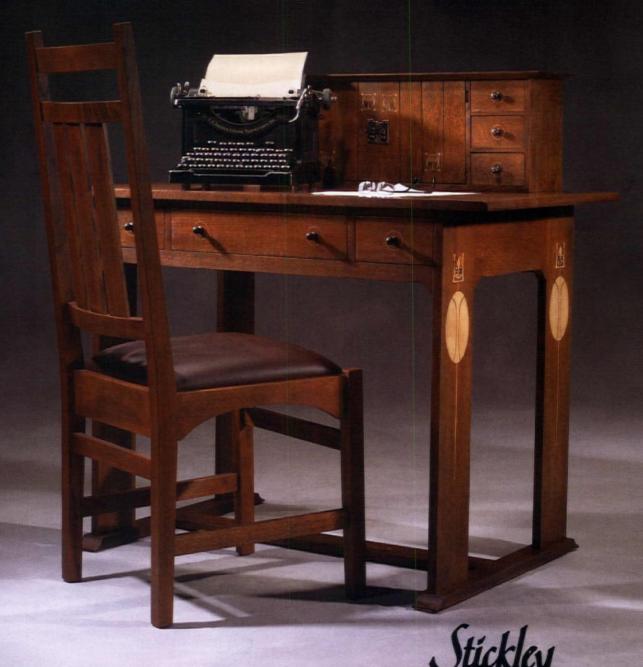
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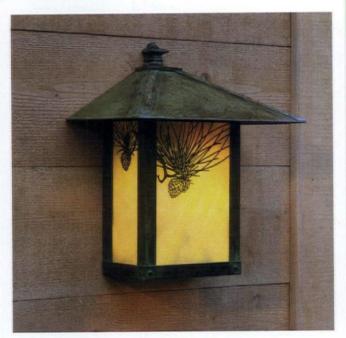
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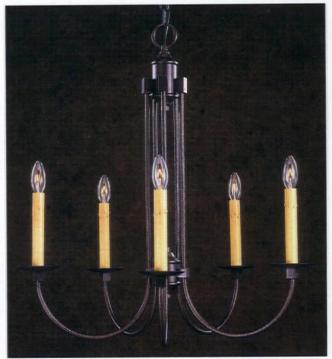
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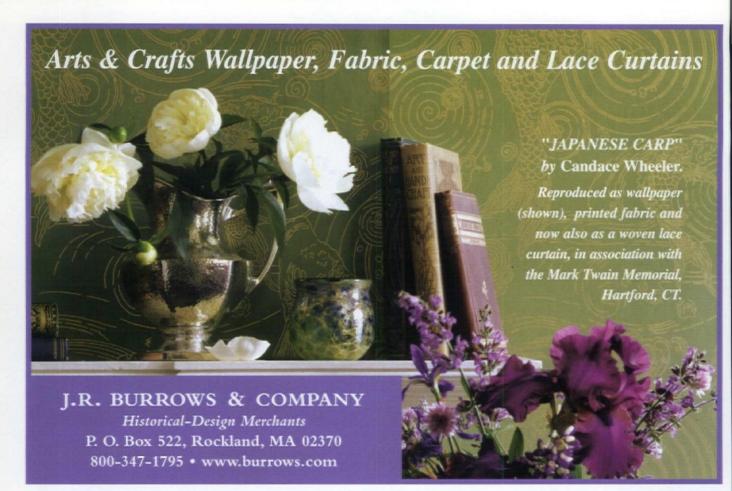
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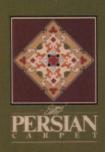
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and smooth, durable finish let wood's natural beauty shine through. *Polycrylic*, the easy way to keep wood beautiful.



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What will they call this?

N 1974, the bathrooms in the architecture school at Pratt Institute were labeled Us and Them. Female students made up about ten percent of the school, something new. ("You can be anything you want, even though you're a girl.") I hung around, in a filthy high-rise dorm between Fort Greene and Bed-Stuy (where nobody changed the burned-out bulbs on the GG subway platform), ever supportive of my boyfriend the budding architect. • Pratt had the reputation of being edgy, disobedient. The graffiti, I admit, was really out there. Still, the halls echoed with "Mies" and "Corbu," misquoted in hushed voices. Modernism was the state religion. There were cracks-you were allowed to admire FLW-but topics once intrinsic to the practice of architecture were taboo. Even to an uninitiated brat like me, the lockstep was evident. Seminal Fifties and Sixties Modernism was radical and necessary, as beautiful in its clarity as an extra-dry martini served in iced crystal stemware. By the Seventies it was deadly, the way to be accepted into the club in a hierarchical and academic old-boys profes-



sion. There was, as I recall, no talk of ornament except as a historical preoccupation; beauty was irrelevant; historic preservation was the province of wealthy xenophobes at best or, worse, of retro thinkers who stood in the way of brilliant new design poised to fill the cleared lot. • That was then. I love filling these pages with the unabashed beauty of the past—and of these unprecedented revivals, courtesy of entrepreneurial artisans and merchants. The richness makes me wonder, What "period" are we in

now? Through the lens of hindsight, what will future architectural historians and restorers "call" this time? It is post-Modern—a good description of the era, if not for an awkward style. We've had a lasting Victorian Revival and an Arts and Crafts boom surpassing the original. We recognize, in our own time, that there's a swelling interest in, and practice of, classical architecture. Will all these trends have kept their names one hundred years hence? Will there be a single umbrella term for our turn-of-the-century style times?





VOLUME IX, NUMBER 2

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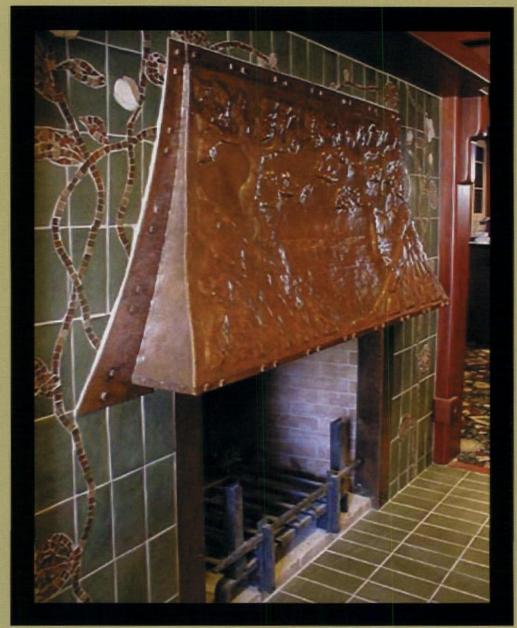
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STYLISH HARDWARE

I APPRECIATED your take in the article about hardware arranged by style [Designer Specs, p. 84 in the Jan. 2003 issue]. I know there's a big handful of good suppliers out there, but I'd been trying to put together my own narrower lists, specifically those specializing in Late Victorian Aesthetic Movement style, and in American Arts and Crafts. You did it for me.

—JON DAVIS South Bend, Ind.

ORNAMENT POLICE

THANK YOU for the discussion about ornament [Other Voices, p. 28 in the Nov. 2002 issue]. I was an architectural student 25 years ago, visiting a building my professor had designed. It was

a concrete office building with concrete balconies, all of which was clad in a rustic wood siding. The professor was a Modernist and did not like "ornament." I got a cold response when I suggested that his concrete building was ornamented with wood.

—KEN FINLEY
Atlanta, Ga.

VICTORIAN

GREAT LODGING

I WANTED to share this fantastic place with you all! I'd highly recommend a visit. Here's an excerpt from a thank-you letter I sent to the president of The Lodge at Torrey Pines [La Jolla, CA 92037; (858) 453-4420; lodgetor-reypines.com]:

"We own a 1909 Craftsman bungalow (designed by Myron Hunt), and we are, frankly, Arts and Crafts junkies—hard-core, and like to think we have very good taste.

"My husband and I ... reserved the \$429 'Lodge Discovery Package' advertised in the Los Angeles *Times* travel section. Every minute of our stay was filled with joy, wonder, amazement, and comfort.

"The gift shop itself is now one of my favorite stores offering unique Arts and Crafts fare (even I hadn't seen some of the goodies in there!). The Spa was lovely —we enjoyed the Mackintosh design elements

throughout.

"Congratulations on a job brilliantly done. We wandered in awe for two days, enjoying the architecture, the gardens, the nearby hiking, and virtually everything your Lodge has to offer."

—KATHY COUTURIE

via e-mail



I RECENTLY became a (re)subscriber— Old-House Interiors is one of my all-time favorite magazines! My sister -in-law used it as a veritable bible as she redid her 1930s Tudor in Pelham. New York. I [subscribed] when I owned a 1912 Victorian in Michigan, 1990-1998. But then I was a renter in Canada for a couple of years. Now I'm back with a 1951 Ranch here in Lenox, and very much appreciate that you're featuring more 1950s interiors, products, and other guidance. I'm now totally into that era, presently in hot pursuit of a vintage gas range (at an affordable price) and about ten other items.

—PAM KUEBER
Lenox, Mass.

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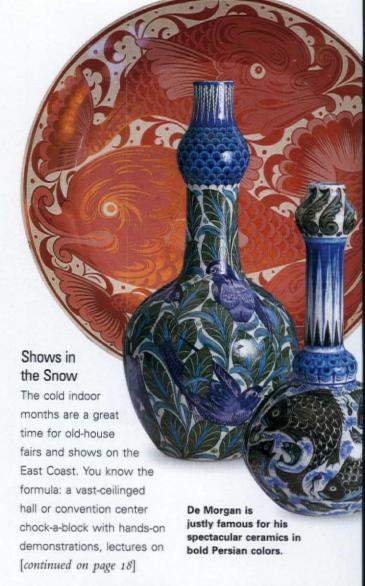
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news & E

Dazzling de Morgan

William de Morgan, that icon of English Arts and Crafts ceramics, now has a showcase for his works in London's West End. The De Morgan Centre brings together extensive collections of William de Morgan's ceramics, from tiles to lusterware chargers and flasks, with an outstanding selection of paintings by his wife, the important pre-Raphaelite artist Evelyn Pickering de Morgan. De Morgan rediscovered the bold, cobalt blues and rich turquoises of Turkish Isnik pottery, and by the 1870s was producing tiles in

"Persian" designs for the likes of Lord Leighton. By the 1880s, de Morgan had taken over tile production for William Morris (never very successful in tile designs himself). De Morgan also revived lusterware ceramics, in which a special coating of silver, gold. and copper metallic oxide is applied to pottery in a second firing, giving the surface an opalescent sheen much like oil on water. The De Morgan Center, West Hill Library. 38 West Hill, Wandsworth. London, +44 020 8871 1144. demorgan.org.uk -BRIAN D. COLEMAN





RICK SKIDMORE simply wanted a pair of shutters to pattern historically accurate replicas for his Colonial Revival insurance executive started his own Woodcrafters is one of the fastest growing businesses in the U.S., with 55 employees making 30 different styles of authentic shutters, and \$6.5 million

yearly list of the fastest growing small companies. Maybe that's because Skiding the company books to his employ-40% of net profit to the folks who build vested, committed people," Skidmore says. "That results in a highly efficient operation, and high quality products." Timberlane Woodcrafters, (800) 250-

€ The secret of success in all ornament is the production of a broad general effect by the repetition of a few simple elements; variety should rather be sought in the arrangement of the several portions of a design, than in the multiplicity of forms. 9 9 — Owen Jones, The Grammar of Ornament, 1856

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CROWN CITY HARDWARE

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subjects dear to the hearts of old-house owners, and lots of tempting restoration wares, from hand-hammered copperware to invisible storm windows and roofing slate. In the Northeast, Boston holds its annual Old-House Fair the weekend of Feb. 8-9 at the Boston Center for the Arts (617-367-2458, bostonpreservation.org/ohf. html). Greater Portland Landmarks presents the Old-House Trade Show March 29-30 at the Stevens Avenue Armory in Portland. Maine (207-774-5561. portlandlandmarks.org). In the Mid-Atlantic, Baltimore plays host to Restoration & Renovation, the biggest restoration show of them all, March 19-22 at the Baltimore Convention Center (800-982-6247, restorationandrenovation.com). Down South, the 16th Arts and Crafts Conference holds forth Feb. 21-24 at the Grove Park Inn





Unified Vision

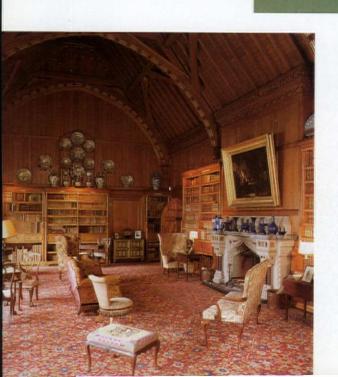
Immerse yourself in the arts, furnishings, and architecture of the Prairie School movement with the Minnesota Institute of Arts's new website, artsmia.org/unified-vision
This virtual gallery takes you on tours of significant Prairie-style buildings throughout Minnesota, with an in-depth look at a residential Prairie/Modern masterpiece, the Purcell-Cutts House. There's also an online collection of superb period objects in the style, from terra-cotta panels designed by Louis Henri Sullivan to a George Maher armchair and a LeBolt silver bud vase.

—MARY ELLEN POLSON

in **Asheville**, North
Carolina (828-628-1915,
arts-craftsconference.com).

Morris by Mini-Coach

If you've longed to make the pilgrimage to English Arts and Crafts sites like Kelmscott and Standen House, but don't want to fork over the money for four-star hotels. Martin Easton may have just the ticket. His week-long, guided mini-coach tours. offered May 12-19 and Sept. 15-22, are \$1,495 per person and include lodging and most meals, but not airfare. At least nine stops at historic sites are included on each tour, including Standen House, the William de Morgan Foundation, the William Morris Museum. and, of course, Kelmscott. For more information, contact Arts and Crafts Tours of Great Britain, +44 012 7347 5476, or e-mail antiquestoursgb @tiscali.co.uk



OPEN HOUSE Tyntesfield is the latest jewel in the British National Trust's crown of more than 200 historic properties. This 1863 Victorian Gothic mansion was saved from the auctioneer's hammer in an unprecedented national fundraising drive conducted in England last year. The Trust raised the £20 million needed to purchase the 500-acre estate from its 19 heirs just days before it was to be sold. Tyntesfield's Gothic turrets, towers, crockets, and spires rise out of the lush Somerset countryside near Bristol. While many other Victorian Gothic homes of this era have been divided or stripped of original features, Tyntesfield and its contents are largely intact. The mansion has its own chapel, a tour de force of richly hued leaded glass, polychromed walls, and encaustic tiles. Tyntesfield, which was virtually unknown before its reclusive owner died last year, opens to the public this spring. For more information, or to make a donation, contact 800-913-6565, nationaltrust.org.uk —BDC

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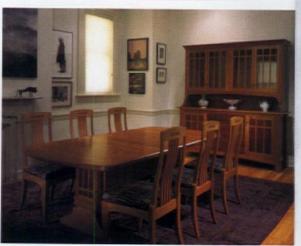


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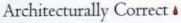
by Mary Ellen Polson





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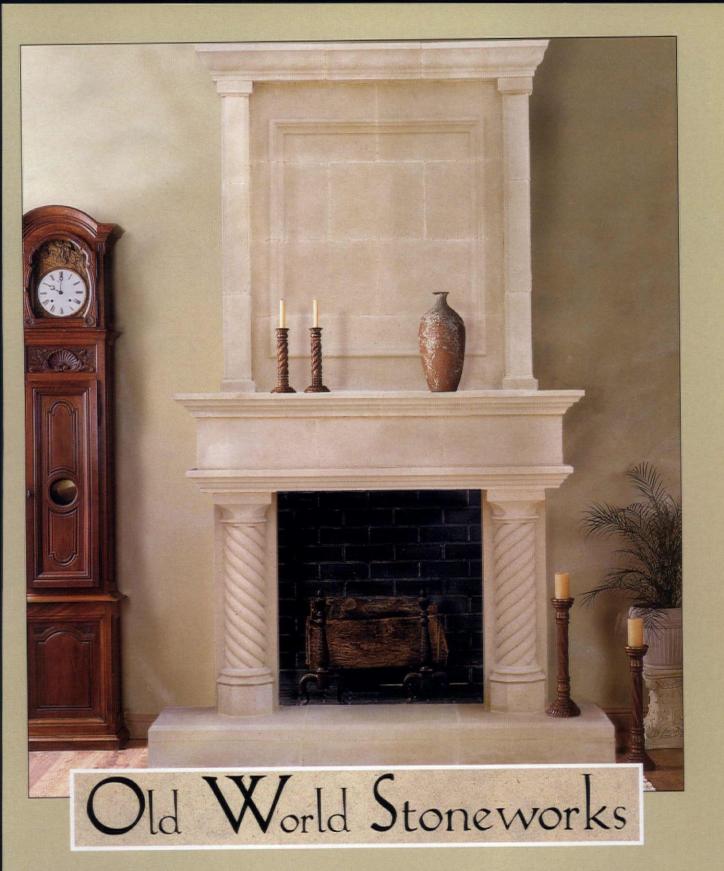
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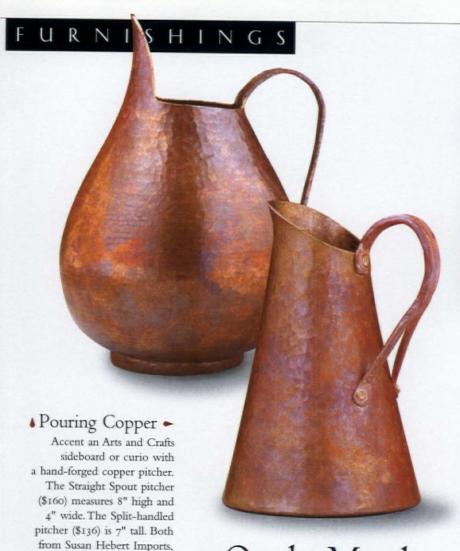
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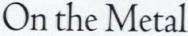


