

AD



Photos: courtesy the publisher

## NEED TO KNOW

# 15 New Interior Design Books We Can't Wait to Dive Into This Fall

As the temperatures cool, AD PRO editors round up some of the season's most-anticipated books from beloved designers

AD PRO

SEPTEMBER 27, 2019 9:00 AM

Design books are inherently beautiful things. Visually, of course, they offer an embarrassment of riches. But at AD PRO we also look beyond those vividly illustrated pages and covers worthy of a coffee-table humblebrag. And it's these 15 books' ability to shed light on a designer's inner monologue—their obsessions, their processes, and their challenges—that makes them standouts. We learn about [Ashley Hicks's](#) affinity for DIY (which would have his late father turning in his grave, he notes), Kathy Kincaid's secret sauce for mixing periods and patterns, [Axel Vervoordt's](#) enduring exploration of Japanese aesthetics, and much more. If there is something to be learned this fall, it's that when it comes to interiors, there are so many right ways to do things.



Photo: courtesy the publisher

### *Lisa Fine, Near & Far: Interiors I Love*

By Lisa Fine with photography by Miguel Flores-Vianna

*Vendome*, \$60

Floral block prints, blue delftware, crystal chandeliers—these are all design elements that endure, and for very good reason. But when seen through the astute eye of Lisa Fine, they lose any potentially staid connotations. In her new book *Near & Far: Interiors I Love*, the Mississippi-born textile designer leads readers through both her own far-flung homes and ones in which she has found inspiration around the globe. Insightful as her own rooms may be, it's the residences of Carl Linnaeus, Lee Radziwill, and others that may have readers crying “Encore!” —Madeleine Luckel



