASKET CASE

Cotton-lined baskets look like something from a pioneer farmhouse, but actually are from Hold Everything. Set into sliding half-drawers, they provide easy access to the Sgrois' cookie cutters. A patina of age seems to have settled over the cabinets, but the rich color is in fact the result of many layers of a dark stain that Barbara applied.



COPPER CRAZE

Copper pots and pans are an obsession for the couple, who brought back a 127-pound suitcase full of them from France last winter. She loves their visual warmth; he responds to the way they conduct heat, and to their specificity: some are for crepes, others for polenta. According to *Home Comforts* author Cheryl Mendelson, copper requires "plenty of polishing." But Barbara disagrees: "I like it when it gets darker and deeper."





CHINA PATTERNS

In the pantry, an antique dish dresser holds brown-andwhite English transferware that the Sgrois have collected. Transfer printing is a technique that has been used on stoneware, bone china, and soft paste porcelain since the 18th century. The process involves inking an engraved copper plate with ceramic pigment and pressing the image first onto paper and then from the paper onto the ceramic surface. Pieces such as these satisfied a market for inexpensive yet highly decorated china. Spode, an English company, is one of many firms that produce traditional transferware in a variety of patterns and colors.



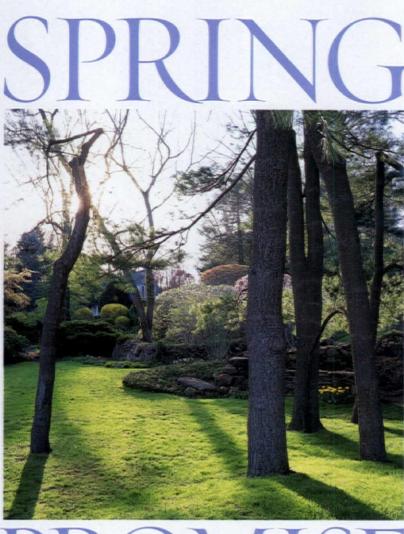
PANTRY PROUD

The current pantry was originally the house's main kitchen, while the kitchen was a cold shed-cum-chicken coop dubbed the "summer kitchen." Using chicken wire to front the pine cabinets is a sort of wink to the past and keeps the provisions, including the Sgrois' homemade jams, in sight. "Sometimes packaging is so beautiful it doesn't need to be hidden," Barbara says. "In any case, since this is a pantry, food is supposed to be stored in it. When the food is visible, there's a sense of abundance." She likes the rusty spots on the backsplash made from old ceiling tiles.



ON THE RACK

Combining pine, dark stain, and copper sheeting—available at any Home Depot the Sgrois created a decorative dish drainer, based on old furniture. They left the shelves, filled with ironstone pottery and Richard Ginori plates, open in back so that water can run down behind. The sink is from an auction, but similar ones are at Urban Archaeology, NYC. Sources, see back of book.



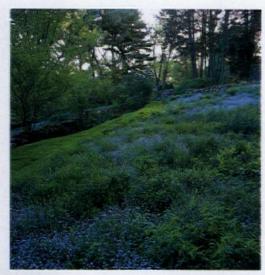
PROMISE

Henriette Suhr is confident enough to use old standbys like azaleas, rhododendrons, and even forsythia to give her garden a modern look

> BY DEBORAH NEEDLEMAN PHOTOGRAPHED BY RICHARD FELBER

Fresh foliage and clear light announce the arrival of spring in Henriette Suhr's garden, left. Unusual hybrids of magnolia, like yellow 'Elizabeth,' this page, top left, and white 'Merrill,' below left, brighten the meadow.





The spring meadow, left, goes from a self-sown carpet of blue forget-me-nots to a field of oxeye daisies in summer. Both are Darwinian survivors. having muscled out the other flowers from a mixed wildflower seed packet planted years ago. A tapestry of greens, opposite page, in a variety of shades and in many shapes, including prostrate, weeping, clipped, and mounded, beckons the visitor to the front door. At the back of the lawn are the rounded forms of Suhr's 'vulgar" forsythia.