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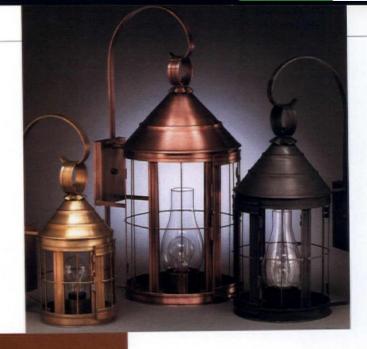


Hang High the Lantern -

The Cone Head Wall Bracket is based on early American hand lanterns. The large lantern (center) measures 10 1/2" x 13" x 25". Lamps retail for about \$290 to about \$400. All from The Copper House, (800) 281-9798, thecopperhouse.com

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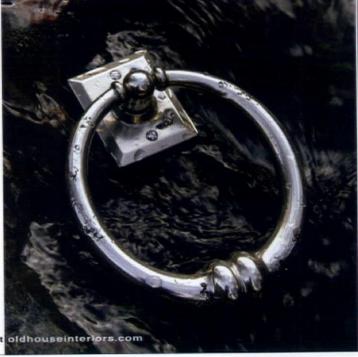
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FURNISHINGS Lots more in the Design Center at oldhouse interiors.com

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• Wheel Speedy •

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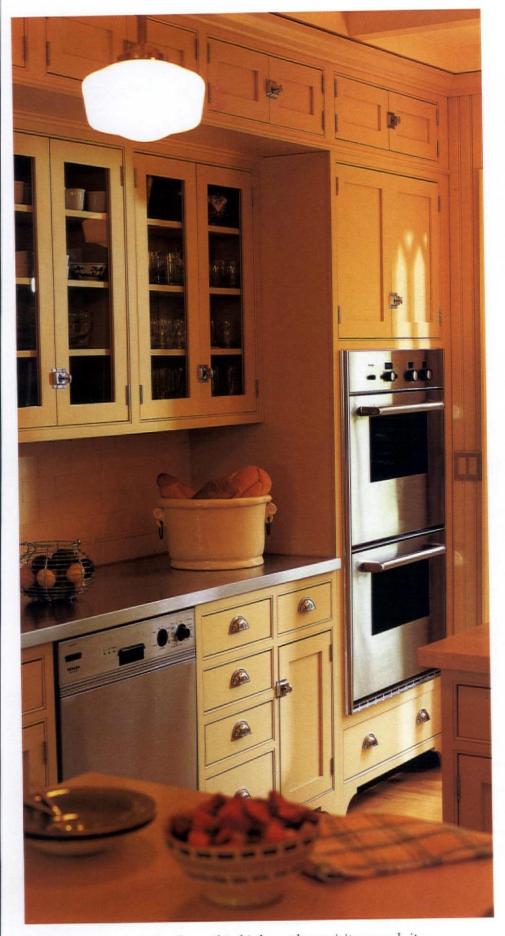
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The Inner House of Edith Wharton

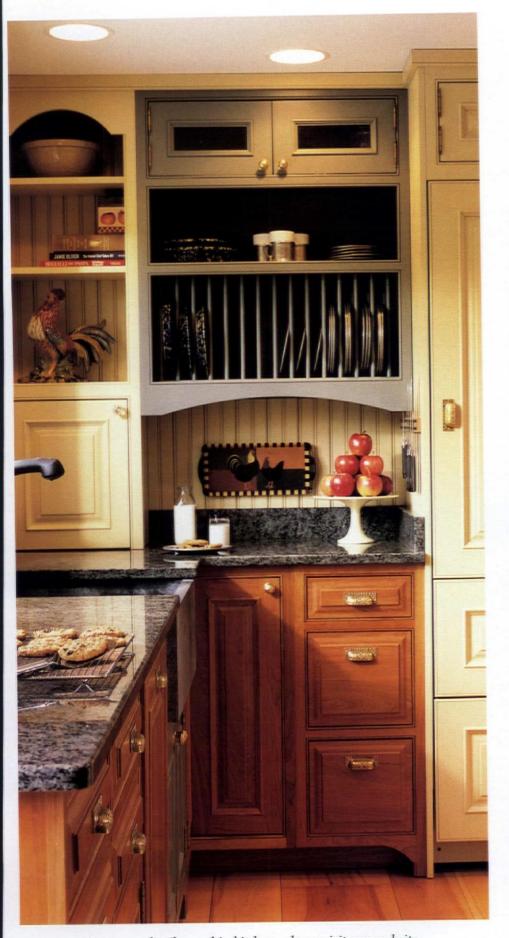
BY CATHERINE LUNDIE

A FAN OF BOTH old houses and old authors, I tend to read books for their vintage interiors. I watch movies in the same way, but they're less satisfying because Hollywood often gets tripped up by details. Old-house junkies like me can feed our habit just by dipping into this country's most beloved authors, from Washington Irving with his homey Dutch farmhouse in "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" (1820) to F. Scott Fitzgerald and his glittering Jazz Age palaces a century later. For a quick fix, however, I always turn to the grande dame of American literary décor: Edith Wharton (1862-1937).

Wharton, the author of such literary classics as Ethan Frome and her Pulitzer Prize winner, The Age of Innocence, uses interior décor as a metaphor for everything from personality to social class."I have sometimes thought that a woman's nature is like a great house full of rooms," says the protagonist in "The Fullness of Life," a short story published in 1893. "There is the hall, through which everyone passes in going in and out; the drawing room, where one receives formal visits; the sitting room, where the members of the family come and go . . . but beyond that, far beyond, are other rooms, the handles of whose doors perhaps are never turned." An author whose characters say things like that clearly has more than just curtains on her mind.

Wharton was born into old New York's upper class, and her descriptions of her characters' interiors help explain the motivations of a social order that was already passing away when The Age of Innocence was published in 1920. The most aristocratic of the characters in this novel, set in the 1870s, are Henry and Louisa van der Luyden. Descended from the first Dutch governor of Manhattan, and related by marriage to both French and British aristocracy, these "slender, faded figures . . . mouthpieces of some remote ancestral authority" have a certain "frozen gentleness" that is much revered by their set. Yet even reverence is "not always a protection from the chill that descended on one in the high-ceilinged, white-walled Madison Avenue drawing room, with the pale brocaded armchairs so obviously uncovered for the occasion, and the gauze still veiling the ormolu mantel ornaments and the beautiful old carved frame of Gainsborough's 'Lady Angelica du Lac'." A nice place to visit, perhaps, but you wouldn't want to live there.

The van der Luyden's solemn, seldom opened house is just a stone's throw from the hothouse glamour of Julius Beaufort's Fifth Avenue mansion, yet the two are worlds apart. With its promise of "hot canvasback ducks and vintage wines," the mansion's lavish hospitality is felt by many "to compensate for whatever was regrettable in the Beaufort past." [continued on page 32]



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153 Charlestown Rd. Claremont, NH 03743 800-999-4994 Fax: 800-370-1218 While the van der Luydens belong to New York aristocracy, the Beauforts fall among a new class of post-Civil War millionaires. Wharton saw these people as the "invaders" of old, genteel New York, but she was clear-eyed enough to recognize that most of the invaded ultimately welcome their ravishers. A commercial society at heart, they embrace the same materialist ethos. So with a clear conscience, Society throngs to the Beaufort's annual ball.

Naturally, the Beaufort mansion "had been boldly planned with a ballroom, so that, instead of squeezing through a narrow passage . . . one marched solemnly down a vista of enfiladed drawing rooms (the sea-green, the crimson, and the bouton d'or), seeing from afar the many-candled lusters reflected in the polished parquetry, and beyond that, the depths of a conservatory where camellias and tree ferns arched their costly foliage over seats of black and gold bamboo." The library, province of the men, is "hung with Spanish leather and furnished with Buhl and malachite;" the bouton d'or drawing room



Wharton drew on English, French, and Italian influences for her classically proportioned home, The Mount, built in 1902.

graced by 'Love Victorious,' the "much-discussed nude of Bouguereau" that Beaufort had "the audacity to hang."

The Beaufort social strata is one into which the nouveau riche seek to gain a foothold, folks like the Abner E. Spragg family in *The Custom of the Country*. Parading



a slightly shady fortune made in the Midwest, the Spraggs and their ilk establish themselves in tastelessly extravagant West Side hotels. Determined to penetrate Society, most are perplexed to find that the gods and goddesses they had worshiped back home "seem so much more remote since only the width of Central Park" divides them. Wharton is at her ironic best in describing the garish pretentiousness of the Hotel Stentorian: "The Spragg rooms were known as one of the Looey suites, and the drawing-room walls, above their wainscoting of highly varnished mahogany, were hung with salmon-pink damask and adorned with oval portraits of Marie Antoinette and the Princess de Lamballe. In the center of the florid carpet, a gilt table with a top of Mexican onyx sustained a palm in a gilt basket tied with a pink bow. But for this ornament, and a copy of The Hound of the Baskervilles which lay beside it, the room showed no sign of human use."

In the unlikely event that anyone is unable to decipher her decorating ethos, Wharton has left a guidebook. The Decoration of Houses (1897), co-authored with architect Ogden Codman Jr., established her as a revolutionary force in interior design and led the eminent critic Edmund Wilson to hail her as "not only one of the great pioneers, but also the poet, of interior decoration." Its reigning principle is that interior decoration should observe the structural principles of architecture regarding balance, symmetry, and proportion. [Her Lenox, Massachusetts, home, The Mount, reflects those beliefs. It reopens for daily tours May 3; call (413) 637-6900, edithwharton.org.]

The book is filled with touches of Wharton's wicked humor. Inherited furniture, for example, can be excused because "the wants of dead and gone predecessors . . . have an inconvenient way of thrusting their different habits and tastes across the current of later existences." Elsewhere she explains that tasteless excess simply cannot be forgiven, on the grounds that it "retards culture so very thoroughly."

While Wharton's disapproval echoes resoundingly

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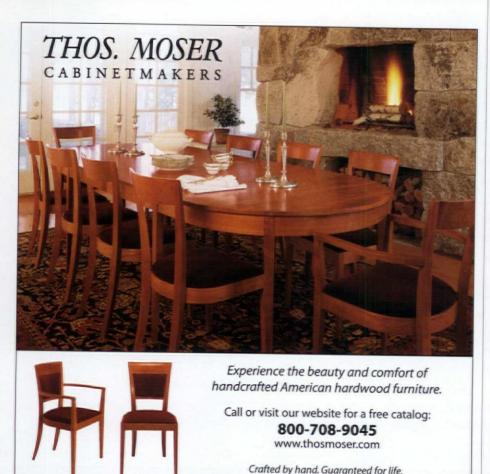
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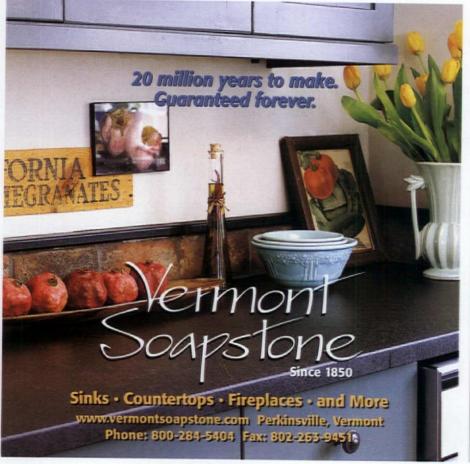
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throughout the gilded void of the Hotel Stentorian, her execution is often more subtle. Consider her description of May Archer's drawing room-thought by Mrs. Archer's social circle to be a great successin The Age of Innocence. "A gilt bamboo jardiniere, in which the primulas and cinerarias were punctually renewed, blocked the access to the bay window... the sofas and armchairs of pale brocade were cleverly grouped about little plush tables densely covered with silver toys, porcelain animals, and efflorescent frames; and tall, rosey-shaped lamps shot up like tropical flowers among the palms."

May Archer's drawing room is implicitly compared to the quiet firelit parlor of Countess Olenska, the novel's "other woman," whom May's husband loves and loses. "What he saw, meanwhile, with the help of the lamp, was the faded, shadowy charm of a room unlike any room he had known. He knew that the Countess Olenska had brought some of her possessions with her-bits of wreckage, she called them-and these, he supposed, were represented by some small, slender tables of dark wood, a delicate little Greek bronze on the chimney-piece, and a stretch of red damask nailed on the discolored wallpaper behind a couple of Italianlooking pictures in old frames."

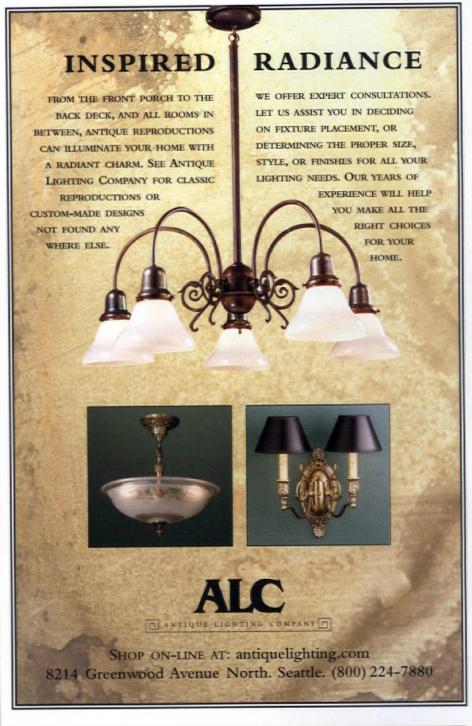
For those just sifting through Wharton for descriptions, both rooms may seem lovely, albeit in decidedly different ways. But those actually reading the story get drawn into shadowy nuances of personality, ambition, class, status, ethnicity, breeding. Applying a tenet from The Decoration of Houses to the divergent rooms, however, makes certain things clear. "Good objects of art give to a room its crowning touch of distinction," Wharton

writes. "The man who wishes to possess objects of art must have . . . the skill to choose them—a skill made up of cultivation and judgment, combined with that feeling for beauty that no amount of study can give."

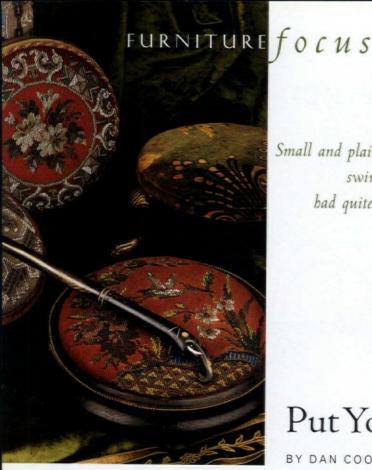
Ellen Olenska, with her sophisticated simplicity, her passion and imagination, has re-entered the suffocating closed system of old New York seeking sanctuary from a disastrous foreign marriage. Her "bits of wreckage" are the symbols of an older civilization, in whose culture and history she has been fully steeped. May Archer's drawing room, on the other hand, is distinguishable from her mother's "purple satin and yellow tuftings" only in that it's a more current version of popular taste. May is the product of conventional middle-class mores, a limited creature who nevertheless has the cunning to perpetuate a fiction that separates true lovers for life. Viewed within the context of The Decoration of Houses, her silver toys and porcelain animals are seen as no more than a meaningless magpie collection.