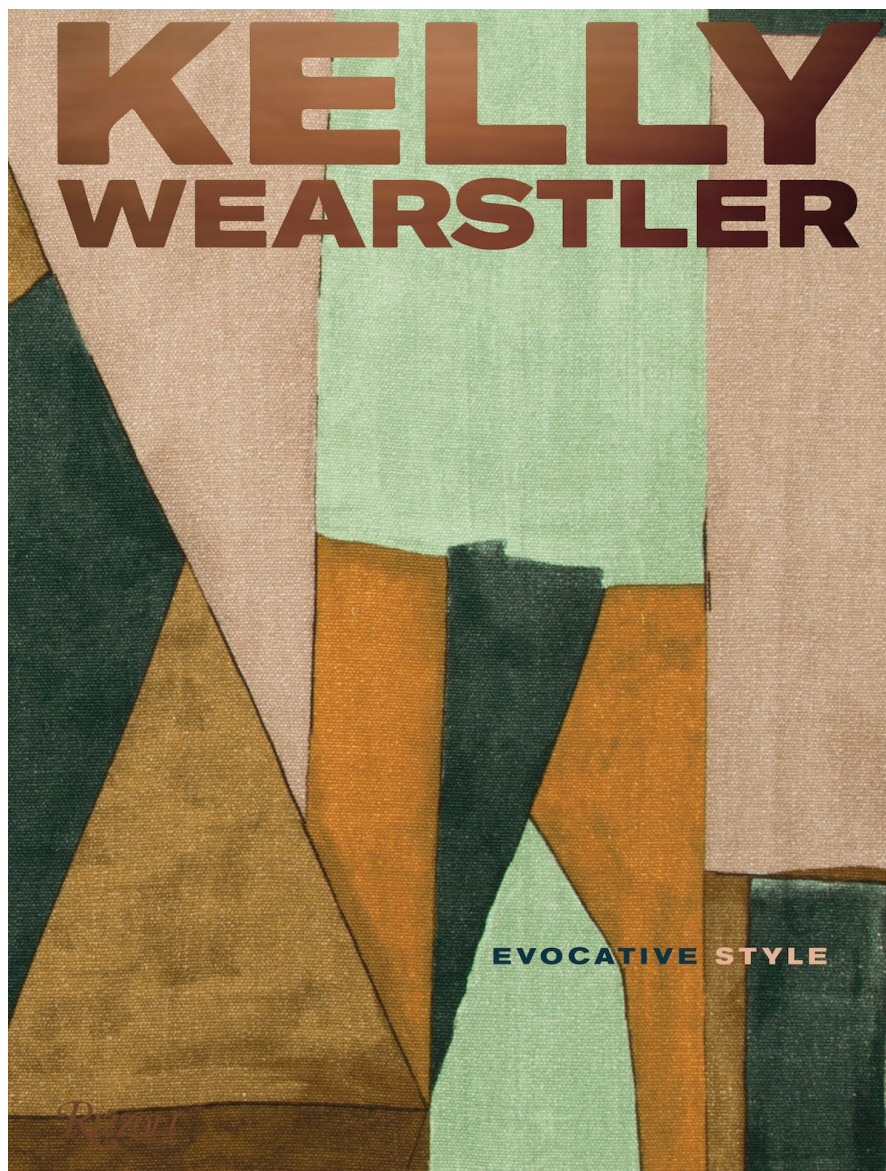


Photo: courtesy the publisher

---

### ***Kelly Wearstler: Evocative Style***

By Kelly Wearstler

*Rizzoli*, \$55

If there's one thing Kelly Wearstler has proven expertise in, it's her ability to knock down any design conventions to mix and match whatever she pleases. Across the pages of this book, the AD100 designer presents a case study in collaged design, where seafoam green chandeliers and upholstered dining chairs live in perfect harmony, and paint-splattered walls and ornate antique chests couple happily together. Pulling the traditional, modern, colorful, and stark all into the same room seemingly gives each piece a new life and identity through Wearstler's careful consideration. If there's a lesson to be learned from the interiors presented here, it's to always see the forest *and* the trees. —Tim Latterner

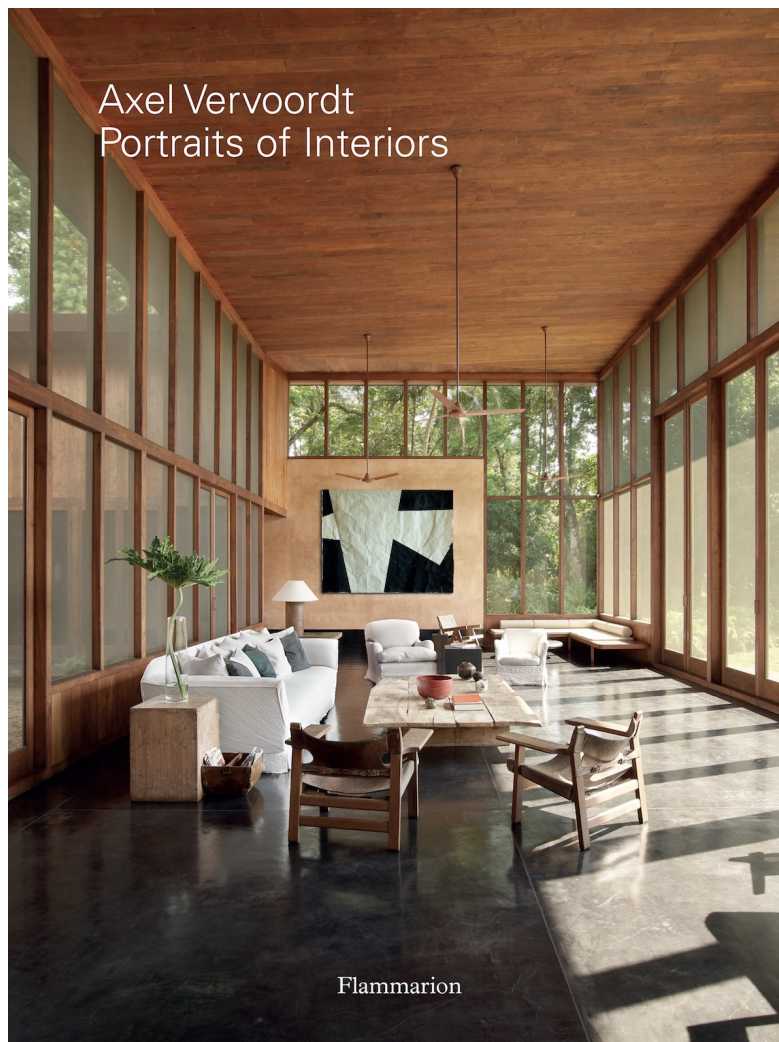


Photo: courtesy the publisher

## ***Axel Vervoordt: Portraits of Interiors***

By Michael Gardner with photography by Laziz Hamani

*Rizzoli*, \$75

Axel Vervoordt's latest monograph, *Portraits of Interiors*, lovingly paints precisely that: intimate views into some of the Belgian designer's most masterful projects. The book, released in time for the 50th anniversary of his company, pulls back the curtain on Vervoordt's design process—steeped heavily in the Japanese concept of wabi-sabi—and offers candid reflections from each project's clients. From a minimalist townhouse in Tokyo to the Vervoordt family's private home, the 's-Gravenwezel castle, the AD100 Hall of Fame and his collaborators demonstrate an adroit handling of context, infusing each project with a sense of stillness and balance. "There are no mistakes in nature. You can't impose your will. You have to accept things as they are," Vervoordt notes. Indeed, through text by Michael James Gardner and rich photographs by Laziz Hamani, *Portraits of Interiors* demonstrates that in Vervoordt's universe everything is in precisely the right place. —Anna Fixsen





