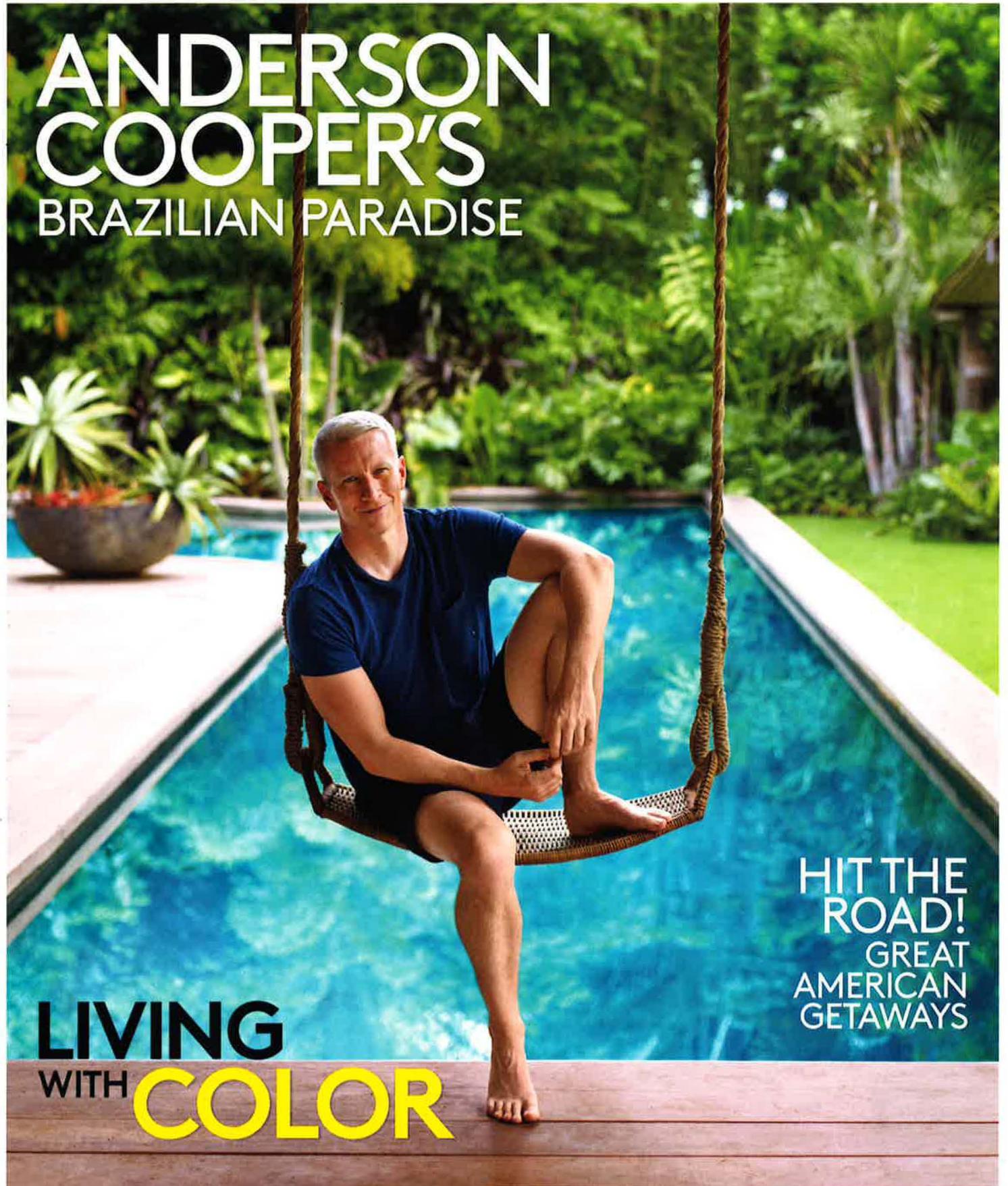


ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST

THE INTERNATIONAL DESIGN AUTHORITY

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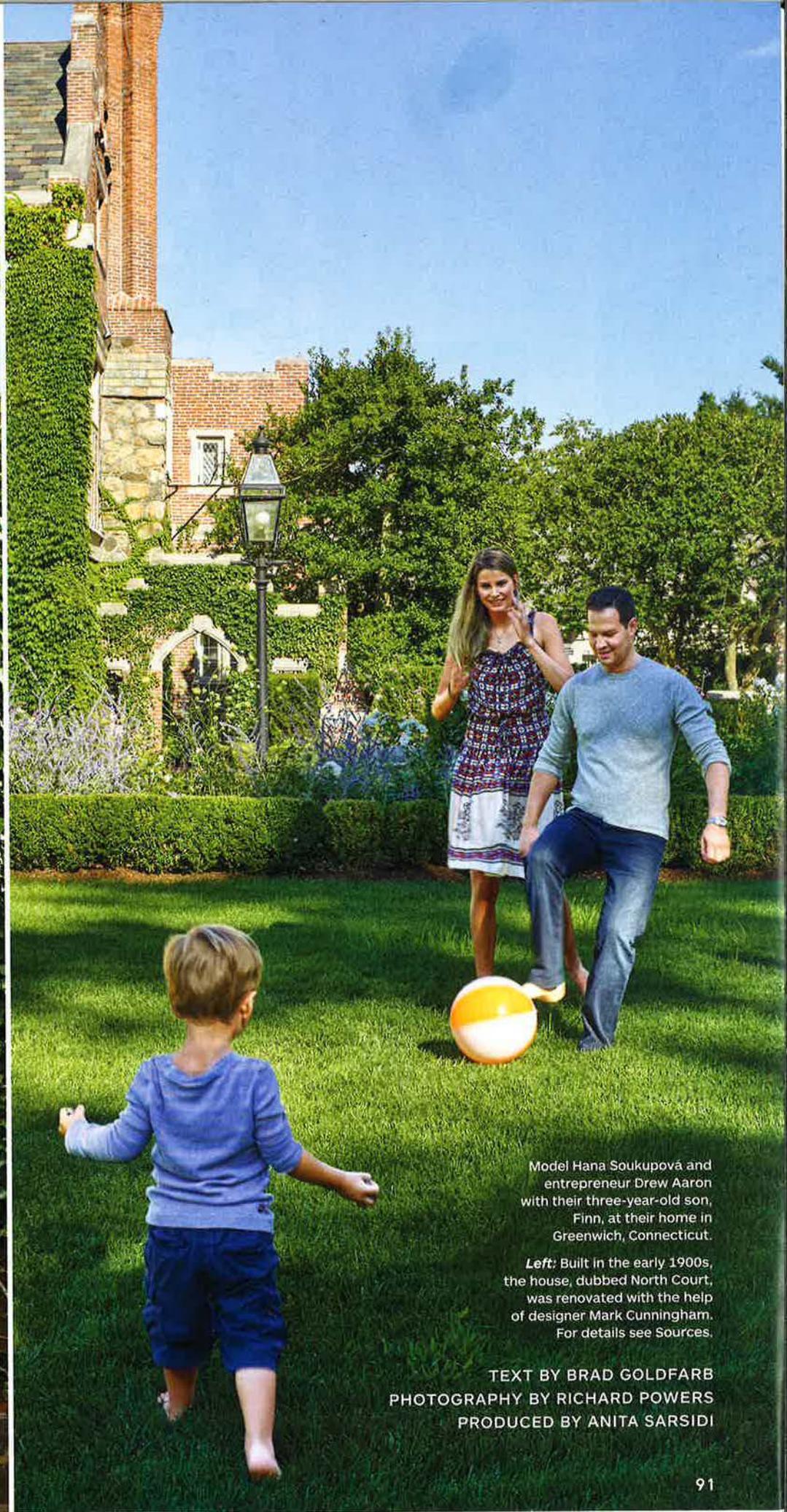
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Greenwich Time

Designer Mark Cunningham tailors an idyllic Connecticut estate for model Hana Soukupová, entrepreneur Drew Aaron, and their young family





Model Hana Soukupová and entrepreneur Drew Aaron with their three-year-old son, Finn, at their home in Greenwich, Connecticut.

Left: Built in the early 1900s, the house, dubbed North Court, was renovated with the help of designer Mark Cunningham. For details see Sources.

