

DESIGNING WITH

LIGHT

The Creative Touch

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Carol Soucek King, M.F.A., Ph.D.

D E S I G N I N G W I T H

L I G H T

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Foreword by Stanley Abercrombie, FAIA



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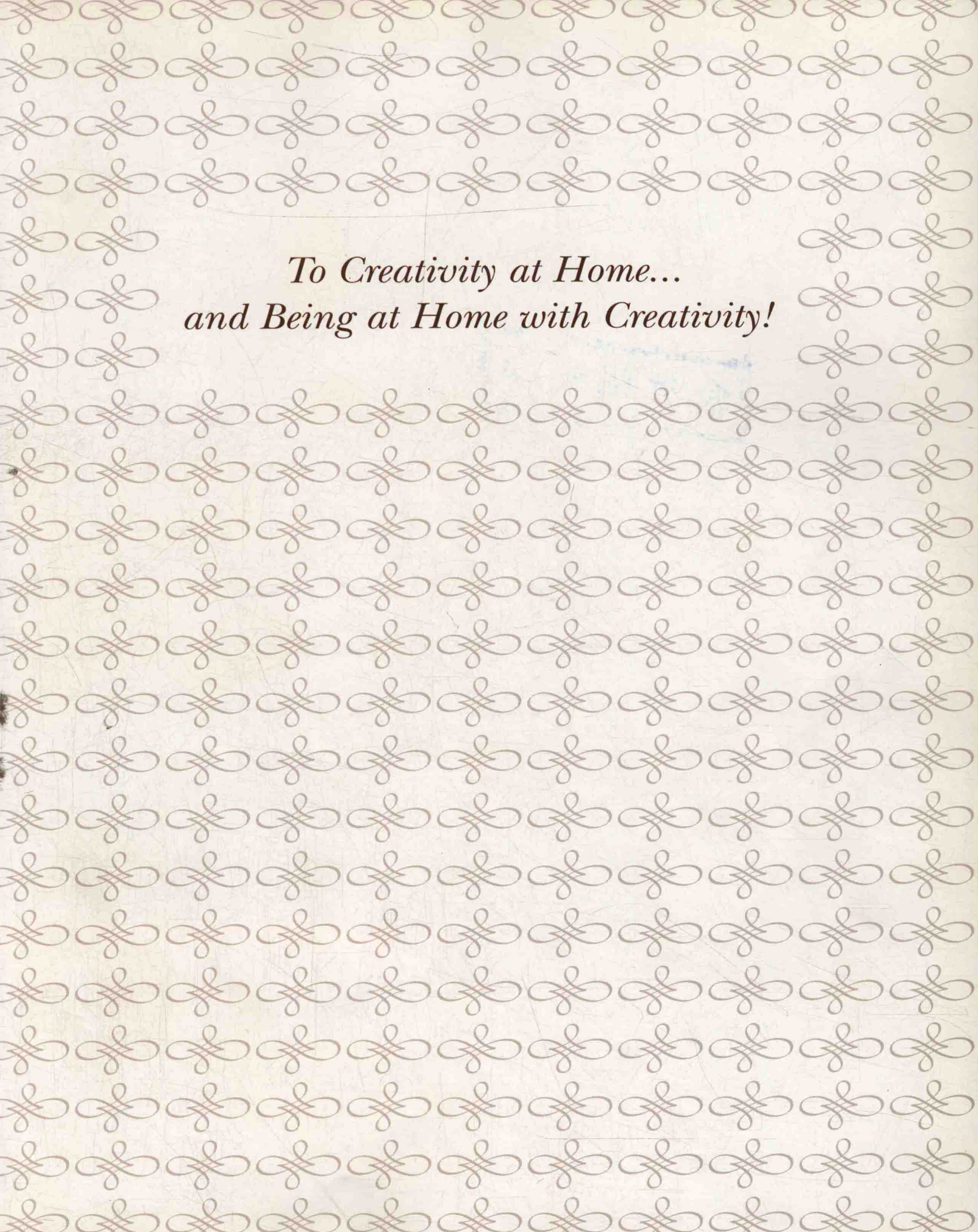
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*To Creativity at Home...
and Being at Home with Creativity!*

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Sorry to repeat myself, but in the last sentence of a book titled *A Philosophy of Interior Design*, I wrote that interiors constitute “our most personal art.” Carol Soucek King, I’m glad to see, seems to share the same view, for in her admirable series of books Dr. King focuses on just those aspects of interior design that make it personal.

The grand concept is not to be neglected, of course. Like any other art, interior design depends for its success on the encompassing vision that relates its many elements in a meaningful whole. But such vision, in interiors, becomes manifest and comprehensible through the myriad details with which we are in intimate contact: the feel of a drawer-pull, the profile of a cornice, the polish and grain of wood, the “hand” of fabric.