Photo: courtesy the publisher

### ***Robert Stilin: Interiors***

By Robert Stilin; edited by Mayer Rus

*Vendome Press*, \$60

In Robert Stilin's new book, his portfolio presents like a list of common designer dilemmas. In one project, he helps a couple merge their distinct tastes into a cohesive abode. In another, the AD100 designer figures out how to edit and reinterpret a young client's abundance of ideas—"a Pinterest board of dizzying scale and variety," as he calls it—into his own vision. In a third, he manages to put together an enviable mix of highbrow furnishings within a tight two-month timeline. Given the elegant results that fill the volume, it's clear that no matter the curveball, Stilin remains "calm, cool, collected"—which happens to be the name of the first chapter. —Allie Weiss



Hicks rehabbed his father's apartment at Albany with DIY flair, like the golden table in the background.

Photo: courtesy Ashley Hicks

## *Rooms With a History: Interiors and Their Inspirations*

By Ashley Hicks

*Rizzoli*, \$60

British designer Ashley Hicks has put together a lively compilation of interiors united under the theme of history. The selection—from William Burges’s 19th-century renovation of Cardiff Castle in Wales to Hicks’s own remodel of his parents’ former apartment in London—is a colorful representation of his work and the projects that have influenced him. Readers may particularly enjoy revelations about Hicks’s relationship with his late father, the esteemed decorator David Hicks. In one chapter, the younger Hicks speaks to his embrace of handicraft and DIY—a development that his father would surely *not* endorse. “The idea that his son has painted his own walls and carved his own furniture must have him turning in his grave,” he writes. —A.W.

