

waterworks

INVENTING BATH STYLE



BARBARA SALLICK
WITH LISA LIGHT

PHOTOGRAPHS BY
PETER MARGONELLI

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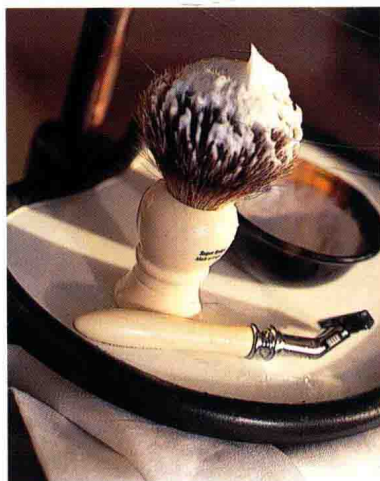
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The following people brought their own brand of creative production to this project and worked together in the most genuine spirit of cooperation. Each one brought insight and mutual support to the others and all have my special gratitude.

- Peter Sallick optimistically expects that all of our creative endeavors will be both evolutionary and inspirational. Each page of this manuscript was constructed with his unerring and critical eye in mind.
- Lisa Light has been an extraordinary collaborator. Her dedication, diligence, vocabulary, and insight have kept all of the ideas in focus. She patiently tutored me in the “arc” of the book and was there during holidays and weekends to make certain that the content of the book maintained its intellectual and poetic balance.
- Peter Margonelli skillfully focused his lens, clearly seeing the best image in the most fortuitous light to illustrate our point of view. His photographs framed every environment in clear, concise statements.
- J. C. Garcia, our stylist, always used the most minimal intrusions, allowing the fit, proportion, and scale of the spaces to speak for themselves.
- Rick Biedel has made a career of masterfully creating images and drawing memorable lines. Under his direction, this book has been graphically shaped into sleek, fluid passages and balanced visual compositions. At every juncture, we were willing to let his keen eye prevail, as we knew the results would have just the right impact.
- Annetta Hanna and her team at Clarkson Potter allowed us the freedom to write and illustrate a book that spoke clearly to our aesthetic. We thank her for her confidence in our ideas and us.
- And, finally, a special thanks to Robert Sallick, who is my partner, friend, cheerleader, and fellow sleuth. His knowledge of the plumbing industry is encyclopedic. Armed with our mutual interest in design and his knowledge, we have been able to communicate our shared belief that form and function are inseparable.

