

# ELLE DECOR

## THE FASHION ISSUE

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# SPEAKING VOLUMES

This season's sumptuous design books, by some of today's top decorators and architects, are sure to become essential reading for any style aficionado



At the tender age of five, Miles Redd discovered a book of Cecil Beaton portraits in his Atlanta home and became smitten with the glamorous life. Now a New York-based decorator and noted bon vivant, Redd delivers his own cinematic scrapbook. **THE BIG BOOK OF CHIC** (Assouline, \$75) showcases pictures of his bold and color-saturated interiors, along with the visuals he loves, such as paintings by Sargent and Cassatt, and a photo of Peggy Guggenheim at her Venetian palazzo.

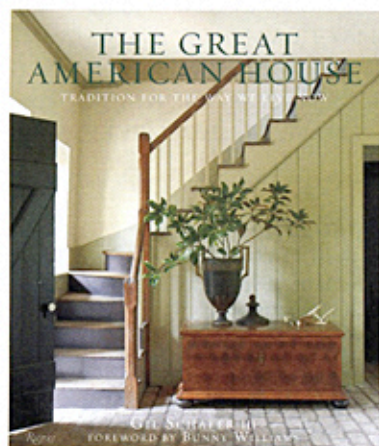
## KATHRYN M. IRELAND TIMELESS INTERIORS



For Kathryn M. Ireland, decorating is all about "the unpredictable spark with a client that inspires gorgeous work," as she writes in **TIMELESS INTERIORS** (Gibbs Smith, \$40). From a Santa Barbara horse ranch to a beach house in Normandy, France, the book's 10 featured homes share the exuberant sensibility of the Los Angeles designer, whose wit and warmth have made her a star on *Million Dollar Decorators*.



It's a rare property that deserves a book of its own. Designer Juan Montoya's rustic stone-and-wood house, located in New York's Hudson Valley, certainly does. In **LA FORMENTERA** (Monacelli Press, \$65), Eric Piasecki's meticulous photographs survey its charmingly overstuffed rooms and the surrounding 110 acres of gardens, streams, and woodlands punctuated by contemporary sculpture.



"I was...interested in making places that spoke to my own memories," says architect Gil Schafer III. **THE GREAT AMERICAN HOUSE** (Rizzoli, \$55) shows how Schafer adapts classical styles to modern-day needs. Photographs, architectural drawings, and floor plans offer an in-depth look at four projects, including his own upstate New York home and a restored Charleston, South Carolina, townhouse.



Designer Eric Cohler seamlessly mixes the traditional and the up to date; in his interiors, Old Master-style paintings meet sleek contemporary sculpture and furnishings. His first book, **COHLER ON DESIGN** (Monacelli Press, \$50), features images of the decorator's personal inspirations, from Edith Wharton's country home to Bauhaus buildings, as well as 160 photographs of his projects.



"Rooms that are too serious, or too perfect, don't encourage you to relax," writes Amanda Nisbet in **DAZZLING DESIGN** (Stewart, Tabori & Chang, \$50). The New York decorator, whose art-history background informs her polished but never predictable interiors, offers elegant solutions ("texture...is one of the subtlest and most powerful weapons in a designer's arsenal") for creating rooms that encompass a range of moods and styles, from soothing to sensational.