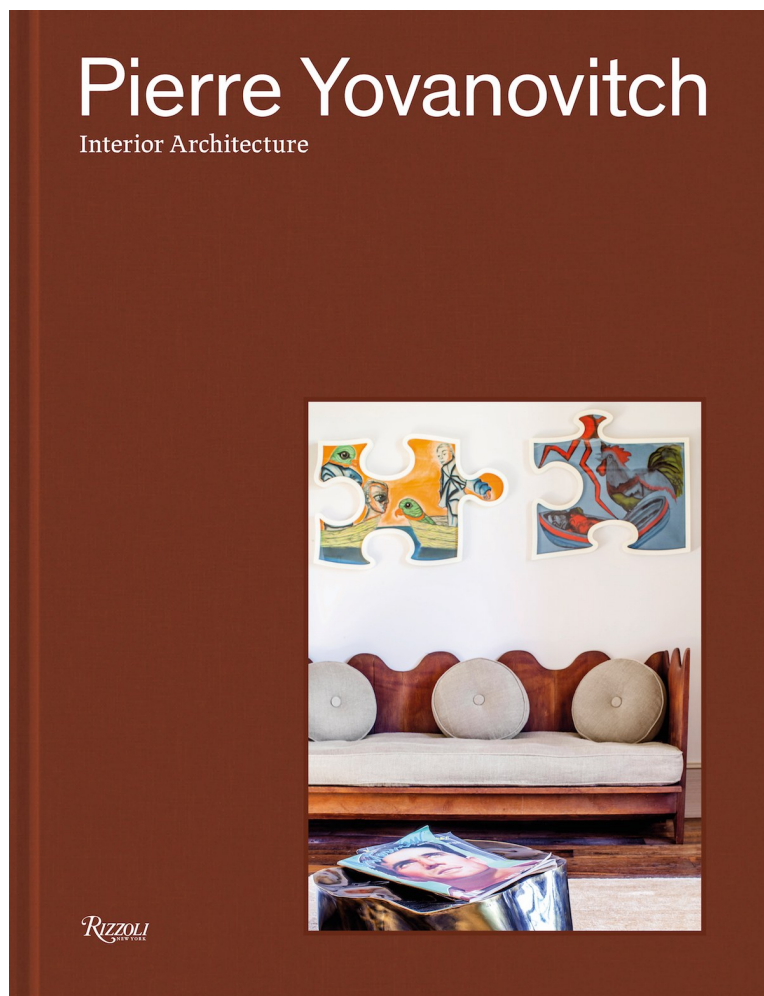


Photo: courtesy the publisher

## ***Pierre Yovanovitch: Interior Architecture***

By Pierre Yovanovitch

*Rizzoli*, \$65

It's fitting that Pierre Yovanovitch's debut monograph opens with a quote from Agnès Martin: "Beauty is the mystery of life." Like the artist's signature minimalist grids—at once straitlaced and exuberant—Yovanovitch delights in toying with perception and the spatial possibilities such experimentation affords. In fact, describing a house he designed in Brussels, the AD100 designer notes, "Oxymorons are a figure of speech that I appreciate." *Pierre Yovanovitch: Interior Architecture* showcases 14 of Yovanovitch's projects and provides a rich survey of his work to date, spanning typologies and locations. True to form, each project revels in juxtapositions—take the renovation of an art-filled Parisian hôtel particulier, whose grand interiors contain both pensive inner sanctums and jubilant communal spaces, or a country house in Portugal that incorporates traditional motifs with exuberant modernist forms. Whether you're a longtime Yovanovitch fan or just getting acquainted with his work, this book is chock-full of inspiration. —A.F.



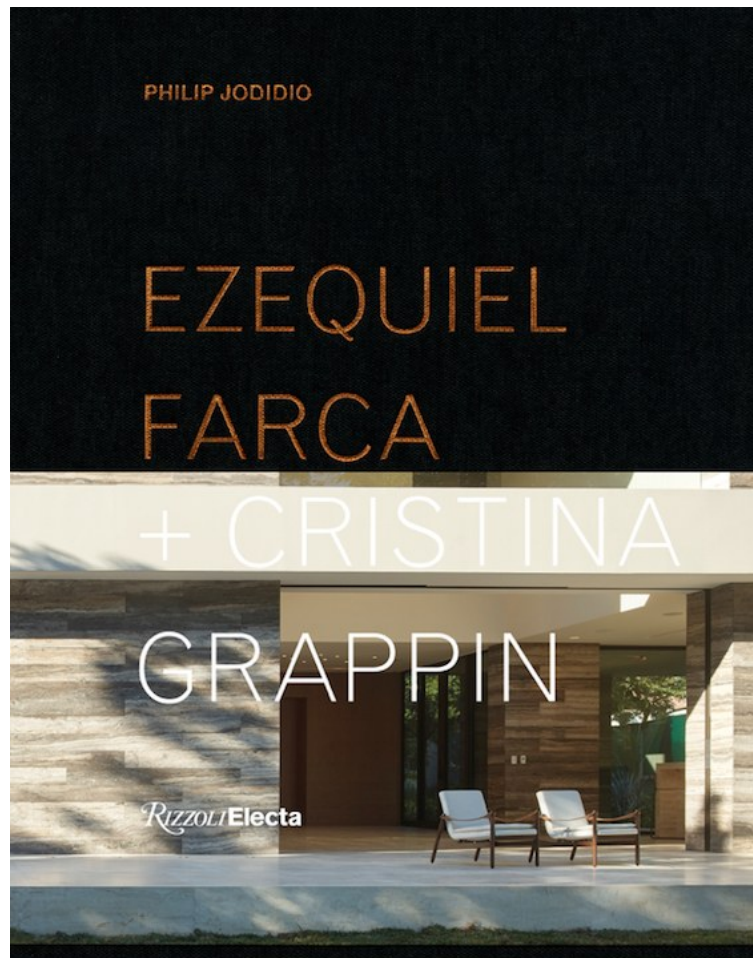


Photo: courtesy the publisher

## *Ezequiel Farca + Cristina Grappin*

By Philip Jodidio

*Rizzoli*, \$85

The work of Mexican architects Ezequiel Farca and Cristina Grappin may be luxurious, but it is firmly rooted in their home country's craft tradition and materials. It's no surprise, then, that Farca, who founded the office in 1995, started out as a product designer before branching out into architecture. Today the firm is one of the foremost residential design practices in Mexico—one that has grown over the years to encompass offices in Los Angeles and Milan. To mark these milestones, the pair has released a new book chronicling their most recent work—encompassing homes, yachts, restaurants, and even a mezcalería—to date. Like their modernist forebears (namely, Luis Barragán and Ricardo Legorreta), Farca and Grappin's architecture makes use of generous rectilinear volumes and the interplay of light and shadow. The architects take pride in engaging with local artisans to push traditional materials into new applications, ranging from intricate screens made from coumarou, a local wood, to lava stone stools. —A.F.



