

DECEMBER 2008

House Beautiful

new Traditions

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OUR FAVORITE BOOKS

REVIEWS

It's raining decorating books! Ten of them this fall, from ten top interior designers. Something for everyone, and for your coffee table too...

Reviews by
THE EDITORS
OF HOUSE
BEAUTIFUL

| | STYLE IN FIVE WORDS OR LESS | BEST PIECE OF ADVICE | GOT A LITTLE CARRIED AWAY... | FAVORITE PHOTO | WHO'LL LIKE IT | WHO WON'T |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|---|--|--|--|
|  <p>PENNY DRUE BAIRD BRINGING PARIS HOME BY PENNY DRUE BAIRD</p> <p>PUBLISHED BY MONACELLI PRESS (MONACELLIPRESS.COM); \$45.</p> | Triple crème | "Avoid trendy faux finishes, which become outdated quickly. Stick with the classics...strié, simple glazed walls, and stucco will always be in good taste." | "In a library with dark wood paneling, one might opt for a rich jewel-toned mantel such as forest green or oxblood." |  | Francophiles who have a passion for dressier decorative styles: Baroque, Rococo, Régence, and Empire | Those who would rather bring home chic, contemporary Paris, or who don't have vast rooms with very high ceilings for all the chandeliers, columns, pilasters, carved mantels, and boiserie |
|  <p>JEFFREY BILHUBER DEFINING LUXURY BY JEFFREY BILHUBER</p> <p>PUBLISHED BY RIZZOLI (RIZZOLIUSA.COM); \$65.</p> | Distinctly American | "Decorating is an investment in living, not necessarily in furnishings." | "The porcelain light socket, for example, is one of the most beautiful objects ever made—a perfect design, one that requires no improvement." |  | Anyone who likes to study and fantasize about beautiful rooms with a glass of red wine in hand | Anyone looking for 1-2-3 step-by-step decorating |
|  <p>DARRYL CARTER THE NEW TRADITIONAL BY DARRYL CARTER WITH TRISH DONNELLY</p> <p>PUBLISHED BY CLARKSON POTTER (CLARKSONPOTTER.COM); \$45.</p> | Clean, calm, cerebral | "You can make the most traditional chair modern if you cover it in a neutral linen." | "An antique wool grain sack worn to softness serves as a throw." |  | Pensive people who dream about living in muted, understated rooms | Spontaneous people who like a lot of pattern and a lot of stuff |
|  <p>CLODAGH YOUR HOME, YOUR SANCTUARY BY CLODAGH WITH HEATHER RAMSDELL</p> <p>PUBLISHED BY RIZZOLI (RIZZOLIUSA.COM); \$50.</p> | Urban Zen; natural and rejuvenating | "The door should open with a smooth turn of the key. If your lock does not open easily, get it fixed right away. Cranky locks create cranky people." | "Bring generous, blanket-size towels with you for nomadic sex on your sofa." |  | Loft-living urbanites who yearn for long walks on the beach | Traditionalists, lovers of chintz, and chrome-and-glass purists who believe home should be a "machine for living" |
|  <p>BARRY DIXON BARRY DIXON INTERIORS BY BRIAN D. COLEMAN</p> <p>PUBLISHED BY GIBBS SMITH (GIBBS-SMITH.COM); \$40.</p> | Southern Renaissance | "Don't be afraid to downplay a serious antique with an amusing accent to keep it from becoming too formal and unapproachable." | "Entering the dining room is like swimming down into a Sargasso Sea." |  | Anyone who appreciates bold juxtapositions | The modernist |

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|  <p>THOM FILICIA STYLE BY THOM FILICIA</p> <p>PUBLISHED BY ATRIA (SIMONSAYS.COM); \$35.</p> | You can do it! | "Great design can be had at every price point." | More than once suggests jettisoning sofa for chaise longues |  | Your artistic sister-in-law | Minimalists and anyone afraid of color |
|  <p>CELERIE KEMBLE TO YOUR TASTE BY CELERIE KEMBLE</p> <p>PUBLISHED BY CLARKSON POTTER (CLARKSONPOTTER.COM); \$45.</p> | Decorating for Bright Young Things | "I warn people to open their mail-order catalogs knowing that in two years' time, much of what is shown will be ubiquitous." | "Bright or primary-colored rooms go a long way when housing toys, which tend to be of the same colors." |  | The young and the fashionable looking to create traditional interiors with a kick | Anyone scared of animals real or faux, or who doesn't like to read (there are lots of photos and also lots of text, though it's exceptionally practical) |
|  <p>DAVID MLINARIC MLINARIC ON DECORATING BY MIRABEL CECIL & DAVID MLINARIC</p> <p>PUBLISHED BY FRANCES LINCOLN (FRANCESLINCOLN.COM); \$65.</p> | Impeccable | Too discreet to give advice. But you might be inspired by lampshades made of local survey maps or curtains made out of the material used for nun's veils. | Some may roll their eyes at having damask specially woven to a 21-inch width for historical accuracy. But forget finding fault. Mlinaric is a master who doesn't put a dado wrong. |  | Anglophiles, Rothschilds (half their houses are here), historic-house aficionados, and those who swoon at the thought of rush matting on scrubbed wood floors | Anyone looking for "tips" or a feeling for how Mlinaric actually thinks. We hear his voice only a handful of times. The text describes the rooms in the detached dulcet tones of a museum audio-guide. |
|  <p>MICHAEL S. SMITH HOUSES BY MICHAEL S. SMITH WITH CHRISTINE PITTEL</p> <p>PUBLISHED BY RIZZOLI (RIZZOLIUSA.COM); \$50.</p> | Brideshead via Bel Air | "To get to the essence of what you really want, you have to dig through a lot of layers of what you feel is expected or prestigious or impressive. You have to work to find it." | "An amazing property, but clearly we had to rethink the house. I said, 'Let's go to the Veneto and look at houses by Palladio.'" |  | Anyone who adores antiques, English country houses, and the best of the best | Anyone who enjoys seeing a room made over for \$250 in 24 hours on HGTV |
|  <p>HOUSES IN MY HEART BY CARLETON VARNEY</p> <p>PUBLISHED BY POINTED LEAF PRESS (POINTEDLEAFPRESS.COM); \$95.</p> | Color, Color, Color, Color, Color | "Every home needs a touch of yesterday and today—and room for tomorrow, because a house is never finished." | "I do not believe there is good taste or bad taste—only taste." |  | People who can't get enough pattern and color. Decorating "voyeurs" who love the stories behind the rooms. P.S. The book design itself is dazzling. | Beige types |