ENRIETTE SUHR is such a deft and stylish gardener that she can make the horticulturally outmoded look chic. Great expanses of bright azalea and clipped balls of forsythia—plants now out of favor—light up the hillsides in Suhr's Mt. Kisco, New York, garden. Her late friend and fellow gardener Paul Mayen regularly bemoaned the vulgarity of her forsythia.

But, as Suhr explains, "we put it there in the mid-fifties, when forsythia was not so bad, and so there it is."

Not only are they "not so bad," but this garden and its plantings are quite wonderful precisely because Suhr has remained true to her own design sense for more than 40 years. Begun with her husband, Billy, in 1956, this garden, with its sculpted forms and boomerangshaped beds, has a midcentury-modern sensibility that looks as fresh today as when it was new.

Henriette Suhr is gracious, with as strong a sense of her own aesthetic as of herself. She is the sort of woman who dresses for dinner and delivers her opinions—decrying, for instance, the commissioning of gardens by people who don't garden—with ladylike grace.



Despite all of its visual excitement, it is really a contemplative place a "stroll garden" in the Japanese sense As patrician as she looks in her wellies and straw hat, she spends most of her days on her knees, weeding.

At the time that she began work on the garden, Suhr was head of the interior decorating department at Bloomingdale's, where she introduced furniture designers such as Robsjohn-Gibbings and Faniel in her famous model-room displays. Her late husband Billy, a ruggedly handsome man, was a conservator of paintings, working for the Frick, among other institutions. The Suhrs took off work every July and August to travel the world. Their home is filled with collections of pictures, rugs, and objects that chronicle their shared history.

But from March until July each year, the two stayed put, devoting every weekend to their garden, which, Suhr says, evolved without a plan or "even a piece of paper with notes on it." There was none of the





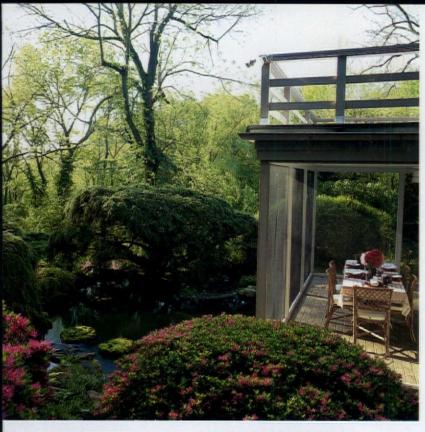
usual spousal division of tasks, either; the two simply did everything in tandem. Like the house, the garden is a series of artfully arranged collections. In addition to the rhododendrons and azaleas, which number in the thousands, it boasts a remarkable collection of tree peonies, a burgeoning fern collection, and rare magnolias, including many unusual yellows, originating from the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

Despite evolving without a plan, the garden has sureness and clarity of design. Its curving paths and beds, as well as its clipped and mounded forms, show a Japanese influence. The rounded trees and shrubs, such as magnolia, hemlock, and of course the poor, maligned forsythia, play against the more free-form shapes of the candycolored azaleas. Under these plantings, enormous carpets of wood hyacinths (Hyacinthoides hispanica) and scores of other population-increasing bulbs fill the ground in spring. The hillsides also burst into bloom with a succession of bulbs in

Suhr rests for a moment in her garden, top. A river of color runs through a manicured bank of evergreens and deciduous trees, above, leading the eye down to a stream and beyond to a lawn. Several hundred wood hyacinths (*Hyacinthoides hispanica*), opposite page, planted years ago, have multiplied into tens of thousands, and now spread themselves at the feet of one of Suhr's mature plantings of 'Kurume' azalea.