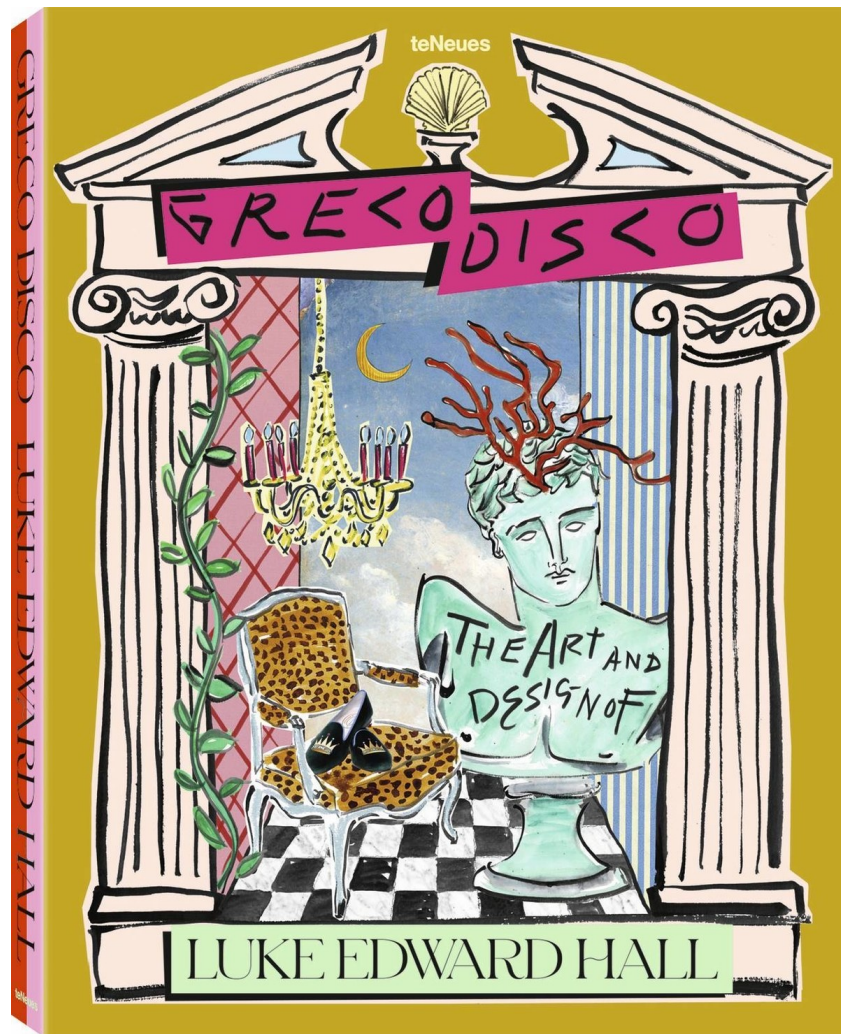


Photo: courtesy the publisher

## ***Greco Disco: The Art and Design of Luke Edward Hall***

by Luke Edward Hall

*teNeues*, \$65

Whether you know him for his product launches, can't-miss Instagram, or uniquely hilarious design advice column in the *Financial Times* (seriously, who knew designers were so funny?), Luke Edward Hall is one of the brightest stars of the design scene today. His first book isn't just another slough of pictures of interiors. (Not that the books featured above and below this are!) It reads more like a look into the designer's own diary through a compendium of his drawings, collages, old photographs, and more. While the book does catalogue his previous collaborations and products with everyone from Liberty London to Svenskt Tenn in Stockholm, it isn't really an archive of finished projects so much as hundreds of sparks that will light the designer's fires for future ones. —T.L.



Photo: cour

## ***Achille Salvagni***

By Pilar Viladas

*Rizzoli*, \$65

Many a professional designer's favorite designer, Rome-based architect Achille Salvagni debuts his first monograph, an eponymous coffee-table tome that chronicles 17 years of work across themed chapters—color, craftsmanship, and more—with lush apartment and residential projects from Paris to Palm Beach to Mumbai accompanying each. Written by Pilar Viladas, former design editor of *The New York Times Style Magazine*, with a foreword by dealer-collector Benoist Drut of Maison Gerard that spotlights Salvagni's limited-edition furniture, lighting, and object designs, this book delivers style and substance in equal parts.

