

House Beautiful

750

Designer Secrets



Exclusive
Design Ideas
from the Pros



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from the Editors of
House Beautiful
Magazine

Text by Kate Sloan



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Introduction

As I travel around the country speaking to readers of *House Beautiful*, I am always impressed by the passion that so many people have when it comes to their homes. Often these feelings have little to do with specific furnishings, and everything to do with a sense of place, of security, of comfort. To be sure, this passion includes decorating. While many homeowners don't necessarily consider themselves decorators, they certainly know what they want for their homes and their families.

Even so, we all need help and advice from time to time. As the editor in chief of *House Beautiful*, I have the privilege of spending much of my time with designers, who are among the most creative people I have ever met. The best of them share a common trait: they put their clients' wishes first and foremost, while at the same time helping them achieve the look they want for their rooms.

Most designers have secrets of decorating based on years of experience and their own instincts. The goal of this wonderful new book is to share the best of these secrets in a format that is both beautiful and functional. After all, a great house isn't just about the look, it's also about how it works for the people who live in it. If you have children, for instance, you want ideas that allow you to have a home that is beautiful, yet "kid friendly" and comfortable. In essence, the only perfect house is the one that is right for you—not a house that is someone else's idea of how you should live.

To help you achieve your own goals at home, this book offers you 750 design secrets that together cover just about every decorating dilemma that faces us, and offers solutions in every case. You will find advice on pulling a room together, decorating in small and odd spaces, displaying your collectibles and art, and tips on everything from entertaining to lighting.

There are little details that always matter, such as secret 352: "No kitchen should be designed without under-cabinet lighting." Big ideas are here, too, like secret 25: "To help create balance and scale, use symmetry—pairs of pictures, sconces, chairs, etageres." This book is ideal for the millions of people who possess a passion for decorating but cannot afford a designer, or simply for those who choose to do their decorating themselves. In these pages, you will see the best work of some of the most talented designers from across America, and in the process, discover "how they did it."

I hope this book becomes the ultimate companion in your endeavors to decorate your home with passion.

Mark Mayfield
Editor in Chief, *House Beautiful*





