

Western Interiors

AND DESIGN

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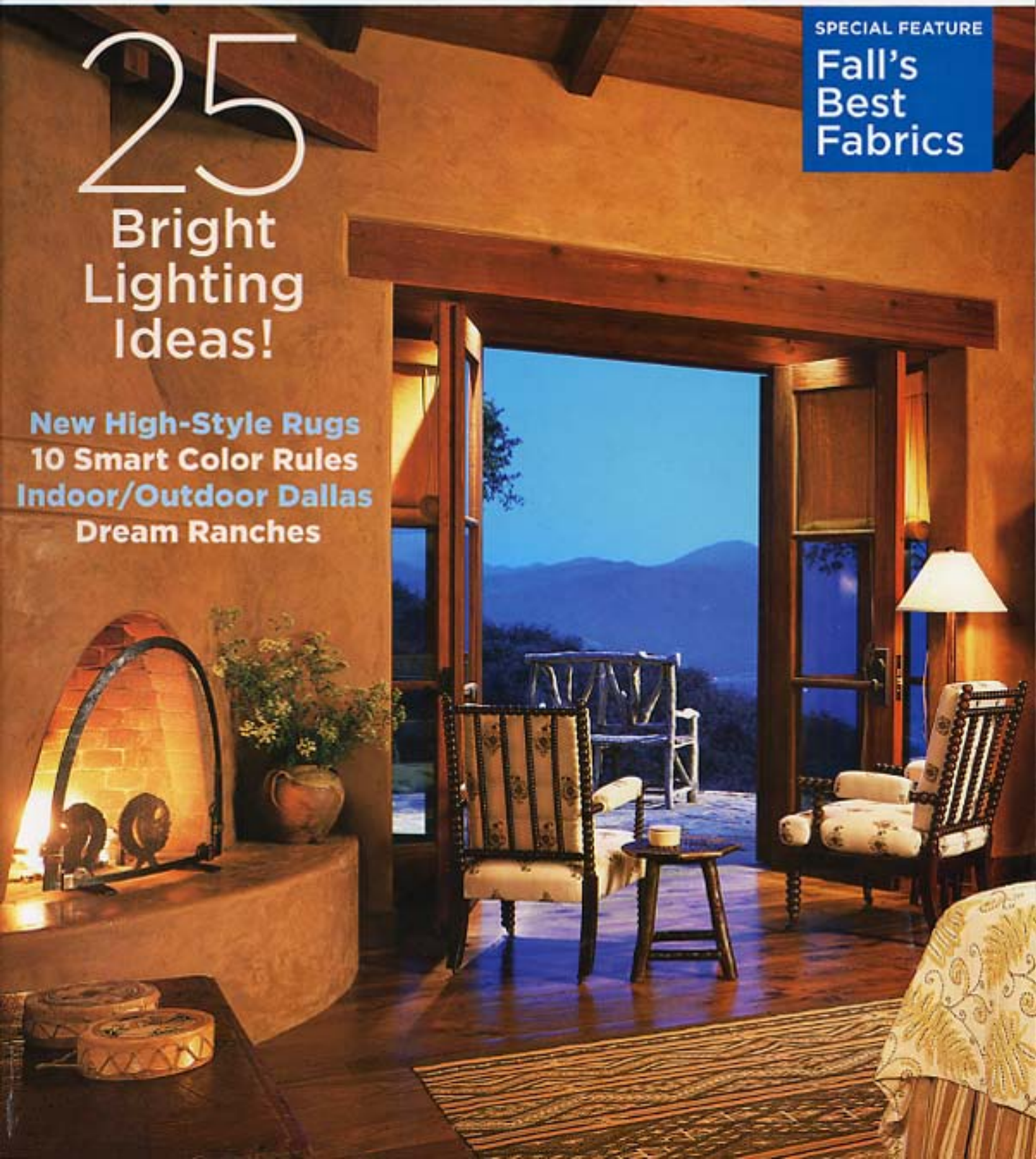
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Carmel Valley Colors

Barbara Scavullo brings warmth and whimsy
to a Northern California retreat



previous pages: For a family's residence near Carmel, California, Barbara Scavullo and her design director, Arnelle Kase, created "a comfortable but not precious great room centered around a three-sided fireplace," says Scavullo. Stickley chairs covered with a De Sousa Hughes fabric are paired with leather club chairs. The custom carpet is by Stark. **above:** Architects Hart Howerton connected the house's various living spaces with terraces and walkways. **opposite:** British dining chairs are set around an antique Guatemalan table in the dining room. Screen doors open onto a terrace.

"The clients knew exactly what the house should feel like," says Barbara Scavullo. "They just had no idea what it should look like." For Scavullo's clients, a New York couple with young children, buying vacation property out West was the perfect antidote to a busy Park Avenue existence. The husband, who spent time in California when he was young, fell in love with a remote plot of land in Carmel Valley and set out to capture the barefoot freedom of childhood summers.