Whether you choose to read Edith Wharton's rooms in a literal or a metaphorical manner, her brilliant glimpses of a bygone world give great pleasure. Among her myriad décor metaphors, my favorite is this advice she once wrote to a bereft friend: "Make one's center of life inside oneself, not selfishly or excludingly, but with a kind of unassailable serenity-to decorate one's inner house so richly that one is content there, glad to welcome anyone who wants to come and stay, but happy all the same in the hours when one is inevitably alone."

CATHERINE LUNDIE lives in a pre-Civil War era house in New Jersey. This is her first published magazine piece.







Small and plain, bedazzled with needlework and Rococo swirls, or plush and overstuffed, the lowly footstool has had quite a run since Miss Muffet sat on her tuffet.



BY DAN COOPER



FOOTSTOOL is the perfect historical accent piece, bridging the aesthetic gap between chair and floor. Of course, that's hardly what comes to mind when you're lurching around some dark bed-and-breakfast that seems to have three of them for every chair. creating a veritable minefield of stumbling blocks between you and the bathroom.

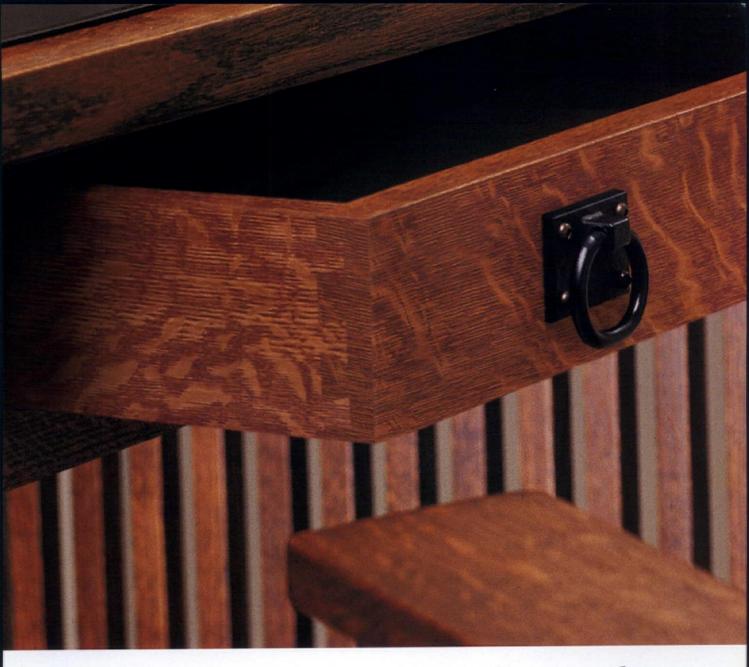
Most of us were introduced to footstools by way of Little Miss Muffet. Curds and whey aside, "tuffet" is a 17th-century French word for footstool, and tuffets tend to be dainty and diminutive in size, usually sporting an upholstered top. They may also consist of a small, fabric-covered box or cylinder and are more often decorative than functional.

Another early form of tiny footstool, usually intended for children. is the cricket. About one-third the size of a regular footstool, it is a plain, wooden piece with an oval top, and either four tiny turned legs or two bootjack end planks.

Footstools of the Empire or Neoclassical era of the 1830s favored the trademark flame-mahogany frame with ogee mouldings and bracket or bun feet, inset with a thick, upholstered cushion. Some of these were small, but others were large enough to be considered benches or window seats. Another stool with classical design elements was the "X" stool, whose seat was supported by intersecting cross members.

Renaissance and Rococo Revival stools of the 1850s and 1860s were basically similar to low chair frames without backs or arms, either circular or rectangular in overall cushion shape and typically made of walnut or rosewood. They traveled alone or in pairs and were destined to be placed in front of the armchairs in a parlor suite.

"Ottoman" is the term most of us now apply [continued on page 38]



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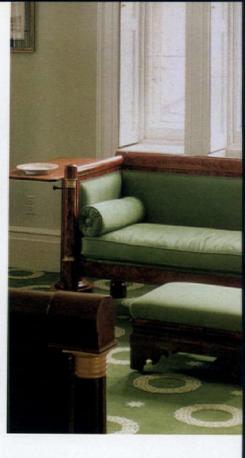
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RIGHT: Some Victorian footstools, like this antique one from Southampton Antiques, pop up to reveal a hidden compartment. BELOW: (left) The fringed and tasseled Croaker tuffet from Horchow. (right) Baker's Late Victorian ottoman in leather rests on turned bun feet.







Some Victorian footstools are rather grisly, such as those made from steer horns or elephant feet, but most fall in the quaint to quirky category.



GLOSSARY

CRICKET Tiny oval-topped wooden stool intended for children and elves.



GOUT STOOL A small stool featuring an inclined, padded top with support for the heels.



HASSOCK A fully padded cylinder or box, frequently soft-sided.



OTTOMAN A large, overstuffed footstool/bench with Turkish connotations.



TUFFET A small, delicate footstool. usually with a padded top.

to any upholstered footstool bigger than our shoes. However, what we now call an ottoman was originally intended as seating furniture or a daybed. Also known as a Turkish sofa, the ottoman is a backless, padded box that became hugely popular in Europe and America during the second half of the 19th century. Many stylish homes had a Turkish or cozy corner that centered around a heavily upholstered ottoman, draped with kilims or other oriental rugs. The ottoman eventually evolved into any heavily upholstered bench or large footstool. (More confusion afoot: those huge, circular, outward-facing benches in the middle of Victorian hotel lobbies are also called ottomans.)

The Victorians produced a wide variety of novelty footstools. Some are rather grisly, such as those made from steer horns or the foot of an elephant, but most fall in the quaint

to quirky category. A rather strange example that pops up, literally, is a low-to-the-floor, Renaissance Revival piece with hoofed feet and incised gold lines. If you spot one, look for a small pedal protruding from beneath the rim. Depress the pedal and the upholstered lid flips, revealing a porcelain spittoon!

A commonly reproduced mid-19th century item is the gout stool. It features an inclined, padded top with a bolster at the low end that provides support for the heels while keeping pressure off gout-inflamed Victorian toes. Nowadays, gout stools are purchased more for their flamboyant serpentine sides than for their health benefits.

In the 1880s, individual footstools covered in patterned carpet were a popular accessory. These were vaguely drum-like in shape, either round or octagonal, and had a padded

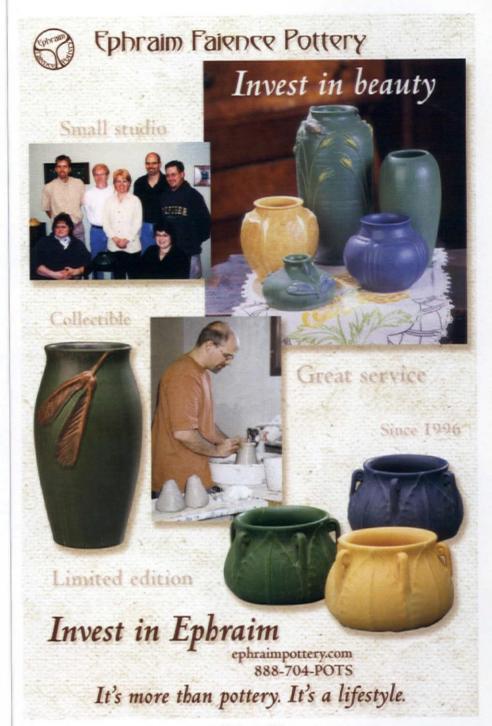


LEFT: A Frenchinfluenced footstool
accompanies a
Neoclassical sofa
from about 1830.
BELOW: Bright
robin's-egg blue
and turquoise were
popular colors
for needlepoint
covers of the
1870s or 1880s.



COVER WORK

What's the right cover for a Victorian footstool? That depends on when it was originally made, and the fashion you want to follow. Beginning in the 1850s to 1860s, beadwork and needlepoint came into voque, and footstools were covered in floral designs ranging from lilies of the valley to ferns and roses, in somewhat somber shades of grey, black, and red. By the 1870s and 1880s, as aniline dves became available, more vibrant colors appeared, from richly saturated, robin's-egg blue to vivid, almost psychedelic green. Asymmetrical Anglo-Japanese patterns reflected the popularity of the Orient, while animal designs, such as spaniels, were perennial favorites. By the turn of the 20th century, Arts and Crafts simplicity had invaded the front parlor, and footstools were covered with natural materials, such as warm brown leather or a simple piece of wool carpet. -BRIAN D. COLEMAN



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Instantly recognizable with its concave top supported by flared legs and cross bracing, the Thebes was a favorite of Aesthetic Movement and early Arts and Crafts interiors.

lift top. Inside was a compartment for holding sewing notions. The Victorian era was also the zenith of ornamental fabrics for footstools: no longer was a simple piece of damask sufficient and there were countless variations of beaded and needlepointed tops (see "Cover Work," p. 39).

One recipient of fancy embroidered tops is commonly referred to as an organ or slipper bench. Reed or parlor organs were a fixture in many middle-class 19th-century homes. These desirable, narrow, highly embellished pieces typically have a hinged, padded seat that opens to reveal a small compartment big enough for a pair of slippers. Perfect for seating, they could also double as foot rests.

The Thebes stool, an ancient (perhaps the earliest) form of footstool, was reproduced in great numbers during this period. Instantly recognizable with its complexly concave top supported by flared, turned legs

and cross bracing, it was a favorite of Aesthetic Movement and early Arts and Crafts interiors. Evocative of ancient Egypt, Thebes stools provided the perfect accent piece to the stylistically diverse interiors of the late-19th century.

In the 1920s and '30s, footstools grew larger and were heavily upholstered, often matching the overstuffed armchairs they accompanied. Woodwork was minimal, usually just small bun feet or perhaps an exposed base rail. With their clean lines and use of novel materials, Modernist footstools were often stylistic extensions of arm chairs. Classic examples include Mies van der Rohe's chrome-and-tuftedleather chair and ottoman from the 1920s, and the bent-rosewood-andleather Eames chair, with its coordinating footstool, in the '50s.

DAN COOPER's favorite ottoman is made out of an old iron stove base.



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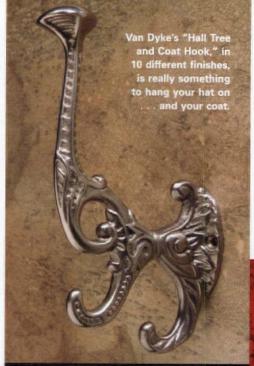
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A buge selection of vintage and reproduction books makes it easy to add one more touch of period style to your home. by Brian D. Coleman

HEN AN abandoned Eastlake mansion in my neighborhood was slated for the wrecking ball, I knew, even as a 10 year old, I had to try to save something. One evening I sneaked inside with my screwdriver to salvage the old hardware-including a dozen cast-iron coat hooks in pristine condition. In my college dorm room, those hooks held my ski parka; today they keep scarves and mufflers in order in my Seattle Victorian. Hooks are an item of hardware that we take for granted. Give some thought to their selection and placement, and it can make a difference in a period room.

Hardware is crucial for a successful home restoration, agrees Laurie Taylor, a Seattle designer who specializes in period interiors. Hooks and hinges should be sympathetic to the style and era of the house, much like a piece of jewelry complements the clothing on which it is worn. For instance, a brightly polished, Victorian brass [continued on page 44]





"Picture Molding Hook" from Crov City eliminates the need for nails in walls. BELOW: A grinning 'gator from the Victorian era is an unusual antique piece.



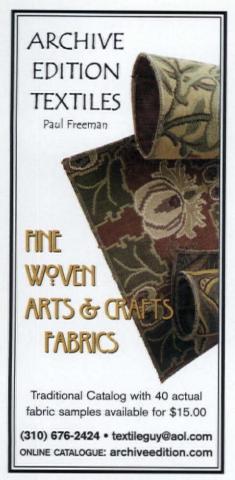
CENTER: Vintage Pixies hold antiqu jewelry. (For a similar look, check out Van Dyke's figural hooks of bird and wildlife.) LEFT: An Eastlake-styl bath hook from the author's collection holds a silver shaving strap. (Van Dyke's offers an Eastlake hook ABOVE: This ornate, antique Victoria hat rack is made of cast iron.

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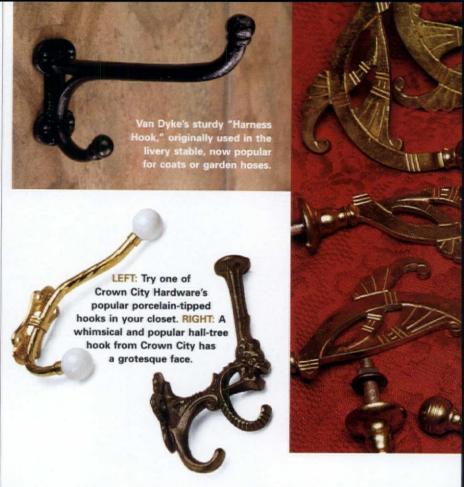
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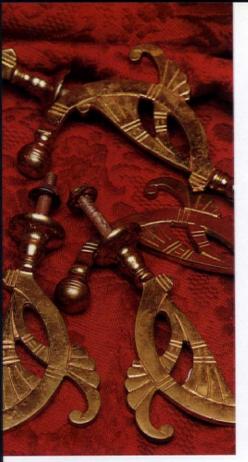


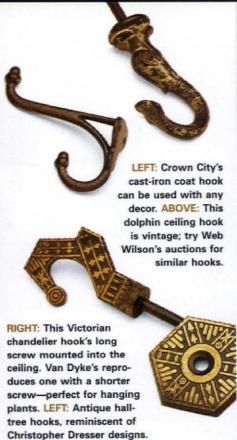


Before built-in closets and clothes hangers. books plain and fancy could be found around the house, from kitchen to entry hall to bedroom wall.

hall-tree hook would look out of place in a Craftsman-era room with hardware of oil-rubbed bronze. (Bungalow owners often complain of the lack of hooks and entry closets, adds Taylor. Bungalows were often built so that the front door opens directly into the living room, leaving no vestibule or entry hall. Taylor advises a board of Craftsman-style coat hooks, hung near the front door, as a period-appropriate solution.)

Until at least the mid-19th century, most people simply did not have many articles of clothing. What they did own was hung in freestanding armoires. Wardrobe hooks typically had a ball on the end to avoid wrinkling the garment; fancy versions even had a porcelain knob. Hats and coats, hung on hall trees, had their own types of hooks: a tall post would hold the hat while the lower, curved arm held the coat. Other specialty hooks included swinging varieties that could move out of the way to the side, and double hooks with two arms. Moulding hooks grabbed the picture rail near the ceiling; this is how paintings were hung, rather than being screwed or nailed into the wall. Utility hooks, simple in design and of cast iron or brass, held pots and pans in the kitchen. Ceiling hooks, first used for Victorian chandeliers, anchored into the ceiling with a long screw to suspend an oil or kerosene light. The styles of hooks reflected the furniture of the period, from the curlicued brass hooks of the Victorians to the hand-hammered type of the Arts and Crafts era. By the 1920s, when color was intro-





duced in bathroom fixtures, coordinating accessories such as ceramic hooks were produced in hues ranging from baby pink to jadite green. As closets became more popular after the turn of the 20th century, hangers began to replace many of the hooks used in bedrooms and entry halls.

FIRST AND FOREMOST, points out Richard Perry of Crown City Hardware, plan beforehand what you'll be screwing the hook into. A heavy overcoat can pull out a chunk of plaster. Install a nailing strip, find a stud, or use expansion anchors to secure the hook. Use bigger screws in softwood such as pine; smaller screws are adequate when securing to a hardwood like oak. Rob Young of Van Dyke's Restorers suggests screws with a minimum length of 7/8 to 1 inch. Use longer screws for hooks that are oversize or that project many inches from the wall. Round, slot-headed screws look the most appropriate for a vin-

KEEPING THE FINISH

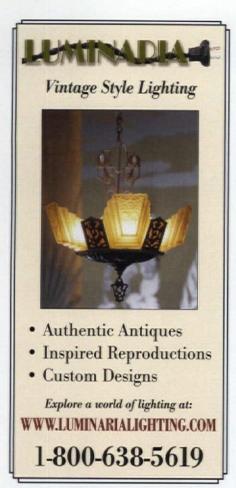
If the hook is lacquer-coated brass, periodically rub it with a coat of clear, Kiwi Neutral shoe polish, suggests Richard Perry of Crown City Hardware. A handy tip for cleaning a rusty iron hook comes from Web Wilson: Buff off the rust with steel wool or a wire wheel, then thinly coat the hook with Mop'N'Glo, which will soak into the corners and give the metal an even finish and a shine. Unpainted iron hooks should not be used in steamy bathrooms or unheated anterooms where moisture will rust them. Chrome- and nickel-plated brass are quite impervious to moisture.

tage hook. Remember to match the finish of the screws to the hook. (Easy tricks: darken screws with a black permanent marker, or dab them with a cotton Q-tip dipped in the appropriate color finish.)