This contact involves all our senses. We see our interiors, certainly, but we also smell the materials in them, we hear their acoustic properties, we brush up against their walls, step on their floors, open their case goods, sit on their chairs. More than any other, interior design is the art we use. In that sense, it is not only our most personal art, but also the one most responsible for our well-being. In the context of increasingly brutalized urban environments, this is increasingly true and increasingly important. Interior design is often our refuge.

It is therefore a very welcome prospect that Dr. King is turning her experienced editorial eye to the details and materials on which the art of interior design depends. I’m sure we will all benefit from her discoveries.

~Stanley Abercrombie, FAIA
Chief Editor, Interior Design

FOREWORD

Welcome to DESIGNING WITH LIGHT, the fifth book in “The Creative Touch” series published by PBC International, Inc. Similar to *Designing with Tile, Stone & Brick*, *Designing with Wood*, *Designing with Glass* and *Designing with Fabric*, this volume is also devoted to one aspect of residential interiors. Yet it is distinct, too, for light is an element capable of visually sculpting and elevating all others.

“Because light alone among the designer’s tools is constantly changing throughout the day, with one light source capable of expressing so many different moods, it is the home’s fourth dimension,” says Holland’s lighting designer Aleksandar Rublek. To Mexico’s architect Ricardo Legorreta, light is above all a powerful emotional force that, despite its physical and technological roots, “belongs more to the heart and to the spirit.” And to Japan’s lighting designer Motoko Ishii, “Light is life!”

Clearly, light is both highly scientific and deeply psychological. It should enhance a home’s function and at the same time reveal its poetry. What do the people who live there really want — showcase or understatement? Mood or subtle ambience? As much natural light as possible — or round-the-clock drama? On the following pages, these questions and more have been addressed with great sensitivity by leading architects and designers around the world. Their creative solutions serve as a testament both to lighting’s advanced technology — and to its soul. Enjoy!

~Carol Soucek King, M.F.A., Ph.D.



©Anthony Paris



Light and spirituality go together. Light and architecture, windows, materials, textures and colors. During hours, days and seasons it changes space and is a fundamental tool for shaping our emotional response. Light, both natural and artificial, cannot be ignored nor used with a technical mind. Light belongs to the heart and to the spirit. Light attracts people, it shows the way, and when we see light in the distance, we follow it. We seek light. Light, both natural and artificial, can be sculpture.

Louis Kahn and others have said that form appears when light falls upon it, and of course I agree. But the opposite is true as well. Floors and walls, ceilings and recesses allow us to sculpt with light and to paint with light and, in this way, to shape the ambience of space. Light brings out the character of traditional buildings, which in turn inspires my own efforts in designing new buildings.



~Ricardo Legorreta
Photography by Lourdes Legorreta

INTRODUCTION



Traditions
Aglow

RANCH HOUSE COMFORT

Northern Louisiana

Photography by ©1996 Ira Montgomery

In remodeling this traditional Southern ranch house, **Mil Bodron** combined a feeling of classicism and modernism within a traditional envelope. Following suit, **Barbara Bouyea's** lighting design enhanced the architecture without being blatant. The artwork and architecture were key and no other supportive design elements — such as lighting — could show.

"In a ranch-style house, ceilings are normally low and there is a sense of small volumes," says Bouyea. "The lighting was used to enhance and enlarge the feeling of volume in each space.

"I believe the best lighting in a residence is where people are comfortable and look great — through a tone that enhances the skin, and where lighting is flattering and doesn't create harsh shadows. Yet also important is the illumination of artwork and accessories, of the ceiling, walls and floors that define a space, and of the textures, forms and hues that give it character."

To arrive at such a lighting plan, achieving a balance between ambient and accent lighting is critical, and so is the correct dimming system, which can create a variety of moods in each space. Bouyea has made sure that all spaces vary in function, and so does the lighting.



above At the entry, spaces and volumes are defined by lighting located at the platinum domed ceiling. Accent lighting highlights the niche and clock.

opposite In the living room, accent lighting for artwork and accessories creates dramatic focal points.



below In the dining room, lighting accents artwork and accessories. Cove lighting over the drapery gives play to the window curve and the fabric's shimmery quality.

bottom General ambient lighting is provided by wall sconces and floor lamps in the living room.

right In the kitchen, accent lighting highlights artwork, while task lighting illuminates work areas as well as the island and breakfast table. Lighting in the niche above the built-in cabinets leads the eye upward, and lighting in the skylight provides moonlight patterns after dusk.

