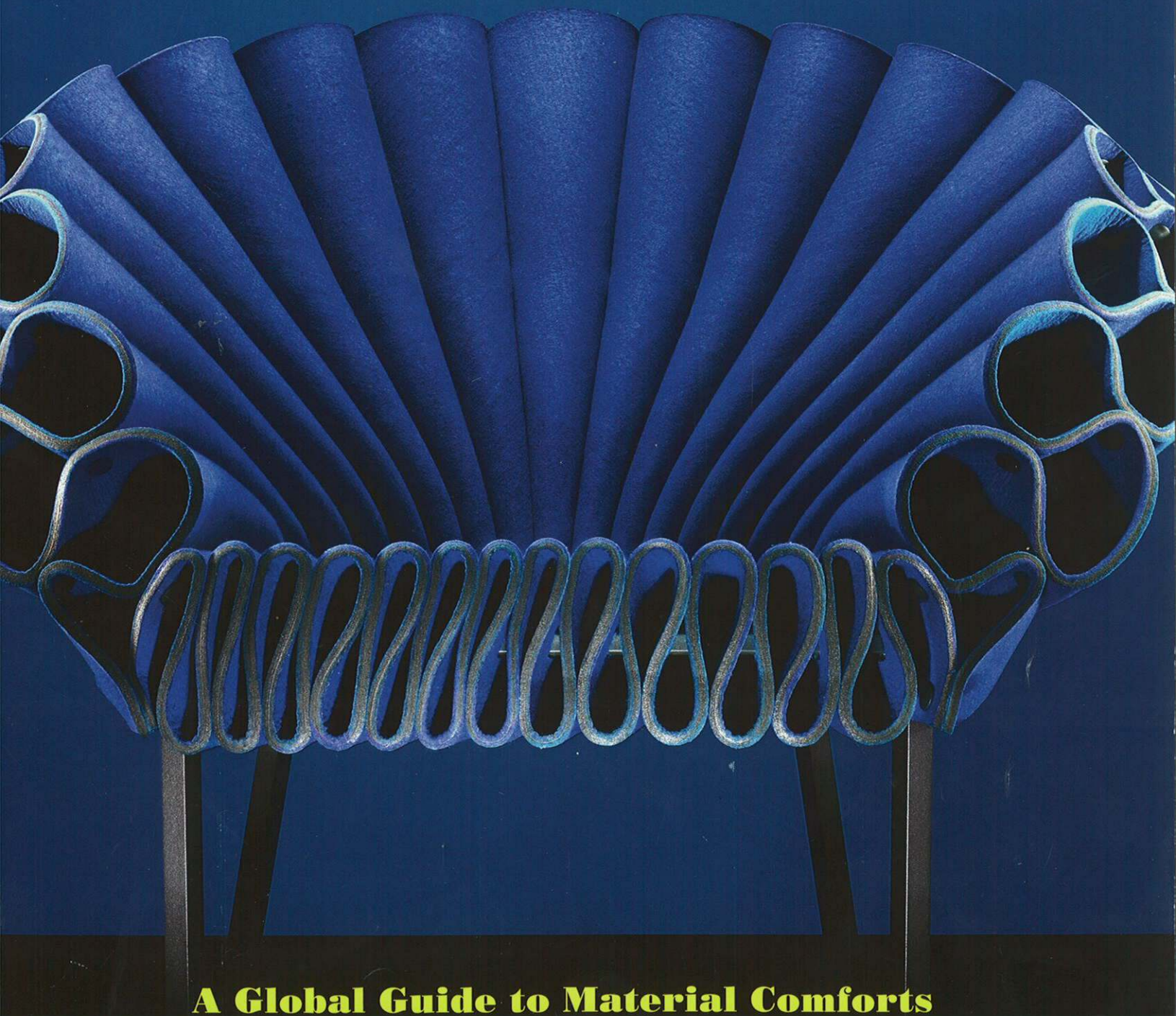


MAY 2013

# DEPARTURES

H O M E + D E S I G N



## A Global Guide to Material Comforts

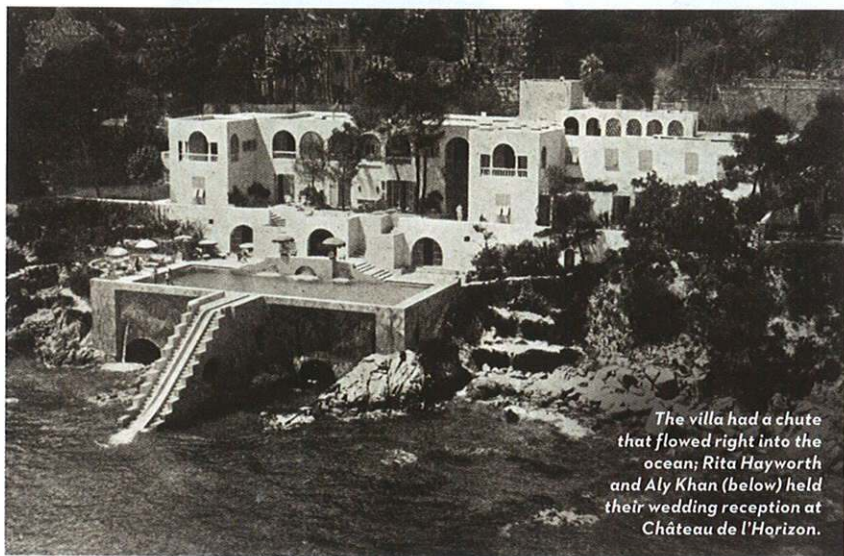
*The Perfect Apartment in Paris...Midcentury Honolulu...A Persian Garden Grows in Bel Air...Shopping Stockholm & Tokyo...Shanghai Magic...Of Wallpapers, Chairs, Rugs and a Cook's Guide to What Works...*



PAST DUE

# CHATEAU DE L'HORIZON, CANNES

Let us now praise Barry Dierks, the forgotten American architect who brought glamour (and function) to the South of France.



The villa had a chute that flowed right into the ocean; Rita Hayworth and Aly Khan (below) held their wedding reception at Château de l'Horizon.

Marilyn Monroe, Winston Churchill and Noël Coward are but a few of the storied guests who stayed at the various villas designed by Barry Dierks during the halcyon days of the French Riviera, yet few have ever heard of the Pittsburgh-born architect from the 1920s and '30s. Unlike his contemporaries Eileen Gray and Robert Mallet-Stevens, who built the famous villa at Hyères, Dierks, a graduate of the *École des Beaux-Arts* in Paris, did not adhere to the classic Bauhaus style of the time. Instead, he developed a hybrid of American practicality wedded to European romanticism.

One such masterpiece was **Château de l'Horizon**, which Dierks designed for American actress Maxine Elliott after she retired near Cannes. The grand structure was built on an impossible slip of land wedged between the railroad tracks and rocky shoreline. After two years of work, which included blasting the rocks to make a flat surface for a pool with a chute going down to the sea, the villa was completed in 1932. Elliott entertained in her new three-story home often, indulging her guests with every comfort. Aly Khan purchased the villa a few years after Elliott's death, and in 1949 he and Rita Hayworth had their wedding reception