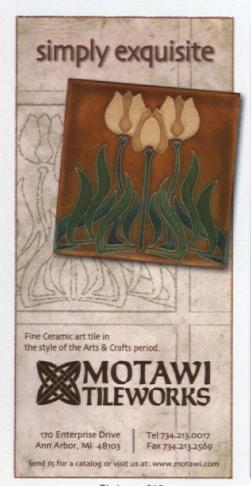
Before you buy, think about the



Circle no. 201



Circle no. 216





HOOKS Old & New

Web Wilson, an antiques dealer specializing in vintage hardware, offers advice on shopping for an antique hook. He says to examine an old hook to be sure it's not bent: brass and bronze are rather soft metals. Cast iron, although stronger, is brittle, so always check to make sure the screw holes or corners haven't broken off. Wilson cautions that many a fancy antique hook was designed to be mounted on a piece of furniture called a hall tree; they must be screwed on from the back with the post attached to the hook. So this type of hook cannot be screwed directly into a wall, but needs to be mounted from behind. Always check to make sure that there are three holes in the base of the hook before you buy it, if you plan to place it directly on the wall.

Here are my favorite sources for reproduction and antique hooks: ANTIQUE HARDWARE (800) 422-9982; antiquehardware.com • CROWN CITY HARDWARE (800) 950-1047; restoration.com • OLDE GOOD THINGS (888) 551-7333; oldegoodthings. com • OMEGA TOO (reproduction hardware) (510) 843-3636; omegatoo.com

- ROBINSON'S ANTIQUES (antique hardware) (616) 374-7750; robinsonsantiques.com
- TAAMBA DESIGN (reproduction hardware) (866) TAAMBA D; taamba.com VAN DYKES RESTORERS (800) 558-1234; vandykes.com • WEB WILSON ANTIQUE HARDWARE (800) 508-0022; webwilson.com [check out their Gallery of Hooks on this website]

Attractive hooks keyed to your house's style can be used for other purposes: as curtain tie-backs, say, or in place of modern shower-curtain rings.

practical use of the hook. If it's intended for clothing, use a wardrobe hook with a ball on the end of the hook to avoid wrinkling your silk chemise; porcelain tips are increasingly popular for this purpose. Attractive hooks can be used for other purposes, too: curtain tieback cords, for example, may be held in place with a small brass or wrought-iron pothook. Try using hooks instead of shower-curtain rings. One of Van

Dyke's Restorers' most popular hooks, in fact, is their "Rustic Line" which is actually a bent railroad spike, perfect for cabins and rustic decors. A harness hook, once used in barns, can be used for hanging plants.

When you install a large hook on the back of a door, check clearance when the door is opened against a wall. In a closet where space is at a premium, consider ceiling hooks, handy for purses and gym bags.



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MARCH 2003

TINKER SWISS COTTAGE

It's Swiss (in the Midwest)
and Gothic, eccentric but
Downingesque, and so very
appealing! (page 68)



VICTORIAN RESURRECTION

When committed restorers found this little cottage, it had never had electricity or even running water. They rescued it for their rural retreat—and you'd think it was 1890. (page 50)



ENGLISH ARTS AND CRAFTS

Passion for the houses of Morris and Webb, Lutyens, Voysey, and others resulted in a well-considered interpretation. (page 62) ¶



CLASSIC LIGHTING

These classical fixtures bridge eras and styles, from Empire and Renaissance to Colonial Revival and post-Modern.

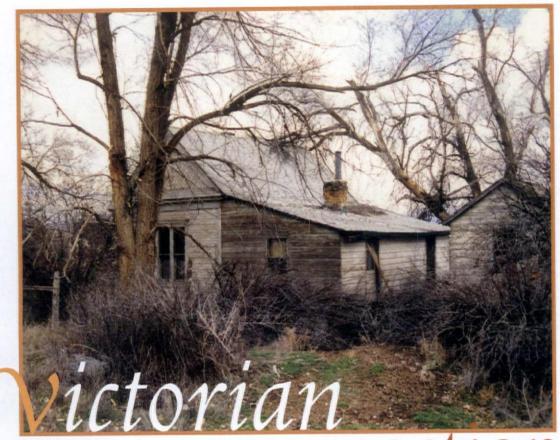
Materials like bronze and alabaster add to their timeless appeal. (page 78)



With a rich garden history, ornamental grasses delight with their changeable colors and moving grace. (page 74)







resurrect10n

BY MARY ELLEN POLSON I PHOTOGRAPHS BY SCOT ZIMMERMAN

IF THE HOUSE in the picture looks familiar, it's because we couldn't resist showing it to you again. Kelly and Shari Warnick were one of two winners in *Old House Interiors*' 2001 Kitchen Design Contest for their superb interpretation of a Victorian farmhouse kitchen. Despite the tiny size of this weekend getaway, there's still a lot more to say about this spiritinspired renovation.

The Warnicks, both graphic designers, weren't looking for a house when they stumbled across the abandoned cottage about an hour and a half west of Provo—they were looking for antiques. In remote parts of Utah, old, abandoned houses are scattered across the landscape, still filled with unwanted treasures. "The house had been left as though someone had walked away from it in the 1960s," says Kelly. "I think all the windows were still intact."

After peering in the windows, there were intrigued by more than the antiques. Even though the tiny cottage had no plumbing or electricity, the Warnicks bought the place lock, stock, and barrel. Kelly quickly came up with a restoration plan, visualizing cottage-scaled Victorian

details in his head and drawing them out on paper. The pièce de résistance is the kitchen, with its perfectly proportioned millwork details, but the newel-posted staircase in the living room (which provides access to the attic loft) isn't far behind. Now the Warnicks and their five children—Richard, 18, Rachael, 16, twins Madison and Makayla (both 3), and 1½-year-old Daniel—spend many weekends here. "We all fit," Kelly says. "It's not crowded."

To Kelly, the area has the timeless quality of the town in the film version of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. "For

RIGHT: The mismatched chairs around the kitchen table were part of a package deal with the house. Shari and Kelly stripped them and painted them white. **BELOW:** The kitchen when they found it. The old stove was rusted through; the Warnicks replaced it with a nickelplated Heartland range. **BOTTOM RIGHT: Painted** beadboard and false drawers with bin pulls conceal a Sub-Zero refrigerator. Other late-Victorian millwork details include the scrolling bracket over the window and scalloped slots for plates.







RIGHT: The Warnicks added the front porch, believing that the original owners always meant to do it. BELOW: Bath fixtures include a vintage tub, and a pullchain toilet from Bathroom Machineries. **BOTTOM RIGHT: The master bedroom,** with a reproduction brass canopy bed made by Benicia Foundry.



some reason, I don't know why, it's like stepping back in time," he says; then jokes, "It's amazing. You drive into town and everything goes black and white."

The cottage is furnished with a mix of antiques and reproductions,

"to the point that people often don't know the difference, and that's when I feel I've succeeded. We have lamps in there from Wal-Mart." The softly colored wallpapers-inspired

by torn and faded originals found in each room-are stock papers from Imperial Home Décor Group. "We just looked through the pictures until we found what looked right."

The Warnicks are true believers in what they call "past-spirit inspiration."Those feelings were confirmed when the Warnicks agreed to let the

previous owners' family hold reunions in the yard. "This 90-year-old man came, and told me that the house was exactly the way he remembered it," Kelly says. The fellow even believed the mantel the Warnicks had installed was original, it was so close a match

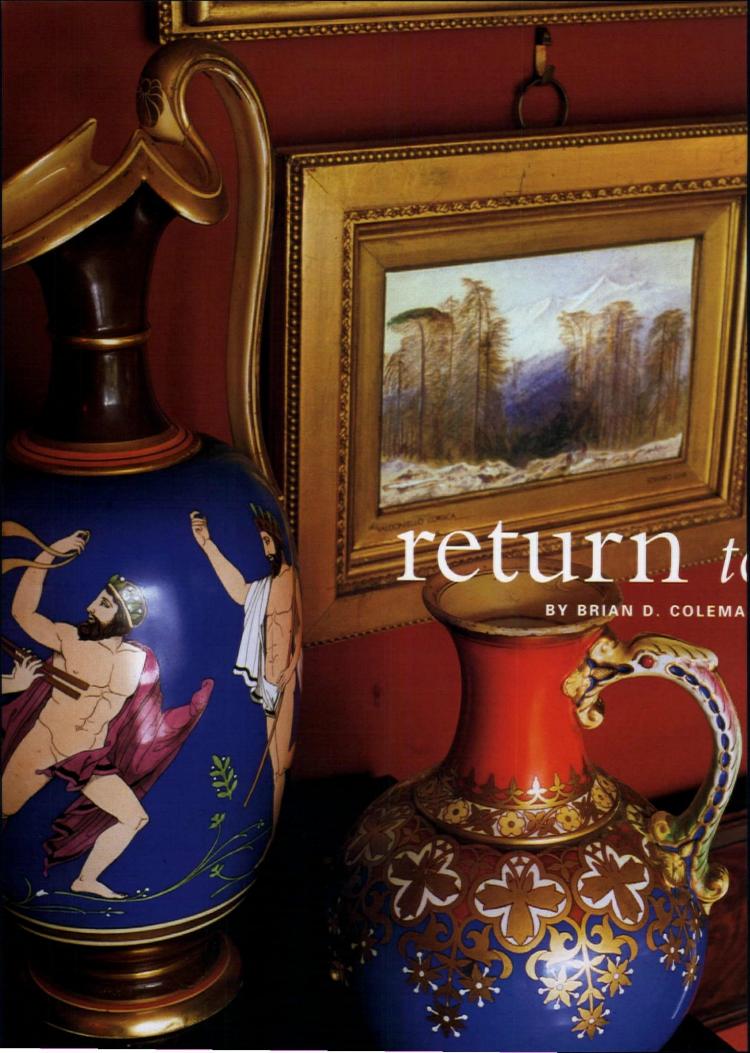
for the one he remembered. Even the curtains reminded family members of the ones grandma had.

The couple painstakingly painted an old barn on the prop-

erty with several coats to make it look old and weathered. When a passerby asked if she could take pictures, the woman went into a speech about how beautiful the old, faded colors were. "After she finished," Kelly says, "I didn't have the heart to tell her it was painted last year."







English Arts and Crafts has never been more popular, as auction prices climb for Dresser's modernistic chamber sticks and for Sussex chairs. To immerse ourselves, we visited a long-time collector in Great Britain.

BRITISH ARTS AND CRAFTS is another thing entirely. It is far from the muscular linearity that characterizes so much of the 20th-century American movement. A phenomenon of the late Victorian era, the Arts and Crafts movement in England was seminal in philosophy and design. Goods were to be hand crafted, the product of individual imagination, as beautiful as they were useful, and based

he source

HOTOGRAPHS BY HUNTLEY HEDWORTH

on carefully considered principles of design. Stylized ornament reigned-as is obvious from the decorated collectibles shown on these pages.

This collection is the passion of a professor in a university town in the south of England. Begun in the 1950sdays when people were more interested in ceramic poodles and Staffordshire lions than in Minton jugs-the collection was initially just an inexpensive way to furnish his first apartment on a teacher's salary. He shopped at London's Portobello Market, where he and his partner found they could buy Arts and Crafts furnishings quite cheaply. They were, in fact, able to furnish their entire apartment for







OPPOSITE: Richly colored Alcock jars are decorated with classical figures and Gothic motifs. ABOVE: Ceramic vases by Christopher Dresser show his mastery of design and ornament. A scarab crawls up the neck of a vase; vibrant color and the striking quality of his stylized floral design are evident in a cup and saucer detail. The peacock charger was designed by John Pearson, a contemporary of William de Morgan.

RIGHT: Morris curtains in the Bachelor's Button pattern are the backdrop for a Gothic Revival table by Pugin in the parlor's bay window. BELOW: A whimsical group of Tinworth mice, in trouble at sea. (One unfortunate member is sick over the side.) The rowing frog is another Tinworth ceramic. BOTTOM: Gothic bookcases in the library are interspersed with elegant display cabinets.







A gift for foresight: Tinworth's mice are now among the hottest Arts and Crafts figurines collected, averaging over \$1,000 for a one-inch mouse!



the equivalent of 150 dollars!

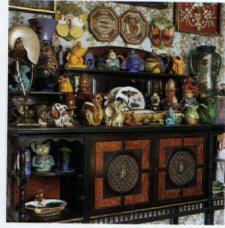
Collecting became a hobby and then an avocation; the collection has grown into a major one over the years, lending to museums and exhibitions around the world. Now retired and a recognized expert, the professor is often consulted by curators and collectors. He has filled his four-storey home with a lifetime's worth of British art pottery, Pre-Raphaelite paintings, and lighting by W.A.S. Benson, who was a designer for and later director of Morris & Company.

THE FIFTEEN-ROOM villa was built in 1845 for a family with some means. When the professor and his partner purchased it in 1965, it had fallen into disrepair. After restoration, the professor began furnishing with (then unfashionable) Arts and Crafts goods.

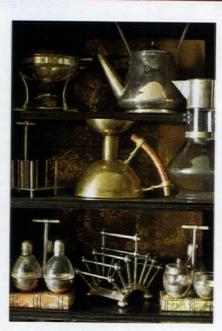
Original flagstone floors lead from the hall into the drawing room, which the professor painted in the 1960s in a psychedelic turquoise, adding custom-colored, peacock-blue drapery in the Morris pattern "Batchelor's Button" from Liberty. Luminous







FAR LEFT: The view from a bedroom into the main bath reveals an ode to William de Morgan. whose tiles fill the walls. The table lamp is by W.A.S. Benson. LEFT/BELOW: The Nature Room exhibits 19th-century ceramic grotesques and cases of shells, eggs, and other oddities. BELOW LEFT: A collection of futuristic Christopher Dresser metalware. OPPOSITE: The master bedroom is filled with Art Nouveau pottery and furniture.





for Liberty and for Morris & Co. When the professor began acquiring his works thirty years ago, Pearson was dismissed by critics but is now regarded as an important artist.

Collectibles fill every room, none more eccentrically than upstairs in the Nature Room. Cupboards of ceramic grotesques, from three-legged toads to grinning Pixies, crowd every wall in the room. The peculiar beasts became popular in the late-19th century, poking fun at Darwin and his

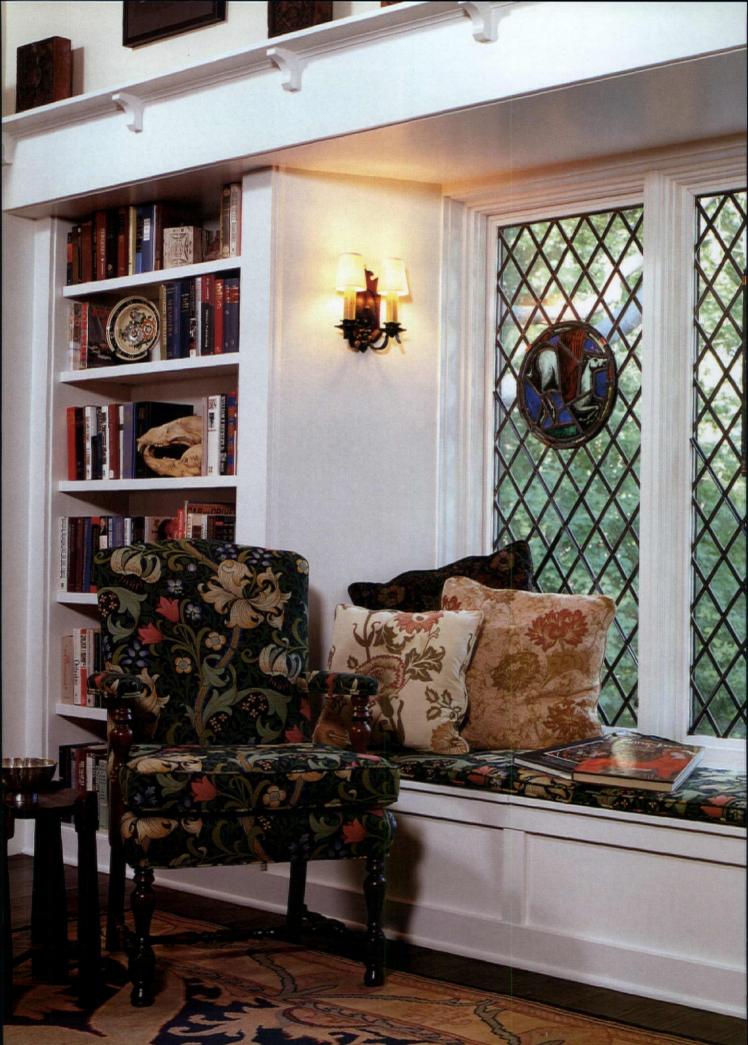
ideas of evolution. Walls in the main bath are covered by William de Morgan lusterware tiles and chargers. Sunlight streams through an amber window, catching the mythical beasts in a riot of fantasy and color.

