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bouclé upholstered sofa, both in Alyssa's preferred palette of ivory tones, are composed in a conversation group along with hand-sculpted and hand-lacquered stools by contemporary French artist Jacques Jarrige (available from Valerie Goodman Gallery on Incollect.com). A custom contemporary patinated stainless steel coffee table adds subtle sheen to the mix. Photo by Joshua McHugh, Alyssa Kapito portrait by Sandra Semburg.

by the Book

In this issue, we offer an embarrassment of riches in the form of 4 extraordinary new books by some of the foremost talents in the design world

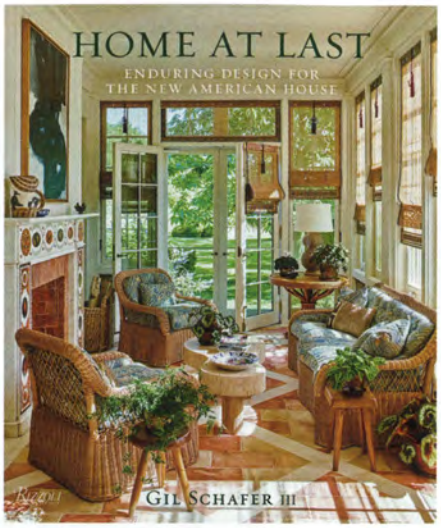
Alyssa Kapito Interiors is the first book from the New York-based designer who crafts bespoke interiors that balance richness with restraint to perfection, exuding a distinctive glowing elegance. She composes exceptionally fluid, expressive juxtapositions of vintage, antique and contemporary collectible design, drawing on her extensive studies in the field of art history.

Lucien Rees-Roberts leads the firm Rees Roberts + Partners; *Timeless Modern Interiors* features the interior design of the stylish award-winning firm. Included are several of Rees-Roberts and architect husband Steven Harris's residences: a fifteenth-century stone villa on an island off the coast of Croatia, a Palm Springs Modernist retreat, and home base — a chic salon-style Tribeca loft apartment.

Gil Schafer designs contemporary classical houses that "live modern," and in *Home at Last: Enduring Design for the New American House,* he writes about designing houses that fulfill not only the practical needs, but the dreams of his clients, and anticipating how the house will adapt to the changes brought as the "glorious mess" of family life unfolds. Eight projects are presented, classical masterworks that are splendidly functional, deeply beautiful, and simply joyful.

Lastly, we present the most ambitious book yet from the legendarily prolific interior designer, entrepreneur, philanthropist, author, and garden guru Bunny Williams. *Bunny Williams: Life In The Garden* fairly bursts with her special blend of artistry, practicality, and joie de vivre. The book chronicles the evolution of the gardens surrounding her eighteenth-century manor house in rural Connecticut, including a sunken garden, a parterre, a Greek revival pool house, and a whimsical birdhouse village. Garden plans, lists and photos of Bunny's favorite varieties, practical advice, plus the stories and images of special spaces that magically blur the lines between indoor and outdoor living, all imbued with Bunny's inimitable style and charm.

NEW YORK 2000
MONOLITH-HAGY



Home At Last: Enduring Design for the American House
by Gil Schafer III with Mark Kristal
Photography by Eric Piasecki
© Rizzoli New York, 2024
rizzoliusa.com and Amazon

Gil Schafer is renowned as one of the foremost residential architects of today, designing houses of classical elegance that "live modern." In this, his third book, he shares the stories of eight remarkable residences and how they evolved. From initial design briefs to historical sources of inspiration, the thought processes, practical considerations, and site conditions that shaped the final outcomes are described in detail. Illustrated with lush photography of the exteriors, interiors, and surrounding landscapes, along with site plans illustrating how everything flows together. Included are insightful anecdotes about his clients and how their histories, lifestyles, dreams, and evolving lives drive design considerations.

In the introduction to this new book, Gil poses the question, "What is different about this book?" He answers that with a story about a change in his own life — his later-in-life first-time role as husband and stepdad, and how that "glorious mess" that is family life has deepened his understanding of how people live, how they use their homes, which in turn has made him a better architect.

As grand as these houses are, they all share a sense of comfort, charm, and welcoming warmth that is the hallmark of a truly great home. For Gil Schafer and family, his fortunate clients, and as we can experience in these pages, this is "Home At Last."