TEXT BY BRAD GOLDFARB
PHOTOGRAPHY BY RICHARD POWERS
PRODUCED BY ANITA SARSIDI



When it comes to crafting a home, few relationships can be more critical than the one forged between designer and client. Such was certainly the case for paper magnate Drew Aaron and his wife, model Hana Soukupová. Nearly a decade ago the two set out to find someone to help them overhaul a recently purchased apartment in one of Manhattan's shimmering glass towers. A single name rose to the top of their list: Mark Cunningham, a designer who'd honed his eye at Ralph Lauren. "Mark took us to see some homes he'd done, and they weren't just beautiful, but each was completely different from the other," Aaron recalls. Adds Soukupová, "Right away he got us—what we wanted, who we are, and how we live."

Years later, as the couple began planning a family, their needs naturally had evolved, prompting the decision to move out of the city. And knowing that Cunningham was going to be a part of the design process, "we took him to see every house we thought had potential," Aaron says. *Potential* in this case meant not just a great place for children but also a fitting showcase for the duo's extensive collection of contemporary art, which includes works by Andy Warhol, Damien Hirst, and Jean-Michel Basquiat, not to mention an array of extraordinary midcentury furnishings by such masters as Jean Royère and Charlotte Perriand.

Cunningham's opinion—as well as the homeowners', of course—ultimately led them to a 100-year-old brick-and-limestone residence in Greenwich, Connecticut, called North Court, reputed to be a replica of the north court of a grand English country home where the wife of the original owner had lived. "The exterior had to have presence for Drew, whereas the interiors had to be comfortable and intimate for Hana," Cunningham says of the house, which, while expansive, still has an inviting, human feel. The old property needed work, but, the designer notes, "it gave each of them what they were looking for." Or it would, once



a thorough renovation had been completed. “It was a diamond in the rough,” Aaron says.

To make sure the home got the attention it required, the couple entrusted Cunningham and his team with all decisions, both aesthetic and architectural (an engineer was brought on to oversee structural repairs). “It made sense, given that what we were doing was taking things back to the way they’d been originally,” Aaron says. Throughout the two-and-a-half-year process, care was taken to salvage moldings and plasterwork. And while the crew opted to occasionally alter things like the location of hallways or the size of doorframes, it was all done with an eye toward how it might have been when the house was built.

Perhaps the biggest change to the residence occurred on its lowest level, previously a warren of tiny rooms notable for their three-foot-thick brick walls and massive metal doors. “They say the house was used for something illicit during Prohibition,” explains Aaron. Today the revamped space comprises a screening room, a gym, and, fittingly, a wine cellar featuring century-old lighting from the New York City subway and limestone floor tile laid out in a spiffy herringbone pattern. “The room looks like it was

built 100 years ago,” Aaron observes. “We love hosting dinner parties there because you’re so removed from the rest of the world.”

The upper floors, meanwhile, were kept largely light and airy. “For this project I focused on making things feel more relaxed than the apartment had been,” Cunningham says. But it’s still a glamorous home. The living room, for instance, is furnished with a pair of Jacques Quinet armchairs and custom-made sofas upholstered in shades of cream and oatmeal, while the master

Above: An RH sectional sofa anchors the media room, whose walls are coated in Fine Paints of Europe’s WC-86 blue. Among the room’s red accent pieces are a 1950s Pierre Guariche armchair, a ’30s André Sornay stool, and a vintage leather floor lamp by Jacques Adnet.

Opposite: The entrance hall boasts two Andy Warhol portraits and one of the artist’s Brillo box sculptures, as well as artworks by Jean-Michel Basquiat (left) and John Baldessari. The ’50s chandelier is by Jean Royère, and the bronze apple sculpture is by Claude Lalanne. The ’70s gilded-iron sofa is cushioned in an Hermès abaca-cotton blend.





Left: A Warhol flower painting overlooks the dining room's vintage table, which is joined by wood chairs designed by Mark Cunningham. The chandelier is by Achille Salvagni, and the sconce near the fireplace is by Jean Royère. The custom-made carpet is by the Mitchell Denburg Collection.