The professor encourages younger collectors of Arts and Crafts. "Don't think you're too late," he laughs. He had the same worry in the 1950s. The secret is to discover something before it becomes widely recognized. "Don't be narrow-minded!" he de-

clares: The professor sold his collection of Galle glass when it became prohibitively expensive to continue collecting, and he now picks up Pyrex at yard sales. (He recently found the first-ever Pyrex teapot produced in the 1920s.) He advises limiting yourself to just one or two examples of exceptional quality, rather than filling a room with mediocre pieces. "Share your knowledge with others, and it will pay off," he says-on either side of the Atlantic.



This is a superb collection in the context of an English house, offering instruction in choosing well, developing a sensibility, creating harmony through color, and living every day with beauty.





built in England during the Arts and Crafts era, an architect and owner collaborate W designing a new house that offers classical simplicity, contemporary space, and also

a Sensibility familiar to Webb,

Morris, Lutyens, and Voysey: beautiful and timeless.

by Patricia Poore | photographs by Carolyn Bates

CHARLIE HAYES has collections of such abundance, no one house could contain them. His fascination extends to objects from the late-19th century through the 1950s, from stained glass to automobiles, from terra cotta to Romanian pottery. He decided to devote each of his homes to a different period or theme. So, on a wooded lot on the shores of Lake Michigan, he determined to build a house wor-

thy of his collections of Arts and Crafts, Mission, and Southwestern furniture and objects. This would be, too, the extended family's retreat.

Vermont architect Sandra Vitzthum was teaching then at Notre Dame, Charlie's alma mater. She was recommended to him and they clicked. Her training and career are as a classical architect, but Charlie came to her asking for an Arts and Craftsinspired house. The houses he presented to her as favorites, though, were English houses, built from the 1860s through 1905 or so, not 20th-century Craftsman-style. "I was excited to steep myself in the English tradition," she says. "You'll see this



On the lake façade of the triple-gabled, English-inspired house, a deck extends the second-floor living room. OPPOSITE: With their antique medallions, the simple leaded windows are emblematic of the period. Morris & Co. fabrics from Sanderson enliven the interior.





TOP: A "found" painting fits in the frieze over an antique sideboard by Gustav Stickley. ABOVE: In vernacular shingling details and climbing roses, there's a pleasing simplicity at the door. Hinges were custom-forged in Vermont.

cottage has a symmetrical rigor, softened by rich materials: cedar and brick; oak, woven fabrics, hammered silver, and stained glass."

In her research, Sandy visited iconographic houses. She went to Red House, designed for William Morris by his friend Philip Webb in 1859, probably the very first "Arts and Crafts" house. She went to Standen, and to houses by Lutyens. "This isn't a copy of a single house," she says -although elements of the Hayes Cottage will be familiar to students of the period.

The house's shape is simple ("Charlie thinks of it as a coach house"), its triple-gable design almost synonymous with the medievalist Arts and Crafts movement. Climbing roses are the only adornment for the entry. The street façade is formal and somewhat severe, as the entries to English





manors often are. The entry is framed by a short avenue of rhododendrons, an idea Sandy encountered in Ireland. Such devices as a two-storey living room and a suspended balcony give the house a grand sense of spaces to be explored, but it is not excessively large; the footprint is 32 x 60 feet. On the main floor are garages and the family room. The entry hall merely prepares you to climb up to primary rooms on the second floor ("the piano nobile, in classical architecture"); the attic holds a recreation room and guest suite.

CLIMBING THE MAIN stair brings you into a lofty and bright library. Artifacts include George Aldrich's massive "Autumn" painting and several pieces from Charlie's stained-glass collection, as well as art-glass study drawings and fragments of architectural terra cotta. Walls throughout are a pale oatmeal, and trim is white, chosen to better display the collections. Morris's "Golden Lily" fabric and a Gavin Morton rug add rich color.

The living room has a massive limestone fireplace and an oak balconv that carries the impressive oak

The overscaled limestone fireplace looks to English and German prototypes of the Arts and Crafts period. The rug is Morris's "Wightwick Manor," reproduced by FitzSimmons Decorative Arts, Chicago. Morris's "Chrysanthemum" fabric is on the antique rocker.



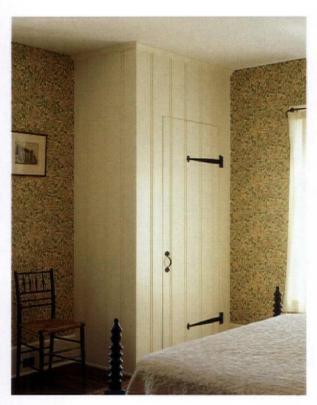
staircase's theme throughout the house. The living room connects directly with the dining room, which has a kitchen situated on one wall. The living room is home to oil paintings, including ones by Alexis Fournier, and Charlie's hand-hammered Arts and Crafts silver collection. The dining room displays Romanian pottery and two Stickley sideboards. Diningroom woodwork was inspired in part by the Swedish painter Carl Larsson.

Private rooms come off this central axis. Three family bedrooms occupy the ends of the house. Charlie's room is Gothic with Morris's "Compton" upholstery. His daughter's room is bright with Morris's "Honeysuckle" wallpaper and a Voysey-designed rug. His son's room is the exception: all-American, it pays homage to Western Arts and Crafts or Mission style, with a collection of Southwestern etchings by artists

such as Gene Kloss, Howard Cook, and Barbara Latham.

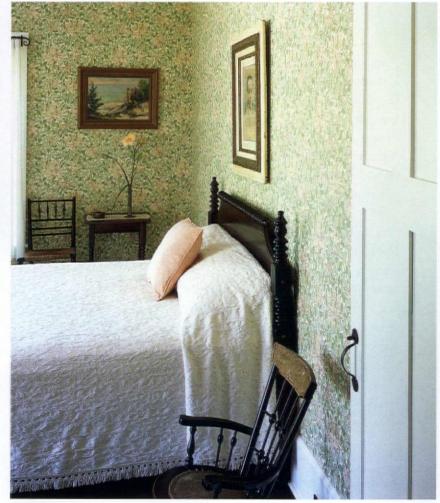
"The house is spacious and bright, yet cozy," Sandy Vitzthum reports with pleasure. Although it appears simple, almost contemporary, at first impression, you can "look at the house's details-and at the various collections-for days. People delight in 'climbing' the house-it's a wonderful place to explore, or hide away." + SEE RESOURCES on page 118





OPPOSITE: The leaded-glass design in these French doors comes from the owner's period house in South Bend. Carl Larsson's Swedish Arts and Crafts home inspired the plate rail over a high wainscot. LEFT/BELOW: A reproduction spool bed and Philip Webb-designed Sussex chairs furnish the bedroom with "Honeysuckle" wallpaper.





This appealing Midwestern house was created from the combined visions of two men who never met:

Robert Tinker and A.J. Downing.

PHOTOGRAPHED AND WRITTEN BY ESTHER & FRANKLIN SCHMIDT

Tinker Swiss Cottage

SOME GREAT HOUSES STAND, brazen in the landscape, boasting arrogant wealth. Other hide decorously behind vast, gated lawns. But Tinker Swiss Cottage in Rockford, Illinois, does neither. It is, rather, comfortable in its "rural isolation." The "cottage" (now a museum) is, among historic houses, singular in its genre.

It is 1856. Enter into Rockford Robert Hall Tinker, 19 years old. He is hired by Mary Dorr Manny, a widow seven years Tinker's senior whose wealthy husband left her at the helm of a manufacturing company. After several years of selling grain-harvesting equipment, he takes a nine-month-long, life-changing sojourn through Europe with Mary supporting his adventure.

An avid diarist, Tinker keeps succinct notes of his experiences and impressions: "Oh, such sod! . . . Wherever I go, the lawns

The two-storey octagonal library, paneled in seven kinds of wood, holds the fabulous walnut staircase. Tinker's rustic root furniture is joined by a Rococo Revival gentleman's chair covered in velvet.



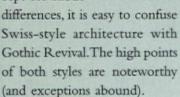


SWISS ARCHITECTURE

Few buildings designed in the Swiss style, a variant of the Gothic Revival, remain in America.

swiss-DERIVED architecture dates back hundreds of years in Europe, but it is far more rare and more recent here. It was a very minor trend by the 19th cen-

tury, but today only about two dozen Swissstyle buildings survive. Most of them are in rural New York, Except for subtle



Gothic is often considered a whole genre of architecture as initiated in Europe centuries earlier and used in every type of structure from barns to cathedrals. Swiss is considered a variant style of Gothic, as are Tudor and others. For narrower descriptive purposes, however, Gothic also is a term used to describe a specific style of cottage as implemented during the 19th century in rural, suburban, and small-town America.

Gothic Revival structures generally had high, steeply pitched roofs with matching pitched gables and vergeboards at the eave as decoration. Windows often extended into gables. Generally, but not always, design elevations show symmetrical structures.

The Swiss chalet style, on the other hand, is usually asym-

> metrical. Roofs are low pitched with wide eave overhangs. Also characteristic is a second-storey balcony with a balustrade made

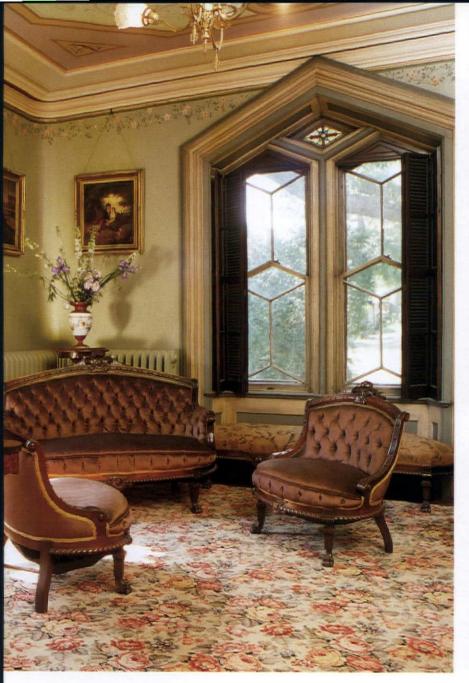
up of flat boards with cut-out patterns. (Gothic buildings had no brackets or balconies.) On some Swiss examples, horizontal or vertical board-and-batten wood siding is ornately carved; it is usually painted.

Of the Swiss chalet, Andrew Jackson Downing wrote in The Architecture of Country Houses (1850): "The genuine Swiss may be considered the most picturesque of all dwellings built of wood the expression of the Swiss cottage is highly domestic Its peculiarity and picturesqueness must either be greatly modified to suit a tame landscape, or, if preserved, then a scene or locality should be selected which is in harmony with the style." Robert Tinker, of course, used Downing's patternbook designs as the basis for his cottage.

Made of stone and wood, Tinker Cottage marries Swiss architecture to Downing's philosophy of rural houses.



ABOVE: The parlor is among the rooms with more typically Victorian furnishings. On the table at left, the garniture set is painted with scenes of shepherds; these were used as the prototype for similar images on the walls, just below the ceiling. FAR RIGHT: (top) Almost nothing is known of the Italian fresco artists hired to paint portraits and trompe l'oeil paneling in the dining room (from left to right, William Gladstone, Peter Paul Rubens, Benjamin Franklin). (below) This bugle boy detail was taken from a scene painted on the porcelain set of three vases that appears on the left table in the parlor.







so nicely kept are my admiration." While the young robber-barons of his era might have been impressed by the grand houses of European cities, Robert Tinker took back to Rockford ideas inspired by how people in rural areas created homes at one with nature. Tinker unpacked a bounty of sketches of Swiss houses, along with a vision for a home he wanted to build.

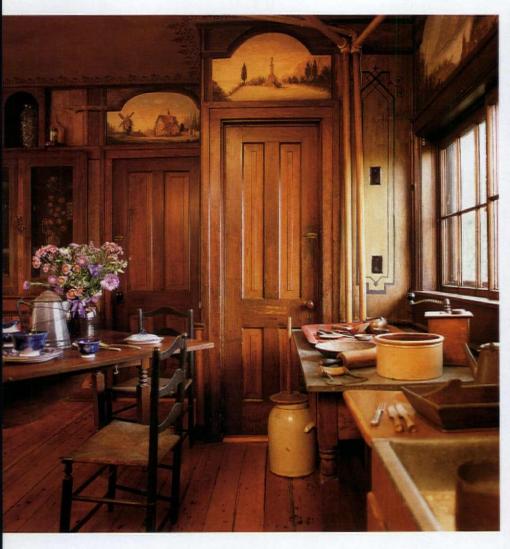
A FEW YEARS EARLIER, on the East Coast, the renowned Andrew Jackson Downing, America's first landscape architect, had written The Architecture of

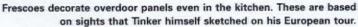
Country Houses, published in 1850. According to museum director Laura Bachelder, Downing was "a strong proponent of cottage-style homes, including Swiss Cottages, believing that a cottage and grounds should complement each other and create a sense of rural isolation." The book revolutionized home design and made him a pivotal figure in architecture for what should have been decades to come.

Tragically, Downing died in an accident two years later, at 36. By the time of his death, he had already created early plans for New York City's

Central Park, and devised the plan for transforming the area between the Capitol and the Washington Monument into a national park.

Tinker merged his own sketches of ancient Swiss chalets with Downing's exacting, published house plans to create a 20-room Swiss-style cottage that he built between 1865 and 1869. The sprawling house at Rockford's edge incorporates such individualized elements as hand-painted frescoes of his picture-postcard memories of Europe, and an enveloping, paneled library thought to be in-





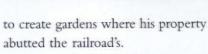
fluenced by Sir Walter Scott's home in England.

If architecture is what make Tinker's Swiss Cottage unique, furnishings are not. The house is filled with the typical Renaissance and Rococo Revival mahogany, rosewood, and walnut pieces typical of a gentleman's home in the mid- to late–19th century—with an exception. Influenced again by Downing, who cited rustic root wood furniture in his book, Tinker designed fanciful furniture fashioned from tree roots, branches, and twigs. He mixed these pieces with more traditional furnishings in an uninhibited nonchalance at odds

with the tenor of the times.

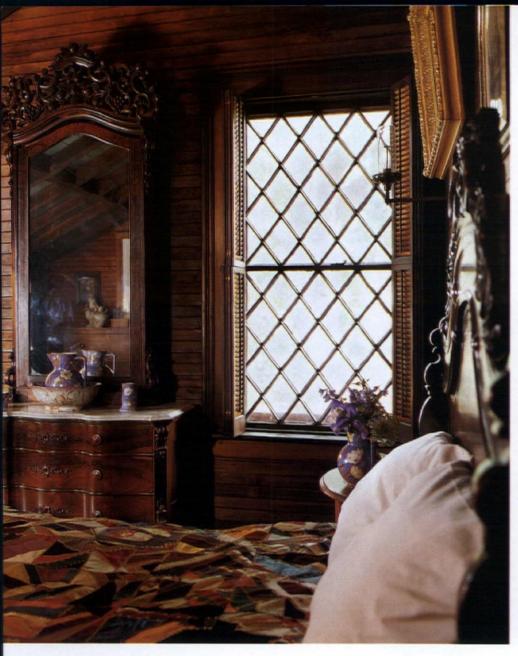
In 1870, Robert and Mary Dorr Manny were married. They spent the warmer months at her mansion in town and winters at the Swiss Cottage. The cottage was an ongoing work of art; Robert added gardens, a fishpond, and a suspension bridge over Kent Creek to link his place with Mary's Italianate villa.