Scavullo, whose San Francisco firm is known for its vibrant interpretations of European styles, met her clients through the project's architects. Hart Howerton, which has offices in both San Francisco and New York, conceived an 8,000-square-foot house perched on a knoll surrounded by California oaks. The property is part of the Santa Lucia Preserve—a twenty-thousand-acre area with three hundred homesites and permanent wilderness—in the coastal foothills of the Santa Lucia Mountains.

"The husband and wife wanted the house to celebrate the West," says Arnelle Kase, Scavullo's design director. "They weren't looking for formal interiors but for something that made reference to the past and would be fun for their kids. For us that meant sourcing unusual pieces that weren't too fragile and had a sense of humor."

To begin, Scavullo and Kase took their cues from the house's footprint. The architects devised a plan that relies on external circulation to connect the spaces. A large flagstone terrace with Adirondack-style chairs and a French *luxe bois* garden set is a focal point of the house. From there guests can easily access the entrance courtyard, the main house and the bedrooms.

Redwood doors lead into the main house's great room—a warm, colorful space with lofty volumes and a floating three-sided fireplace. A dynamic custom flat-weave rug from Stark was selected first so that the designers could work "from the bottom up," notes Kase. Stickley chairs, custom ranch-style chandeliers and an Art Déco side table complete the seating arrangement. On the other side of the fireplace is the dining room, which opens onto a terrace of its own. The antique rough-hewn Guatemalan







"The setting played an enormous role when it came to organizing space in the main house," says Scavullo. "Intimate seating areas are put up against the views, while noisy communal areas are turned inward." **opposite, clockwise from top left:** Antique Mouseman leather chairs are set in the great room alcove. An antique cast stone table and faux bois chairs are positioned to catch glimmers of the Pacific Ocean. Donghia fabrics on banquettes and pillows add color to the barnlike playroom. Café chairs surround a rustic Guatemalan conacaste table on the dining terrace; **above:** "Simple, honest materials such as copper tiles, granadilla wood and soapstone were used in the kitchen," remarks Kase. Adirondack-style stools from Rituals.





opposite: "The textures of the master bath add warmth," explains Kase. Italyhome handmade cream tile complements knotty walnut paneling; farmhouse sinks from Whitehouse Collection are set in concrete slab countertops. Rawhide light fixtures and an Adirondack octagonal twig table contribute rustic notes. **above:** Redwood-framed doors open onto the fieldstone pavers of the master bedroom terrace. "The house builds on the region's architectural legacy," notes Kase. "Single-story, informal and relaxed, with broad roof overhangs and wide expanses of windows and doors for indoor-outdoor living."

conacaste table and café chairs outside make easygoing counterparts to the antique Guatemalan farm table and the circa 1880 British pitch-pine chairs inside. Adding yet another dimension are the Gothic-style sconces flanking the doors to the terrace and the vintage Kuba-cloth table runner.

The main house also contains "the barn," an enormous game room outfitted with everything from reclaimed barn-wood walls to an antler chandelier and Mouseman furniture. Banquettes double as beds when cousins are in town. "Once we had this idea of a rustic summer camp, it was easy to test things against that," says Scavullo. "Nothing could be terribly serious. Whatever the piece, it had to look like it had been around awhile, and it had to have a sense of whimsy. You're not going to get that feeling from any one category, so we got to pick from all across the spectrum."

A covered porch provides a walkway that leads from the central terrace to the children's rooms and the master suite, which are in what is affectionately called the bunkhouse. For the children's rooms, the designers worked with vintage Pendleton blankets, hickory furniture, rawhide-shaded lamps and playful accessories. For the grown-ups, Scavullo and Kase crafted a master suite that's every bit as energetic as the children's rooms. Facing a pair of redwood doors and sweeping views of the valley are antique bobbin chairs and an Adirondack-style stool. An elaborate folk art bed with tramp art details plays off a rawhide pendant with whipstitched seams and tassels. To add just the right amount of sophistication, the designers chose maple floors and a custom wool rug.

"You always have to be consistent and honest with materials when you're doing a house that pays homage to the past," explains Kase. "Concrete does show up in the master suite but only in the bath, so we don't reinvent the finish package. We just shift it a little bit. We still had fun with the light fixtures, but instead of having broncos and cowboys, they simply have this wonderful glow. There are gorgeous antiques from Guatemala and even Europe, whereas the kids' rooms have more flea-market finds."

The layering of styles and textures was surprisingly uncomplicated, says Kase. "It's easy to add texture to a house that was meant to have texture," she says. "We always ask ourselves, 'Is the house thick or is it thin?' A lot of contemporary houses are almost transparent, so you have to be very careful about the texture you add. In this project, nothing is smooth or even. A house like this can receive a lot of texture as long as there's a human hand to it." ➔

"We wanted a retreat for the husband and wife that celebrates beautiful views of the valley," notes Kase of the master bedroom. Antique bobbin chairs flank an Adirondack-style twig stool with an octagonal slat seat. An antique Guatemalan cedar armoire is in one corner. A custom Michaelian & Kohlberg wool rug plays off Rogers & Goffigon bed-skirt fabric and a Gray Watkins custom bedcover.