Below: In the master bedroom, a Cunningham-designed four-poster is hung with Rogers & Goffigon sheers. Roberto Giulio Rida lamps top 1970s Karl Springer nightstands, the Lucite benches are vintage, and an Aurélien Gallet bronze side table sits next to an early-20th-century club chair by Jules Leleu. The photograph is by Elmgreen & Dragset.

bedroom is a cloudlike confection of pale fabrics punctuated by nougat-color Karl Springer nightstands. "Some of the rooms might not look kid-friendly, but we actually used fabrics designed to survive spills," Soukupová says.

Elsewhere, the decorator took a darker, more romantic tack. "It was important to us that this house feel cozy and warm," Aaron says. In the adjoining dining and media rooms, the walls are painted a satiny blue, offset, respectively, by an Achille Salvagni bronze spider chandelier and a 1950s Pierre Guariche armchair cushioned in red pony skin, while the family room has custom-made chaise longues clad in a tweedy gray alpaca-linen. "It's kind of my home office, so they made it really comfortable for me," Aaron says.

For the grounds, which have a tennis court and swimming pool, the pair turned to landscape designer Robin Kramer. Her task was to bring harmony to the existing hodgepodge and create a buffer from the street. It was a challenge she met by fashioning a series of outdoor rooms delineated by English boxwood. "The spaces are made for a great party," Soukupová notes.

Although the couple also owns a finca in Majorca, Spain, it's a testament to how they feel about their Greenwich residence that they're reluctant to leave, especially in summer. The dynamic is one they attribute to Cunningham's design approach. "When we met him, instead of telling us about all the big names he'd worked for, he asked us how we lived, what we thought about space, where we eat breakfast," Aaron remembers. "It was refreshing"—and, it turns out, the key to creating their ideal family home. □



SOURCES

Items pictured but not listed here are not sourceable. Items similar to vintage and antique pieces shown are often available from the dealers listed.

(T) means the item is available only to the trade.

PARADISE FOUND

PAGES 46-59: Architecture and interiors by Wilbert Das; *wilbertdas.com*. Select furnishings by Uxua Casa; *uxuacasa.com*. Landscape design by Wilbert Das and Juliana Favarato; *julianafavarato.com*.

WITH FLYING COLORS

PAGES 60-67: Interiors by Manfredi della Gherardesca; *mdginteriors.com*. **PAGES 60-61:** Custom-made sofa by Manfredi della Gherardesca; *mdginteriors.com*. Davos Crystal table lamp by Vaughan (T); *vaughandesigns.com*. Vintage Frits Henningsen armchairs from Rose Uniacke; *roseuniacke.com*. 1950s bookshelf/bar by Gio Ponti from Nilufar; *nilufar.com*. Spider wool-and-silk carpet by Neisha Crosland for The Rug Company; *therugcompany.com*. On walls, Punder Blue by Papers and Paints; *papersandpaints.co.uk*. **PAGE 62:** Roman shades of Orletta linen, in duck-egg chocolate and brick, by Harlequin from Style Library (T); *stylelibrary.com*. Custom-made cocktail tables and sofas by Manfredi della Gherardesca; *mdginteriors.com*. Sofas cushioned in Linara cotton-linen, in antique white, by Romo (T); *romo.com*. Mercury-glass table lamp by Paolo Moschino for Nicholas Haslam Ltd.; *nicholashaslam.com*. Hardwick bronze table lamps by Vaughan (T); *vaughandesigns.com*. On walls, 6-069 by Papers and Paints; *papersandpaints.co.uk*. **PAGE 63:** Carthage brass table lamps by Ralph Lauren Home; *ralphlaurenhome.com*. Circa-1850 Japanese lacquer table from Rose Uniacke; *roseuniacke.com*. Crillon leather chair and Pineapple Frond wallpaper by Soane Britain; *soane.co.uk*. Snake carpet and Cowhide Flower carpet by The Rug Company; *therugcompany.com*. **PAGES 64-65:** In dining room, 1950s Italian chandelier from De Parma; *deparma.com*. Oval Yacht table and Opera leather chairs, all by Soane Britain; *soane.co.uk*. Window shades of Tulipa Cole linen blend, in phlox, by Romo (T); *romo.com*. Carpet by The Rug Company; *therugcompany.com*. On walls, SC 312 by Papers and Paints; *papersandpaints.co.uk*. In wet bar, Fornasetti II Nuvolette wallpaper