The intense and civic- minded Robert became a founding member of the Rockford Park District. He spent years improving the design of city spaces. When the railroad came to town in 1906 (at Robert's urgings) he was hired (by then age 70)



Mary died in 1901. Three years later, Robert married his niece by marriage, Jessie. Robert Tinker died in 1924; after Jessie's death in 1942, the house went to Rockford's Park District. For the museum, provenance is straight and uncluttered: the furniture, personal belongings (a comprehensive inventory including 68 years of Tinker's diaries, haiku-like in their simple imagery), and objects all remain intact. It is, as museum director Laura Bachelder puts it, as though "the family had merely gone out to lunch, never to return."





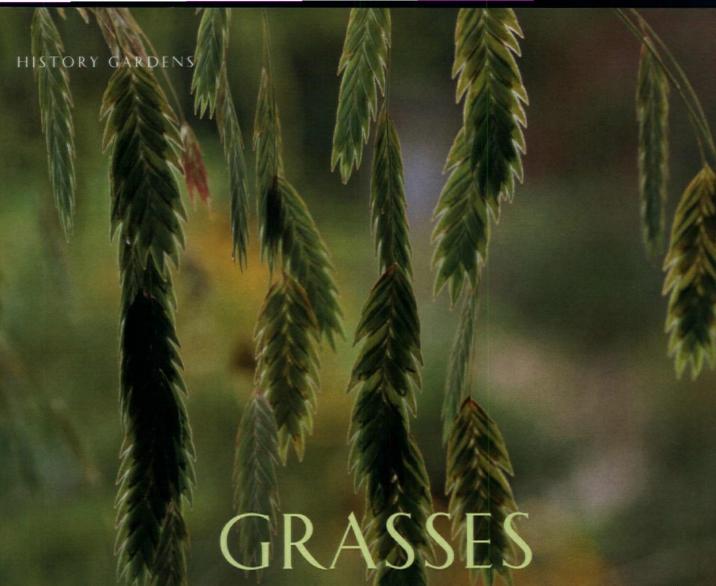
LEFT: The master bedroom is very Alpine: horizontal wood board walls, bare walls and floor. Unsigned furniture is reminiscent of Belter. The crazy quilt is one of the family's treasures. BELOW: The upstairs balusters are sawn walnut in whimsical patterns designed by Tinker.





This portrait detail of William Gladstone, Queen Victoria's Prime Minister, comes from the dining room. RIGHT: Less formally Victorian than the parlor, the sitting room was oft-redecorated; this scheme dates to 1882–3. The large alabaster American ewer dates from the late-19th century.





WITH A RICH GARDEN HISTORY, ORNAMENTAL GRASSES DELIGHT WITH THEIR LUMINESCENT BEAUTY AND MOVING GRACE.

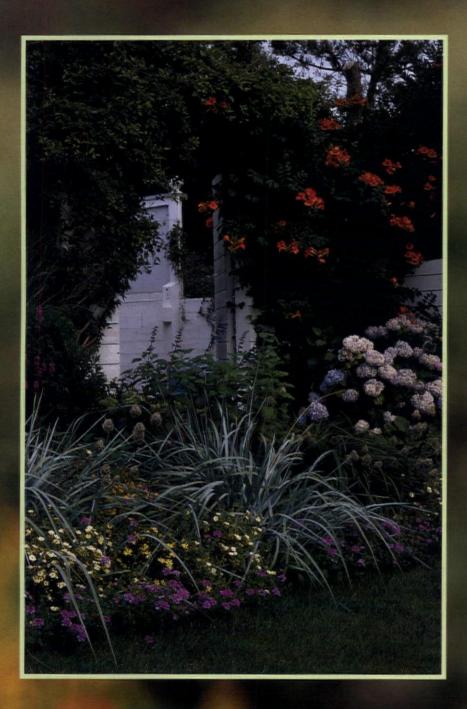
BY VICKI JOHNSON | PHOTOGRAPHS BY KEN DRUSE

FROM SWEEPING prairies to stony mountaintops, on bitterly cold Antarctica and in steamy rainforests, grasses are found in nearly every ecosystem. The nutrientrich seeds of wheat, barley, rice, sorghum, rye, corn, and oatsall of them grasses—are the very foundation of civilization's food culture. Used as thatch in the South Pacific and Old England, grasses have even provided human shelter. Apart from such essential, practical value, the luminescent beauty and moving grace of grasses make them highly desirable in nearly every garden setting.

Nor is this a new trend. As Ken Druse points out: "In seventeenth-century Holland feather grass (Stipa pennata) was considered a beauty and can be found in at least one engraving from the period." The Victorians clamored for the large, exotic species that plant hunters introduced from faraway climes. The 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago may have been filled with the latest mechanical and electrical advancements of the Industrial

Revolution. But photographs and etchings show that grand, ornamental gardens surrounded the entrances—and large, billowing grasses figured prominently.

In the early 1900s, artists, philosophers, and architects turned to earth and nature for inspiration. In his book In Harmony with Nature, Lessons from the Arts & Crafts Garden, Rick Darke writes that garden makers "disdained the static, exaggerated palette of the Victorian garden," and used wildflowers and ornamental grasses freely.



ABOVE: The wide, silver blades of Elymus glaucus provide a striking textural element to this summer border. OPPOSITE: Dangling spikes of wild oats, or Chasmanthium latifolium. "The spikelets are light green at first," writes Darke, "becoming red-bronze in autumn and finally light salmon-buff, remaining attractive through the winter, especially encased in ice or dusted with snow."

RIGHT: Who said grass has to be green?



Invasive GRASSES

"Many of the exotic plants we've introduced by intention or by accident have been ecologically benign," writes Janet Marinelli in the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's publication Invasive Plants. "But a small percentage have run rampant . . . driven out indigenous species land in thel worst cases altered ecosystems." . In California and Maryland, for example, Arundo donax, or giant reed, has taken over many moist areas. This same plant poses no problem in colder northern states. Certain Pennisetums, also known as fountain grass, self-sow readily in warmer states. Another grass put on the "watch list" in many eastern states is Chinese silver grass, Miscanthus sinesis. . The majority of hybrid species of Miscanthus, Pennisetum, and other favorites are sterile, or spread too slowly to pose a threat. Check Darke's The Color Encyclopedia of Ornamental Grasses, or with the National Association of Exotic Pest Plant Councils at invasive.org.











Mysteriously, ornamental grasses simply disappeared from the gardening scene during the mid-twentieth century. Then, in the 1980s, garden photographer and writer Ken Druse reintroduced natural gardening in his books *The Natural Garden* and *The Natural Garden Habitat*. Around the same time, the design firm of Oehme, van Sweden & Associates began promoting the use of mass plantings of native as well as exotic grasses.

OUR LOVE AFFAIR with vibrant flowers is ongoing. With their neutral palette, grasses are seductive for other reasons. "Grasses are the first to tell of every caressing summer breeze," writes Rick Darke in *The Color Encyclopedia of Ornamental Grasses*. "Their lissome stalks and flowers flutter and bow, dancing before every spring gale, every autumn storm, every winter wind."

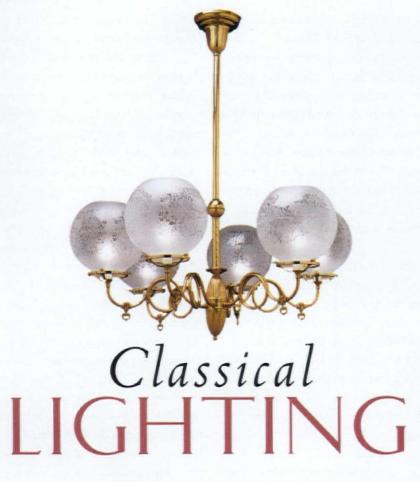
The rich green (or blue) foliage of grasses provides balance and contrast in colorful spring and summer flowerbeds. As fall approaches, the blades take on their fall colors of pale gold, silvery grey, or creamy white. "The flowers and foliage are highly translucent," explains Darke, "... [and] the low angle of sunlight in late autumn accentuates this radiant effect, bringing a welcome vibrancy at time when typical flowering plants are at their lowest ebb." Grasses anchor the winter garden when frost and snow dress the tawny blades with crystalline beauty.

On the practical side of things, grasses are nearly trouble-free. They are generally disease resistant, and neither deer nor rodents eat them. Tallest species can make attractive privacy screens. While the large and lovely maidenhair varieties (Miscanthus ssp.) can reach five to eight feet tall and wide, and giant sugar cane (Saccharum ravennae) soars to 12 feet or more, there are also very lovely smaller ones like Hakonechloa macra 'Aureola' and Bowles golden sedge Carex elata 'Aurea' that thrive in shady spots.

Grasses do well in containers large enough to allow for adequate root development. Pot gardening allows for dramatic specimens in smaller gardens, and controls species that tend to be too aggressive in the landscape. +

ABOVE: The deep burgundy oliage of Pennisetum setaceum 'Rubrum', or purple fountain grass, stands in rich contrast to ate summer flowers at Mohonk Tountain House near New Paltz, New York. BOTTOM: (left to right) Bright yellow stalks and florescences of Molina caerulea Variegata'. Phalaris arundinacea 'Picta', popular since Victorian times. Dramatic Saccharum ravennae (or Erianthus ravennae) soars to 14 feet. Fountain grass, or Pennisetum lopecuroides, produces a spray of glowing, feathery flower clusters, or inflorescences.





THE BEST LIGHTING DESIGNS TRANSCEND TIME AND PLACE. IF THE HISTORIC

ANTECEDENTS ARE THERE, SO MUCH

THE BETTER, I BY MARY ELLEN POLSON

NOT EVERYTHING ages well. Flip through an old Sears Roebuck catalog from 1906, and you'll see a few lighting fixtures that were just as poorly conceived then as they are now. Good lighting—classic lighting—always looks like a million bucks, whether it was designed in 1820 or 1920.

Obviously, if your home is a more-or-less intact example of a recognized style-say, Second Empireyou'll probably want to stick close to light fixtures that would have originally been in the house, or added soon thereafter. On the other hand,

many truly old houses possess style elements from more than one period. What then? Fortunately, many of the fixtures that were popular early in American history were equally popular as revivals in the late-19th and early-20th centuries, crossing style barriers with abandon.

CRYSTAL AND BRASS Candlelit, imported lead crystal chandeliers were rare treasures in the late 18th- and 19th-centuries, appearing only in the finest Georgian, Federal, and Neoclassical homes. The slightly less wealthy made do with three-, six-,







ABOVE: A running Greek key is a fitting classical motif for alabaster, which is soft enough to carve. BELOW: The Park Avenue sconce from Urban Archaeology is based on Neoclassical originals once owned by Pablo Picasso. RIGHT: Rejuvenation's Caruthers chandelier is fitted with a luminous, etched-glass bowl. BOTTOM: An antique alabaster vase, rewired as a lamp, gives a soft, amber glow.





In the electric era, a crystal fixture might be ceiling-mounted in an inverted pyramid pattern, and electrified candlesticks were often trimmed with fabric shades.



or nine-arm brass chandeliers in the Flemish style, also imported from Europe. But crystal drops didn't disappear with candlelight; a surprising number of early Victorian and gaslight fixtures were bedecked with prisms and pendants. (Reproductions from King's Chandelier include patterned glass shades as well as drop prisms.) Electrified brass and crystal chandeliers and sconces invaded Colonial and Romantic Revival homes of the late-19th- and early-20th centuries in vast numbers. In the electric era, of course, a crystal fixture might be

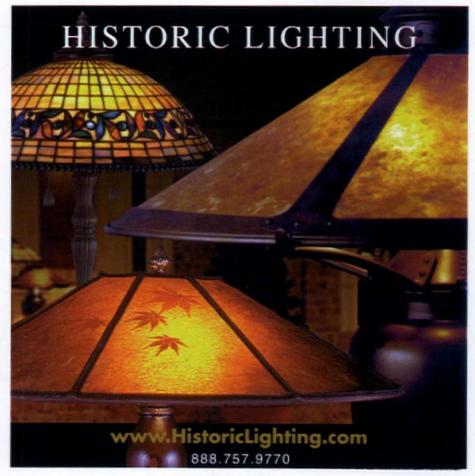
ceiling-mounted in an inverted pyramid pattern, and the electrified candlesticks on brass-armed chandeliers and sconces were often trimmed with fabric shades.

gaslight coincided with a late-19th-century building boom, there are still true antique Victorian fixtures out there, if you're willing to hunt for them. While it's possible to find a simple two- or three-arm chandelier with glass shades for less than \$2,000, many gaslight antiques cost ten times that, says Joan Bogart of Joan Bogart

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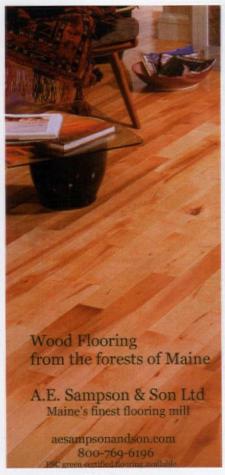
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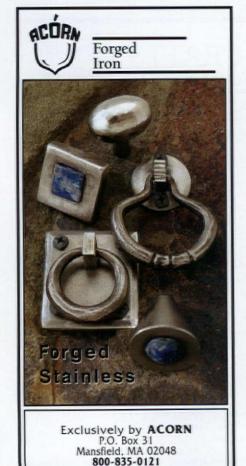


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LEFT: A double sconce with bell-cup shades from **Brass Light Gallery would** look at home in almost any style of house built between 1880 and 1940. **BELOW: The Broadway** sconce, also from Brass Light, is just as versatile.



Alabaster was especially popular at the turn of the 20th century, particularly in Classical Revival and Belle Epoque settings.

Antiques. Good quality reproductions are certainly available, but they often lack the quirkiness and detail of old fixtures. If your budget only allows for a reproduction, look for detailing true to the nature of gaslight. Curling Rococo embellishments on the arms and barber pole-like incising on the pole mount were typical of the Renaissance Revival style, for example. The necessary glass shades can be etched, iridescent, opalescent, tinted, or clear, but whether they're globed or fluted, they should always be open at the top, not bottom.

ALABASTER Twenty-five years ago, Paloma Picasso walked into a lower Manhattan lighting store with a pair of cracked and blackened alabaster sconces that had belonged to her

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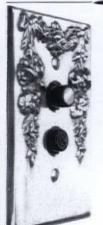
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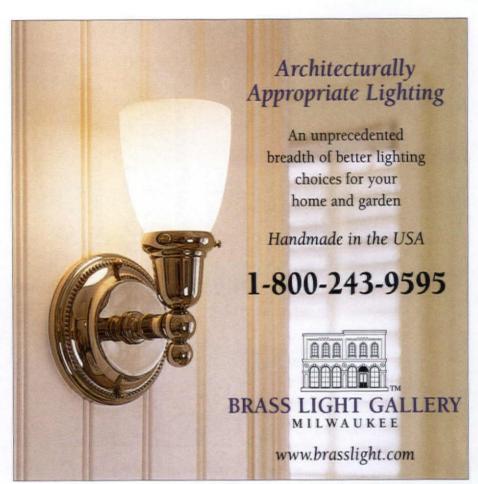
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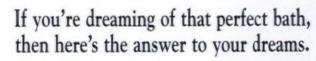
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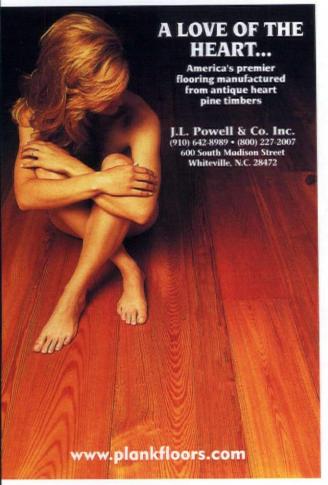
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father. "She wanted to see if we could re-create them," says Gil Shapiro, owner of Urban Archaeology. "I'd say the originals were about 150 years old."

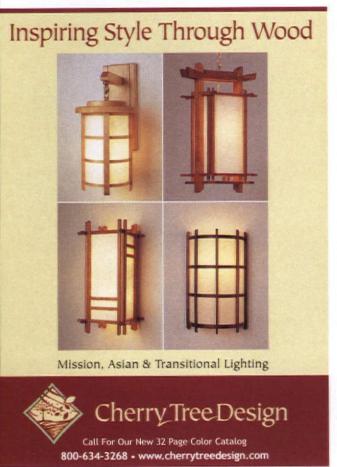
The alabaster fragments were resurrected as the Park Avenue, an usual bowl-shaped sconce that tapers at the bottom. Alabaster "has been used as a light source forever—since the time of the Romans," Shapiro says. It was especially popular at the turn of the 20th century in Classical Revival and Belle Epoque settings. "Alabaster has a formal feel to it. Ruhlmann used alabaster in a very formal way. Art Deco typically isn't formal, but when you use alabaster with it, it becomes formal."

