

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

# SPIRITUALITY

*The Creative Touch*

Carol Soucek King, MFA, PhD

A watercolor illustration of a person standing on a wooden platform in a room. To the left, there is a fireplace and a chair. The overall style is soft and artistic, with a focus on light and shadow.

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*The Creative Touch*



A watercolor illustration of a person standing on a wooden platform in a room. To the left is a fireplace with a dark opening. In the foreground, there is a chair with a light-colored cushion. The overall style is soft and artistic, with a focus on light and shadow.

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To spirituality at home, and  
being at home with spirituality!

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## foreword

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 the admirable series of books Dr. King has planned promises to focus 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 medium of 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 Abercrombe, FAIA  
*Vice President, Editorial Director*  
INTERIOR DESIGN





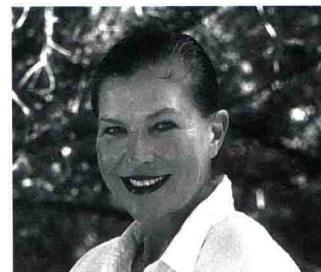
Welcome to *Designing with Spirituality*, the sixth book in “The Creative Touch” series published by PBC International Incorporated. Similar to *Designing with Tile, Stone & Brick*, *Designing with Wood*, *Designing with Glass*, *Designing with Fabric* and *Designing with Light*, this volume is also devoted to one aspect of residential interiors. Yet this volume’s purpose is to show how all those previous materials are transformed with form, scale, color and line to express the individual’s connection to the essence of life.

Twenty years ago a book devoted to the spirituality of design would have found its way into the publisher’s round file before the author could finish praying. Today, however, it is well known that most people believe in the sacredness of personal space as a refuge from an overly hectic world, if not for more mystical reasons. Yet the preponderance of the architects and designers I know, as well as their clients, are deeply interested in the more deeply spiritual perspective and using design to express it in the home.

Each individual interviewed and each project shown serve as testament to the belief that good design is much more than skin deep. While comforting and protective, they celebrate the idea of home as heightened awareness of the connection of the everyday life to the spiritual.

Enjoy!

Carol Soucek King





## introduction

I feel that, as designers, architects and artists, our gifts come from God. In trying to make the world a better place, we are but vehicles. We have been given certain gifts. The arts may be a business but the gift is something divine.

Too many times we design for what we think the client wants. Instead, we should design from a philosophy and a point of view —like Brancusi, the sculptor who had a singular vision. He did it by going into his studio and staying with his view of the world. By staying with your own vision, by digging deeper into your own intuition, you are more likely to tap into a spirit that is not only your own individual voice but one that speaks more to others as well. To me, that is spiritual.

It is that spiritual sense of connectedness to the universal that we should bring to the home. For the home is our sanctuary, the place where we terminate each day and originate the next. It is where we connect with loved ones and friends. Everything about it represents ritual, a ritual that is part of everyday life.

Design is not transactional. It's transformational. It transforms people's lives. It's not about what we have. It's about the evolution of the human spirit.

I feel that we don't give enough credit to the source of all inspiration—the divine—and am pleased that Carol Soucek King's book opens this up for contemplation.



Barbara Barry