HOME AT LAST

Gil's former bachelor apartment in New York City's Greenwich Village on the parlor floor of an 18th-century townhouse with thirteen-foot-high ceilings. Over 20 years ago when Gil first purchased the renovated apartment, he restored it to classical 1840s vernacular, with Ionic columns, 3-panel, faux-grained mahogany doors, and recessed crown moldings. A refreshed design scheme with subtle updates gave the room a lighter, more contemporary feeling while keeping most of the original much-loved furnishings and the traditional envelope intact. A massive neoclassical mahogany bookcase was designed by Gil for the space and next to it, appropriately, is an antique leather library chair. The English Regency breakfast table is home to a large fig tree, which enjoys abundant natural light from the pair of French doors nearby; the table is paired with a 19th-century leather-seated wooden chair. A large-scale antique lantern underscores the vertical aspect of the room while adding reflectivity. The dramatic mantel with a bold carved Greek key frieze was designed by Gil and custom-fabricated in the ancient scagliola plaster technique to mimic marble. Hanging above, a circa 1960s work on paper by Jack Sonenberg. The diamond-patterned sisal rug is layered with an Iranian flatweave carpet sporting boldly graphic stripes; similar motifs in the pillow, ceramics, and artwork gently nudge the room into a more nuanced aesthetic. Gil, his interior designer wife, and their two children now live in a new apartment in New York City. Photo by Eric Piasecki

ENGLISH SPEAKING

A 2022 Institute of Classical Architecture & Art, McKim, Mead & White Award winner, this new stone house was inspired by 18th and 19th-century classical houses of the English countryside. Local fieldstone ties the house to its rural Hudson Valley, New York location. Photo by Eric Piasecki

DOUBLING DOWN (EAST)

A very cozy and personal one-bedroom house for two, situated on waterfront property with spectacular views of the Maine coast. Gil received this unusual request from his Boston-based clients, collectors of European antiques acquired from a time living in France, which they wanted to use in this new house. The scale and visual weight of their collection called for a larger room; stylistically, the French, Spanish, and Flemish pieces opened the door to an intriguing mix of architectural elements that ties everything together with a distinctive sense of place and personal history. The one-and-a-half-story living room has an oak-trestle ceiling and gable windows, creating expansive, light-filled volume and a French chateau aesthetic, enhanced by walls finished in hand-applied, lightly-textured Belgian plaster. A wrought iron and painted wood chandelier is in the rustic Italian country style. Positioned on a round burlwood center table with inlay details, an exuberantly overscaled tall-necked vase performs the role of sculpture, and being directly in line with the foyer, hints at the drama of the lofty ceiling height to come. The mantel, one of a pair at opposite ends of the room, is made of Derbyshire fossil stone in a soft gray tone that, as the name implies, is studded with fascinating fossils. 19th-century ebonized Dutch mirrors hang above both mantels. Other furnishings include a 17th-century high-backed needlepoint French settee with a bright blue linen slipcover, a pair of Louis XIII period armchairs and a Louis XIII carved walnut table, and a pair of neoclassical bronze column table lamps. Photo by Eric Piasecki

LIFE ON THE LOGGIA

An intergenerational compound on the Florida coast, with indoor/outdoor living spaces that are more outdoor than indoor, relaxed, comfortable, and low-key. An Arkansas couple who lost their family gathering spot in the Mississippi Delta to Hurricane Katrina looked not to recreate the past, but to create something new and different, with a look to the future. Gil and his team conceived of a house based on Jamaican cottage architecture, appearing as a series of elegant cottages, beginning with a breezeway-like entrance framing views to the garden and water beyond. Here, a view of one end of the living room, with its lofty arched ceiling supported by cypress trusses, and walls of mixed pecky and plain cypress. Portals leading to the kitchen, butler's pantry, and bar are topped with transoms to let in more light. A wall of French doors to the adjoining 16-foot-long loggia can be fully opened to create a super-sized indoor/outdoor area. The color palette is soft and light, with greens, sandy tones, and blues drawn from the outdoors: the gardens, the beach, and the Intercoastal Waterway only a stroll away. The travertine top of a wrought iron coffee table mirrors the color and texture of beach sand, as well as the pecky cypress boards lining the walls. In a seating group next to the fireplace, a pair of Billy Baldwin-style slipper chairs in pale lime upholstery face across a honed white marble and wrought iron cocktail table, to a neutral-toned skirted sofa trimmed in the same hue. A pair of wrought iron floor lamps are positioned on either side of the fireplace, subdued in color but rich in material palette, with prominently grained bleached wood and beige marble filled with lively movement. Above the fireplace, a sensational work on paper depicting extreme close-ups of flowers and insects is by UK-based artist Sarah Graham. Photo by Eric Piasecki