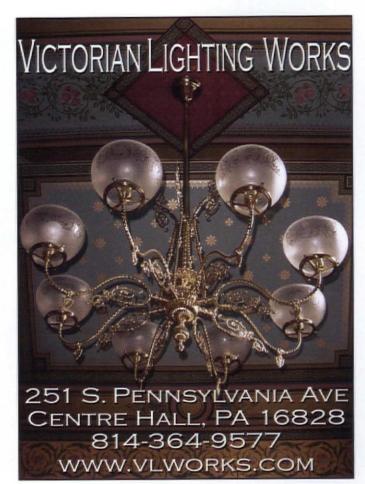
Alabaster has a high moisture content, and if it's exposed to too much heat, it blackens and eventually cracks.

Don't plan on installing an alabaster bowl or sconce with a dimmer, however. Alabaster has a high moisture content, and if it's exposed to too much heat, it blackens and eventually cracks. For that reason, alabaster fixtures must be open at the top. It's also a good idea to fit them for low-wattage bulbs or low-impact fluorescents, which are cooler than incandescent lights. Shaped into broad, shallow bowls or open sconces, the soft stone lends itself to carving, opening the way for applications of classical motifs. Brass Light Gallery offers several limited-edition, bas relief-carved bowls. Reproduced from turn-of-the-20th-century originals, the treatments bear more than a passing resemblance to the classical carvings found on Greek and Roman temples. That makes alabaster a classic in my book.

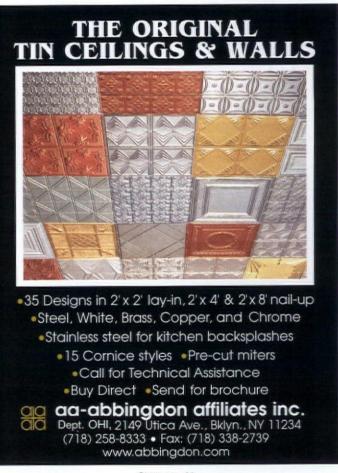


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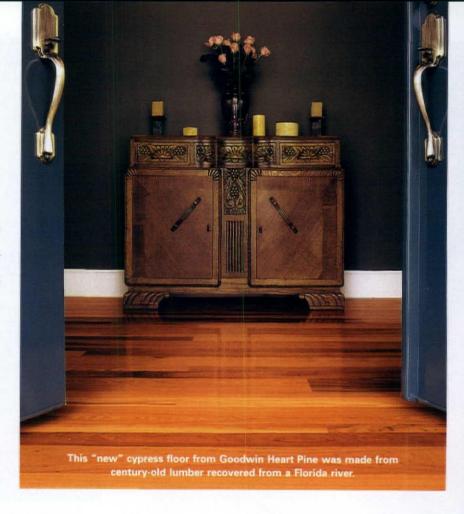




Circle no. 4



Which wood works best for you? Do you prefer wide-plank boards, or the streamlined look of strip flooring? Perhaps you favor inlays, or that bigcity apartment tradition, the parquet floor.



The Right Wood BY MARY ELLEN POLSON

HETHER your home is modest or extraordinary, a few decades old or going on two centuries, chances are the floors are wood. If you need to lay a new floor-either for an addition, or as a replacement for a floor where wood is missing or too far gone to revive-it makes sense to continue in the same genre.

The granddaddy of all floorboards, WIDE-PLANK flooring is found in most dwellings built before the Victorian era. Wide-plank boards measure at least 3" wide, and can be as much as 20" wide, and up to 16' long. Wide-plank lumber reclaimed from old tobacco barns or abandoned factories is justly prized for its tight, old-growth grain and intriguing character marks. (J.L. Powell offers

wide planks with natural distress marks that vary from nails to wormholes.) At least one company, Carlisle Restoration Lumber, also harvests mature oldgrowth pine that's at least 100 years old for its new wide planks. Goodwin Heart Pine and Timeless Timber both reclaim old-growth lumber from the bottoms of rivers and lakes, where lack of oxygen preserves the tightly grained wood.

Whatever the source, reclamation means it's possible to find rare or extinct old-growth species like Southern longleaf pine or chestnut for prices between \$8 to \$20 per square foot. Other widely available species include red and white oak, eastern white pine, heart pine, cypress, maple, ash, cherry, and walnut.

Tongue-and-groove STRIP floor-

ing has been the standard for residential interiors ever since improvements in millwork technology made the floors ubiquitous in late-19thcentury homes. Usually measuring between 2 1/4" and 3" wide and laid in random-length rows, interlocking strip floors are widely available in oak, maple, heart pine, cherry, and other species. Larger manufacturers, including Bruce and Harris Tarkett, offer new, solid-wood strip flooring that comes prefinished and ready to nail down. Tightly grained old-growth wood is also available from millworks that specialize in reclaimed wood. Prices for select-grade strip flooring begin at about \$3 per square foot.

While nothing beats the look of solid wood, a relatively new option—the [text continued on page 90]

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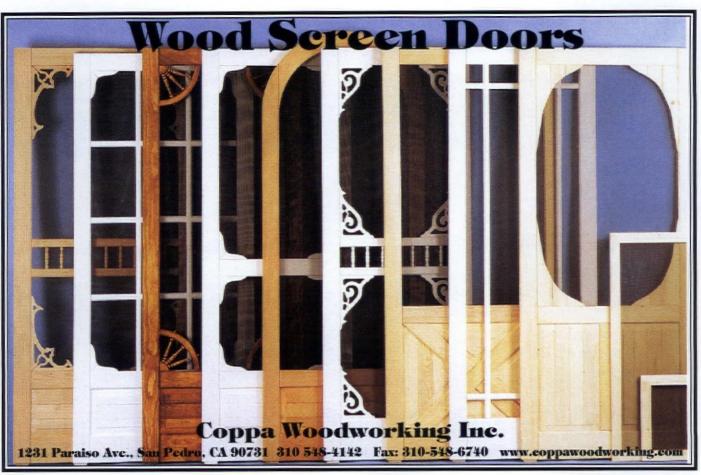
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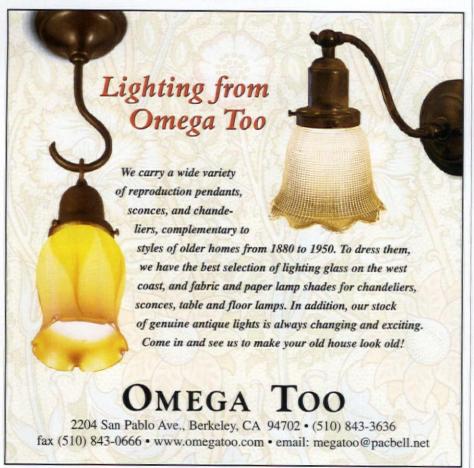
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The finest antique floors of the past were the FANCY CUTS: parquets, inlays, borders, and medallions. Today's parquets and geometric inlays are precision-cut at the factory and assembled into easy-to-install squares or borders, and laser cutting makes short work of intricately detailed medallions. A medallion with a classical wave pattern border from Historic Floors of Oshkosh, for example, can be cut, assembled, and prefinished at the factory, then shipped to the site, where the whole thing can be glued down or floated in just a few minutes.

Several companies are experimenting with aging techniques for parquets. Cordts' contour parquet, for instance, has a hand-scraped surface that gives it the appearance of a worn floor in a Renaissance chateau. Simple parquet patterns made of wood veneer costs as little as \$1.50 per square foot, but expect to pay significantly more for solid-wood parquet. Prices for medallions begin at about \$250 and can go into thousands of dollars for custom-made items. Depending on width and intricacy, borders can run from a dollar or two per linear foot to \$30 or more.



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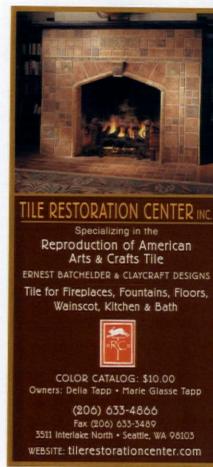
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Furnishing Forward REVIEWED BY MARY ELLEN POLSON

M ALWAYS AMAZED when I walk into a home we're about to shoot for the magazine and discover that the owners aren't hoarding two tons of junk in the basement. It doesn't happen every time, but often enough what you see is what you get: they've managed to furnish the house just right, and in a style that

is both personal and authentic.

Most of us, unfortunately, can't quite pull it off. Take a mental tour of your house or apartment. If you're like me, you'll see pieces of furniture and decorative objects you've had and loved for years. You may also spot items you've never liked. Just how long has that unfinished oak television hutch been sitting in the den? Fifteen years? Quel horror!

When it comes to furnishing a home, simply picking out items you like isn't enough. You need to think "forwardly" about the life your furnishings take on as you collect them. Will you still love the Empire daybed you bought today, 10 years from now?



ABOVE: You'll never go wrong investing in a beautifully designed side chair. TOP RIGHT: Sheila Bridges is a big proponent of comfortable beds and soothing colors. RIGHT: Blue paired with yellow suggests classical style sensibility.

That's the idea behind Furnishing Forward, a think-piece/style book written by Sheila Bridges. Bridges is a hot young Manhattan interior designer whose clients include music industry moguls, Wall Street bankers, and Bill Clinton. Her sense of personal taste is not only exquisite, it's period sympathetic. And the book is down-to-earth about the most basic issues we all face in the context of

home decoration. It's refreshing when a high-profile designer admits that she, too, once had a fear of color.

Corny as it sounds, trying to figure out your personal style (from a choice of seven) is a worthwhile exercise. Even those of us committed to a period décor might find ourselves in different categories: some in traditional, some in classic, perhaps a few in modern or eclectic. The categories, as Bridges sees them, have more to do with emotional temperament and risk thresholds than architectural leanings.

Intended for those who are just beginning to get serious about furnishing a home as an adult, Bridges nevertheless offers pithy advice that applies to just about everyone. The thread that runs through the book is simple: buy what you love, buy the best you can afford, and edit out what no longer works in your life or your house. Puts a different face on that \$30 torchiere that was irresistibly cheap, doesn't it?

Having moved three times in the past two years, I've gotten quite an education in what works and what doesn't. The pieces we love—the oak dining table we inherited from my husband's [continued on page 96]

The thread that runs through the book is simple: buy what you love, buy the best you can afford, and edit out what no longer works in your life or your house. Puts a different face on that \$30 torchiere that was irresistibly cheap, doesn't it?



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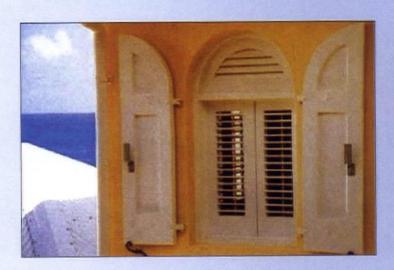


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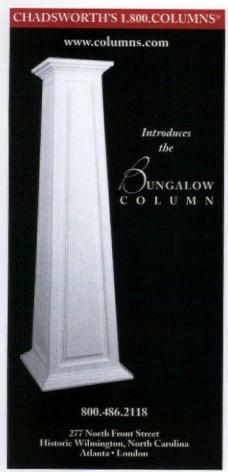


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"Don't feel compelled to make things work in your home 'if the thought that counts' happens to clash with your living-room sofa." - SHEILA BRIDGES

grandfather, our collection of Jugtown pottery-worked in every setting, even the little row house with crooked floors. Other items-notably some of my impulse Ebay purchases never found a home any place. Why are you still buying things that go in the last house? my husband asks. He has a point.

Bridges faces the twin bugaboos of budget and emotional baggage head on. Rather than spring for cheap furnishings that will wear out or get thrown out, she suggests setting aside money on a regular basis in a furnishings fund, so that when you find the perfect vintage torchiere, you'll have the cash you need to buy it. As for the black-and-gold needlepoint pillows your Aunt Ida gave you, Bridges says, "Don't feel compelled to make things work in your home 'if the

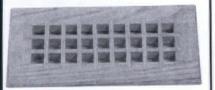
thought that counts' happens to clash with your living room sofa."

Developing a personal sense of style comes naturally to some, and less naturally to others. What helps most are the beautiful photographs of rooms designed by Bridgesmany of them taken in her New York apartment or upstate country home. When it comes down to it, though, even a gifted designer can't teach you how to find your own sense of style. For that, you'll need to take a good, hard look at yourself through the lens of your very own house.

Furnishing Forward by Sheila Bridges, Photography by Anna Williams; Bulfinch Press, 2002. Hardcover, 184 pages, \$40. Through your bookstore.



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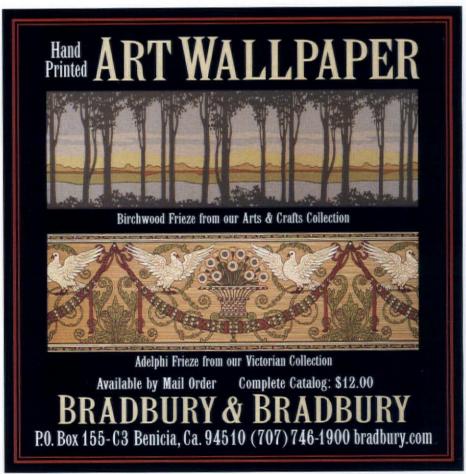
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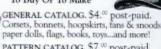
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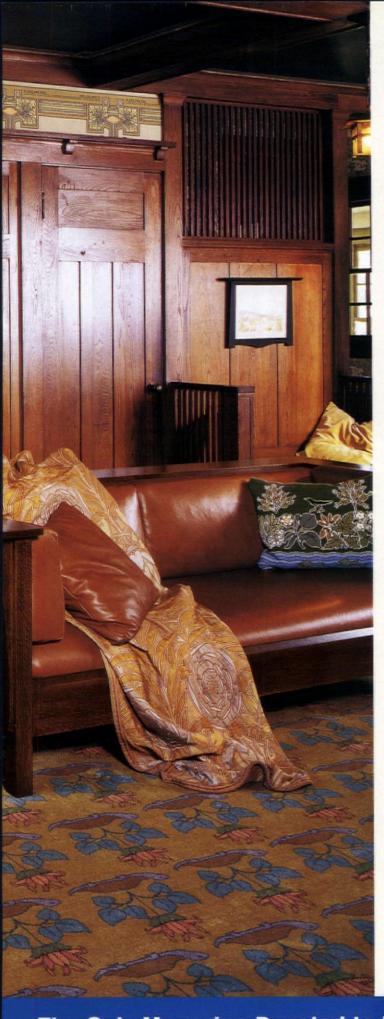
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ing stuffy about decorating history, nothing to limit you. On the contrary, it's artful, quirky, bursting with ideas I couldn't dream up on my most creative day. Armed with knowledge about the period and style of your house, you'll create a personal interior that will stand



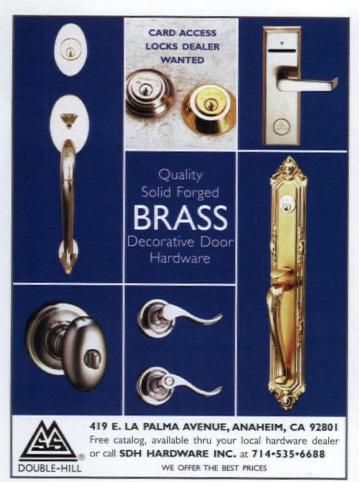
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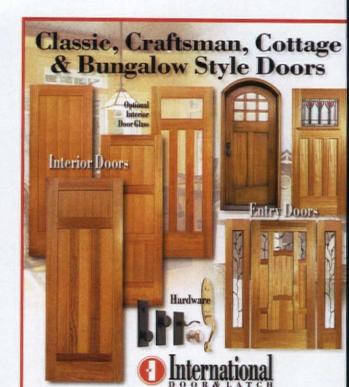




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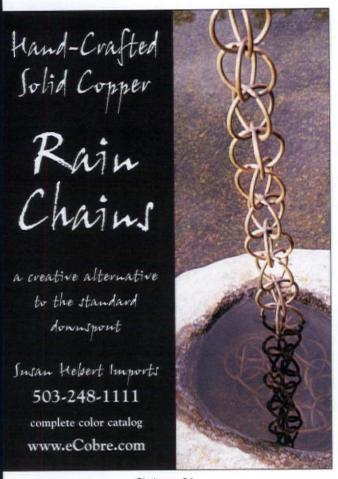


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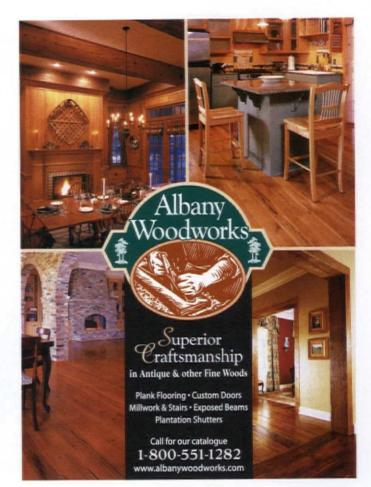
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ask the editors

Spreads for the Bed

I'd like to use bedspreads that could have been available at the time my farmhouse was built about 1850. Would a handmade quilt be appropriate?