—Katy Olson





A spread from Cathy Kincaid's new book demonstrates her penchant for design mixology.

Photo: Durston Saylor

---

## ***The Well Adorned Home: Making Luxury Livable***

By Cathy Kincaid with Chesie Breen

*Rizzoli*, \$50

Cathy Kincaid will accept the title of a decorator, but her true forte is being a colorist. There's no question as to why after reading her new tome, *The Well Adorned Home*, in which she describes color as “the foundation of all good design.” A lesson in mixing periods, styles, and, of course, hues, the monograph chronicles decades worth of Kincaid's timeless and pattern-privy interiors. Warm and inviting, it's in a style that personifies the woman herself, as fellow designer and friend Bunny Williams alludes to in the book's foreword. — Mel Studach



Photo: courtesy the publisher

## *The New Elegance: Stylish, Comfortable Rooms for Today*

by Timothy Corrigan

*Rizzoli*, \$60

If there's one thing to be learned from Timothy Corrigan, it's how to exercise class without ever feeling staid. Corrigan is uptown, East Egg, wear-a-tie-to-work-on-Friday. With each of the rooms in his new book, though, the AD100 designer shows how to modernize the classics. For anyone looking to sharpen a contemporary edge onto a traditional-styled project, the first step should be taking a page out of Corrigan's book—literally. —T.L.





Photo: courtesy the publisher

## ***No Place Like Home: Interiors by Madeline Stuart***

*By Madeline Stuart with photography by Trevor Tondro*

*Rizzoli*, \$65

You could say that Madeline Stuart grew up immersed in two things: a California sensibility and beautiful interiors. Stuart's parents—who were a Hollywood director and a decorator—had a great deal to do with that, as is clear from the AD100 designer's debut book. Inside, eight homes perfect for warm weather climates unfurl, with just the right *mise-en-scène*. There are Spanish-style living areas in which bright white walls and open windows brighten the space, and gilded wallpapers used to just the right effect. Easy fodder for California dreaming, we would have to say. —M.L.



Photo: courtesy the publisher

## *Francis Sultana: Designs and Interiors*

By Bronwyn Cosgrave

*Vendome Press*, \$60

Though Francis Sultana is officially celebrating the 10th anniversary of his London design studio this year, the AD100 designer's interest in decorating can be traced back to his teenage days poring over shelter magazines in his native Malta. This new monograph dedicates extensive real estate to a series of personal projects that later followed: from his renovation with partner David Gill of a 15th-century palace in his home country to a labor-intensive overhaul and residence in London's historic Albany complex. The tome offers a visual survey of Sultana's meticulously-honed aesthetic, incorporating a mix of antiques, contemporary objects, and custom commissions. —A.W.





A sampling of Atwood's color play.

Photo: courtesy the publisher

---

## *Living With Color*

By Rebecca Atwood

*Clarkson Potter*, \$31

So many (too many?) design books act as just a portfolio of a designer's finished projects: collections of 20 to 30 greatest hits, meant to lure in the prospective clients who will become the next 20 to 30 greatest hits. *Atwood* takes a different, nuanced route. *Living With Color*, her sophomore title after 2016's *Living With Pattern*, doesn't focus on Atwood's completed projects so much as it does a mind at work. Paint globs, scattered swatches on desks, and ruffled sheets during a working-from-home session are heavily featured across the pages. With the book, Atwood pulls back the curtain on the profession in the best of ways, showing readers how to find beauty in the simple craftsmanship of the ordinary, and how to channel those findings into proper interiors. —T.L.



Photo: courtesy the publisher

### ***Tom Scheerer: More Decorating***

By Tom Scheerer with photography by Francesco Lagnese

Many believe an interior is meant to evolve over time. Tom Scheerer argues that interiors get better with age. Of the 16 homes featured in his latest monograph—which trails the AD100 designer's career like footprints in the sand, from a summer home in East Hampton to a rustic abode in Abaco—one has remained virtually untouched since its creation more than two decades ago. The same philosophy seemingly holds true for his books: Fans of his first monograph, *Tom Scheerer Decorates* (Vendome, 2013), which merited three reprints, can expect to find the same subtly eye-catching cane-patterned binding on this latest edition. — M.L.