on the grounds. The golden days of the château would soon draw to a close (the property now sits empty), but some of the white beauties designed by Dierks, like the *Villa Aujourd'hui*, once owned by film executive Jack Warner, on Cap d'Antibes, still stand gleaming in all their glory.

—WENDY GOODMAN



LESSON

#1

## ORGANIC MINIMALISM



### THE PHILOSOPHY

With roots stretching back through the 1960s California studio movement, Danish Modern, Bauhaus and Arts and Crafts, this 21st-century style asserts that natural components—fine woods, metal, leather, wool, sisal—and sleek artisan-crafted shapes create warmth in even the sparest of settings.

### THE DEAN

Australian architect Craig Bassam and creative director C. Scott Fellows partnered a decade ago to pursue their idea of Craftsman Modern: interiors and furnishings that emphasize clean silhouettes hewn from traditional materials, like the home above. The New Canaan, Connecticut-based Bassam Fellows ([bassamfellows.com](http://bassamfellows.com)) has since created furniture designs for McGuire and Herman Miller.

### THE HONOR ROLL

Clodagh (New York; [clodagh.com](http://clodagh.com)),  
Commune (L.A.; [communedesign.com](http://communedesign.com)),  
Lawson Fenning (L.A.; [lawsonfenning.com](http://lawsonfenning.com)), Terry Hunziker (Seattle; [terryhunziker.com](http://terryhunziker.com)), Christian Liaigre (Paris; [christian-liaigre.fr](http://christian-liaigre.fr)),  
Emily Summers (Dallas; [emilysummers.com](http://emilysummers.com)). —DAVID KEEPS