The screened porch, this page, top, faces a Japanese-style pond with mossy steppingstones. Cuttings from Suhr's tree peony collection fill Venetian bud vases, left. a colorful cacophony, opposite page, the papery pink 'Shintenchi' tree peonies are luminous below green fern fronds, wild pink geraniums, and yellow and purple deciduous azaleas. Sources, see back of book.

huge swaths, and the sides of the brook erupt with a riotous profusion of primula in early spring. The restraint here is in the lines of the garden's design.

Despite all the visual excitement, it is really a contemplative place—a "stroll garden" in the Japanese sense. And when Suhr "leaves these shores," as she puts it, her private masterpiece will become a public sanctuary. She has made arrangements with the Garden Conservancy and the Westchester County Parks Department to preserve the garden as open space. But for now Suhr is busy gardening: she is ordering new azaleas, despite having no place left to put them, and is experimenting with some hardy varieties of camellia.

She also succumbed to Mayen's unrelenting pressure by ripping out a hedge of forsythia near the front of the house. To her delight, that has not only opened up magnificent views but, better yet, opened up new possibilities in a garden otherwise packed to the gills.





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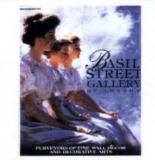
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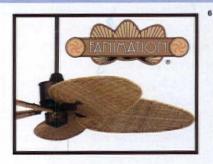
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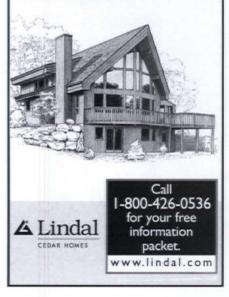
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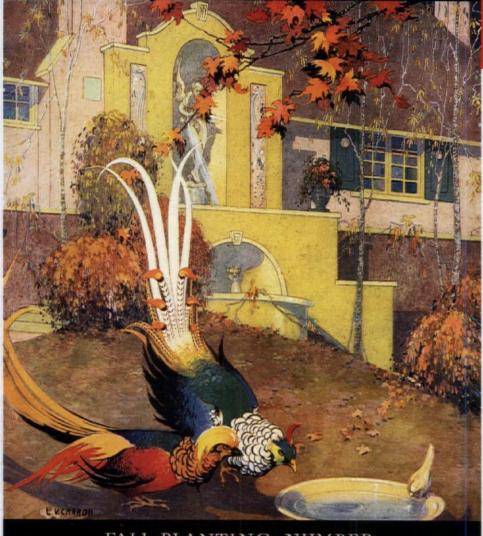
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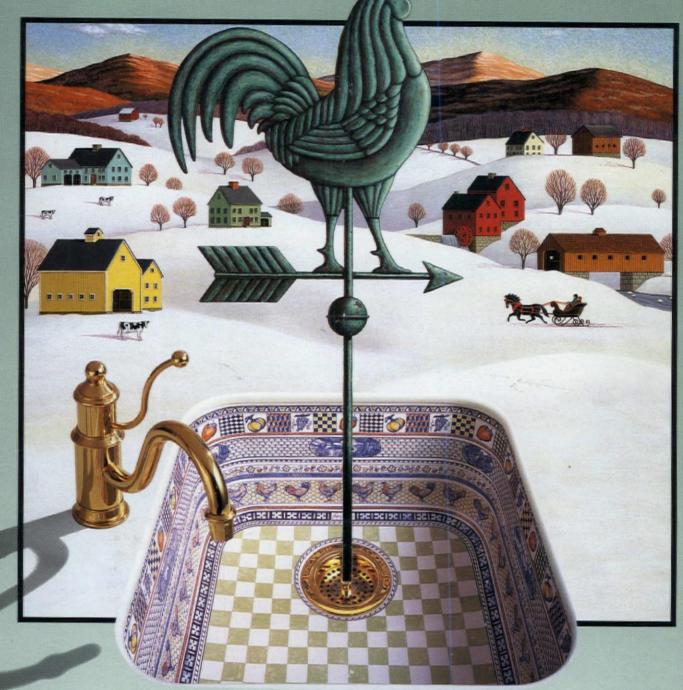
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