---ANGIE DAVIS FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY

handmade quilt in one of the popular styles of the mid-19th century would certainly be appropriate in an 1850s farmhouse, as would woven coverlets or handstitched "white work." Early guilt designs include many simple yet dramatic one-patch patterns, such as tumbling blocks, pyramids, and sunbursts, as well as pieced-block quilts like the pineapple and evening star. Appliqué is apropos too: the Rose of Sharon pattern is one of the oldest. Most mid-19th-century quilts were pieced together from scraps of cotton calico and wool; more luxurious materials, like silk and velvet, usually didn't appear until crazy quilts became the rage in the late-19th century. Traditional quilt styles are offered at Judi Boisson (631-283-5466, judiboisson.com)

Woven coverlets were probably more common than quilts about 1850. Undoubtedly the most popular pattern was overshot, or homespun. Usually combining one dark color, such as navy blue or burgundy, with white or linen, overshot's floating wefts skip over sections of warp thread to give the coverlet its characteristic "fuzzy" geometric appearance. Fancier coverlets included double weaves, and jacquarded patterns such as bird and



Early 19th-century bed coverings included quilts, woven coverlets, and white work. This picture, taken at the Mark Twain house in Hannibal, Mo., shows all three.

bush, house, and eagle (all available from Family Heirloom Weavers, 717-246-2431, familyheirloomweavers.com).

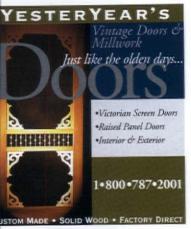
Don't overlook the option of "white work" bed coverings. Wildly popular in the first half of the 19th century, white bed coverings caught on by necessity during and after the Revolutionary War, when Britain cut off the supply of colorful chintzes and toiles to the former colonies. Commonly known as candlewicking today, early whitework counterpanes were decorated with various hand needlework techniques, from hand-knotted tuftings to exquisite embroidery and white-onwhite appliqués, as well as stuffings and cordings. The Heirloom Collection (508-429-8730) bases many of its handmade candlewick designs on early-19th-century white-work spreads.

Sealing Casements

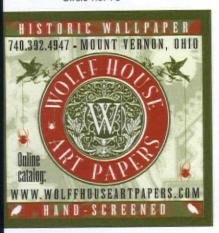
I would like to keep the original woodframe casement windows in the sunroom of our 1927 Tudor Revival, but cold air infiltration is a serious problem. We also need new hardware to open and close the sashes. Can you provide some options?

> —ALETHEA LEWIS MT. VERNON, NEW YORK

he simplest solution for the leaking frames would be to install an interior storm window. Interior storms are usually a single panel of glass or acrylic, custom-fit to the dimensions of your window frame. They're held in place by magnetic force, and they cost far less than a single storm window. One source is right in your home town: Walsh Screen and Window (914-668-7811). Other suppliers include Allied Window (800-445-5411, invisiblestorms.com) and Petit Industries (800-947-3848. petitindustries.com). A good source for hard-to-find window hardware is Blaine Window Hardware (800-678-1919, blainewindow.com).

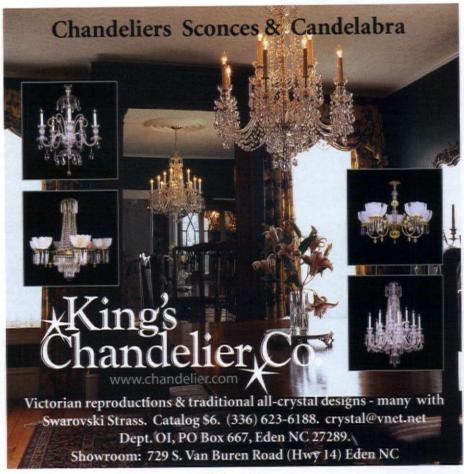


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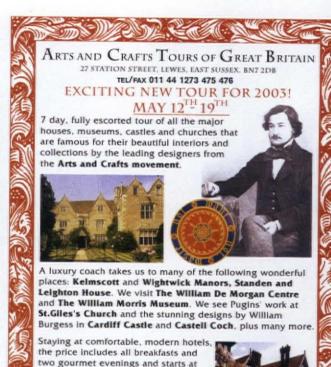
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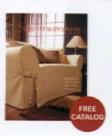
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Historic Phoenix BY DAN COOPER





CLOCKWISE: (from top left) The Orpheum Theatre's mezzanine lobby, inspired by an Italian palazzo; downtown Phoenix at sunset; the new City Hall; dancers in traditional dress twirling at Papago Park.

Por someone whose idea of history involves Puritans and powdered wigs, this sun-baked city in the desert appears—at least superficially—to be one of the least likely destinations for the historic traveler. Where are the covered bridges? Where are the Federal–era buildings, the narrow, winding streets?

The Puritans never made it out here. The Spanish beat them by nearly a century, arriving in 1540. Not to mention that Native Americans settled the area 12,000 years ago, and that their descendants consider the 300 years of European occupancy recent history. If your knowledge of American history is limited to the

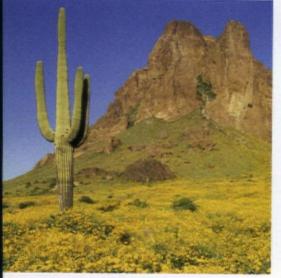
thirteen English colonies, Phoenix has a lot to teach you.

That said, this is still a city where a Victorian house is subject to the same reverence that would be given to a 17th-century structure in New England. THE ROSSON HOUSE, an impressive 1895 brick Queen Anne mansion, is a cherished landmark anchoring Heritage Square, the only remaining city block from the original Phoenix town site (602-262-5029, rossonhousemuseum.org).

Considering the tender age of most of its structures, Phoenix has a surprisingly strong preservation program and thriving historic neighborhoods. FAIRVIEW PLACE (fairviewplace.org),









CLOCKWISE: (from left)
A thick-walled Hohokam
dwelling at the Pueblo
Grand Museum. Frank
Lloyd Wright's winter
home, Taliesin West,
still functions as an
educational laboratory
for architecture students.
In a designated wilderness
area near Phoenix, a lone
Saguaro cactus stands
in a field of brittlebush.



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for example, boasts more than a dozen different early-20th-century architectural styles. On a typical street, Tudor Revival homes stand shoulder to shoulder with Southwestern Villas and Transitional Ranches. Other historic neighborhoods dating to the 1920s and '30s include ENCANTO-PALMCROFT, a 222-acre oasis with its own lagoon, boathouse, and nature trail.

For an architecture buff, though, the most important site in the Phoenix area may well be Frank Lloyd Wright's TALIESIN WEST in nearby Scottsdale. Wright bought land here in 1937, and over the next two decades designed and operated a winter retreat where his pupils could learn their craft. Taliesin West still functions as an educational laboratory for architecture students, but parts of the house and grounds are open for tours (480–860–2700, franklloydwright.org). Many of the house's furnishings were also designed by Wright, including

some of the furniture and lighting.

If that's not enough Wright for you, check into the ARIZONA BILTMORE, designed by Albert Chase McArthur, a Wright protégé who consulted with the Great One on its construction (see "Stay Here," left). Fabricated of Biltmore Block—precast concrete blocks whose geometric patterns were inspired by palm trees—the resort also maintains eight swimming pools, a spa, and, of course, golf aplenty.

Phoenix also offers such treasures as the **ORPHEUM THEATRE**, a 1927 Spanish Baroque Revival theater that was recently treated to a \$14 million restoration (602–534–5600). Another public building of note is the **ARIZONA STATE CAPITOL MUSEUM**. This classically inspired, copper-domed structure built in 1899 housed the territorial government before Arizona was granted statehood. The interior, which features the House and Senate [continued on page 108]

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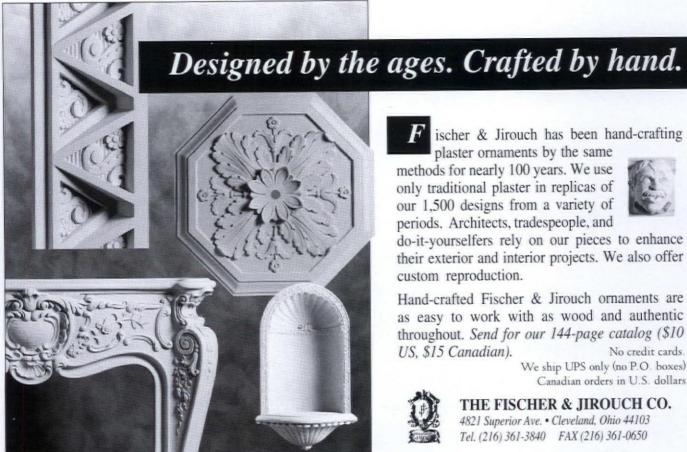
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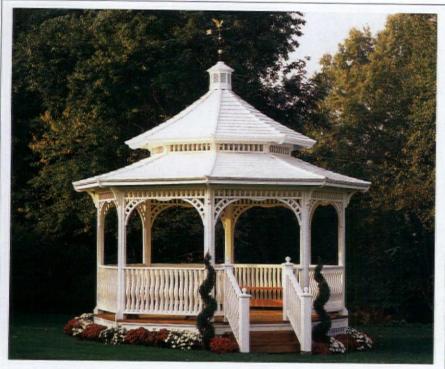
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chambers, has been restored to its 1912 appearance (602-542-4675).

And now for the really old stuff: Hohokam architecture The 102acre PUEBLO GRANDE MUSEUM AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK (602-495-0900, pueblogrande.com) allows tourists to examine an 800-year-old pueblo platform and portrays the lives of these earliest residents. Just south of Phoenix on the way to Tucson is CASA GRANDE, a four-storey structure built by the Hohokam in the mid-1300s. Constructed with layers of mud, the walls of the tower are 41/21 thick at the base. Casa Grande is believed to have been used for astronomical observation

An extraordinary collection of Southwestern Native American art representing Arizona's 21 tribes is housed at the HEARD MUSEUM (602-252-8848, heard.org). Founded in 1929 and centrally located in downtown Phoenix, the Heard is considered to be the finest private museum of its kind. Artifacts include Barry Goldwater's priceless collection of Hopi Kachinas (don't call 'em dolls).

Two hours' drive north of Phoenix is the breathtaking beauty of SEDONA, with its famed red rocks and alleged vortexes of spiritual energy. Half an hour past Sedona you'll reach FLAGSTAFF (referred to simply as 'Flag' by the locals), which offers a link to historic ROUTE 66, and a wonderful Arts and Crafts house museum, the RIORDAN MANSION (928-779-4395, pr.state.az.us/ parkhtml/riordan.html).This sprawling rustic home was built as two symmetrical wings for two lumberbaron brothers, who lived on either side with their respective families. Recently restored, the Riordan mansion retains much of its early furnishings, including some Harvey Ellis-designed Stickley pieces.

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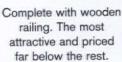
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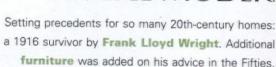
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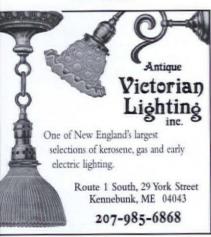
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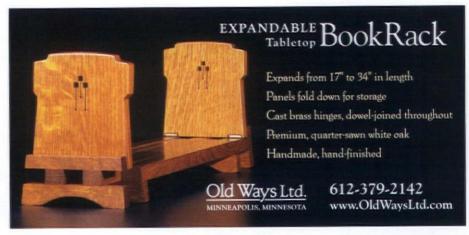
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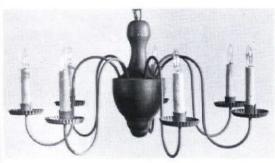
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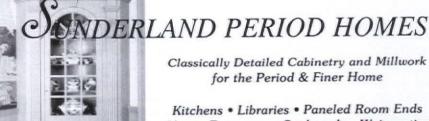
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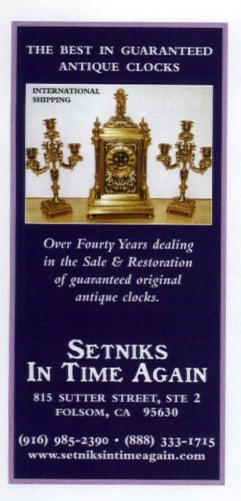
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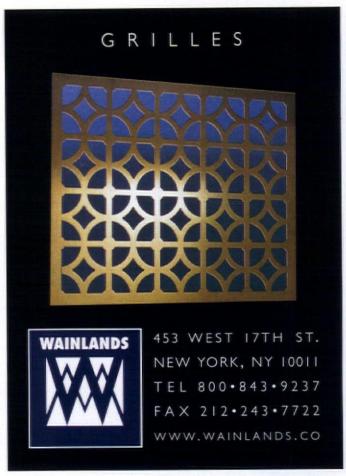
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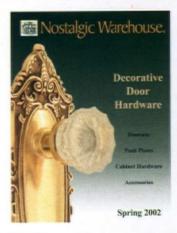
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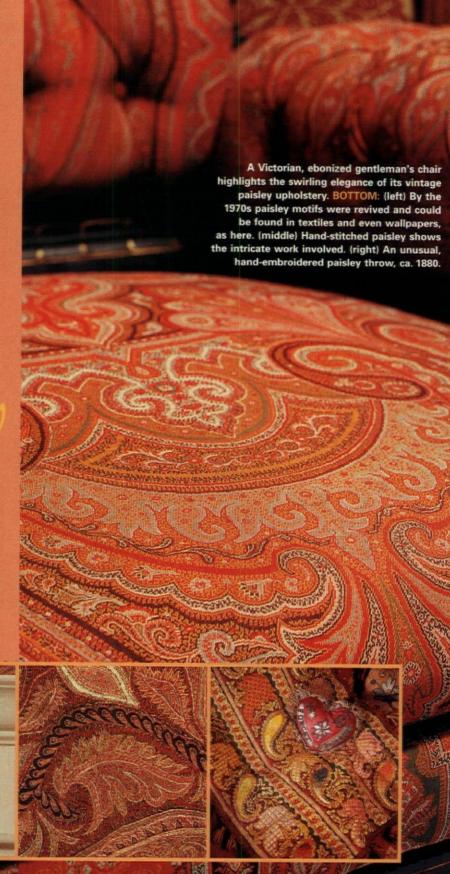
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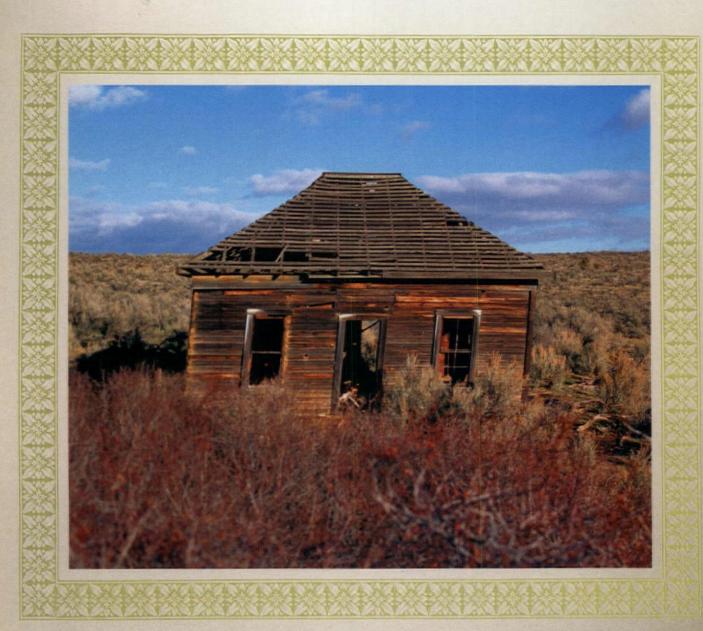
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