by Cole & Son from Lee Jofa (T); *leejofa.com*. Stupa plaster table by Freshwest for Rose Uniacke Editions; *roseuniacke.com*. **PAGES 66-67:** Custom-made bed by Manfredi della Gherardesca; *mdginteriors.com*. On headboard, Mersham Leaf cotton-viscose, in aqua, and for Roman shades, Audley linen, in aqua, both by GP & J Baker from Lee Jofa (T); *leejofa.com*. Table lamps and Owl bronze floor lamp by Paolo Moschino for Nicholas Haslam Ltd.; *nicholashaslam.com*. White Tiger carpet by Luke Irwin; *lukeirwin.com*. On walls, HC 95 by Papers and Paints; *papersandpaints.co.uk*.

HOME AGAIN

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REBEL WITH A CAUSE

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PAGES 90-97: Architecture and interiors by Mark Cunningham Inc.; *markcunninghaminc.com*. Landscape design by Robin Kramer Garden Design; *robinkramergardendesign.com*. Hair and makeup by Rachel Wood for Artists by Timothy Priano; *abtp.com*. **PAGE 92:** On vintage Jean Royère chandelier, laminated silk shades, in oyster, by Blanche P. Field (T); *blanchefield.com*. On 1970s sofa, Hermès Terre d'Habaca-cotton, in M04, by Hermès; *hermes.com*. Epines patinated-bronze side table by Hervé Van der Straeten from Maison Gerard; *maison Gerard.com*. Silk-wool carpet by Stephen Miller Siegel for Doris Leslie Blau (T); *dorisleliesblau.com*. **PAGE 93:** On walls, WC-86 by Fine Paints of Europe; *finepaintsofeurope.com*. Custom sectional by RH; *rh.com*. On sofa, throw by Hermès; *hermes.com*. Blue geometric pillows, of Marquee cotton blend, in metropolis, by KnollTextiles (T); *knoll.com*. Pierre Guariche red pony armchair and Jacques Adnet floor lamp from Magen H Gallery; *magenxxcentury.com*. André Sornay oak stool from Bernd Goeckler Antiques; *bgoecklerantiques.com*. Custom-made Strie Loop ramie rug by Mitchell Denburg Collection (T); *mitchelldenburg.com*. **PAGES 94-95:** In dining room, Spider bronze-and-onyx chandelier by Achille Salvagni; *achillesalvagni.com*. Vintage dining table from Bernd Goeckler Antiques; *bgoecklerantiques.com*. Custom-made Cross Hatch ramie rug by Mitchell Denburg Collection (T); *mitchelldenburg.com*. In master bedroom, on bed, Phoebe sheers, in dew, by Rogers & Goffigon (T); *rogersandgoffigon.com*. Lamps by Roberto Giulio Rida from L'Art de Vivre; *1stdibs.com*. Karl Springer 1970s nightstands from Alan Moss; *1stdibs.com*. Vintage Lucite benches with zebra hide from John Salibello; *johnsalibello.com*. Rift wool carpet by Merida (T); *meridastudio.com*. Upaya hammered-bronze side table by

Aurélien Gallet from Maison Gerard; *maison Gerard.com*. **PAGES 96-97:** On banquettes, cushions of Matchstick fabric, in stone, by Link Outdoor (T); *linkoutdoor.com*; with graphic pillows of Zig Zag linen, in Venetian red on natural, by Bramalta (T); *bramalta.com*. Maya Lin Stone polyethylene low table, in khaki, from Hive; *hivemodern.com*. Vitra Cork Stool by Jasper Morrison from Design Within Reach; *dwr.com*. Panton chairs by Vitra; *vitra.com*. Troy Mist wool carpet by Merida (T); *meridastudio.com*. On walls, Lulworth Blue by Farrow & Ball; *farrow-ball.com*.

SHAKE IT UP

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FERTILE GROUND

PAGES 106-11: For information on visiting Malthouse Farm in West Sussex, England, go to *ngs.org.uk*. □

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