— Barbara Sallick



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First Edition

contents

12 preface

16 water

part 1

18 HABITAT

22 design integrity

26 decoration

30 luxury

part 2

34 ESSENTIALS

38 fixtures

56 fittings

64 surfacing

68 showers

72 {exploring} storage

part 3

80 ELEMENTS

84 metal

88 ceramic

92 stone

100 mosaic

104 glass

112 wood

116 textiles

122 apothecary

130 {exploring} tile

part 4

136 PRINCIPLES

140 color

150 {exploring} white

152 pattern

168 texture

176 scale

afterword

184 CHARACTER

186 design glossary

190 index



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BY BARBARA SALLICK

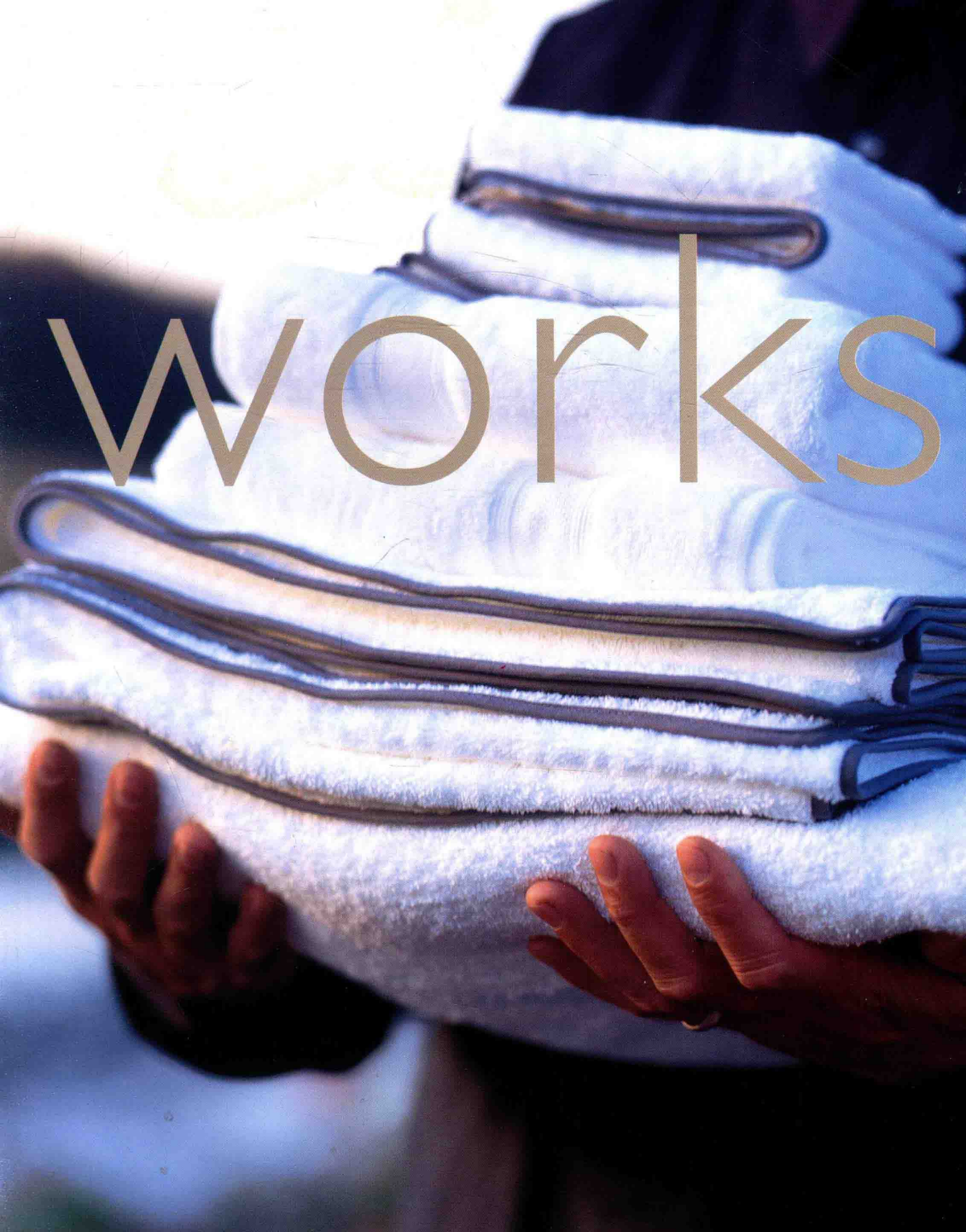
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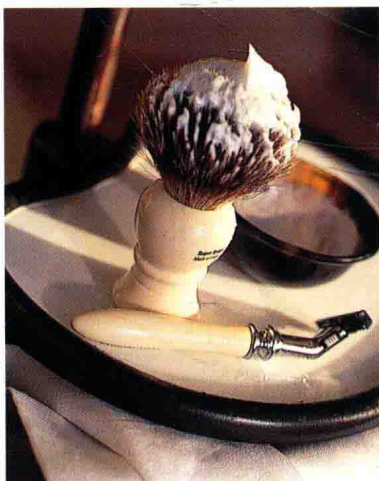
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176 scale

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184 CHARACTER

186 design glossary

190 index



preface

W

HEN WE ESTABLISHED WATERWORKS IN 1978,

OUR GOAL WAS TO BRING BETTER DESIGN AND PRODUCT QUALITY TO THE BATHROOM.

WE WERE A DIFFERENT KIND OF SHOWROOM, PROMOTING PLUMBING AS FUNCTIONAL

SCULPTURE, SHOWING ELEMENTS IN REALISTIC INSTALLATIONS, AND GROWING TO INCLUDE

EVERY ARTICLE AND DECORATIVE FEATURE OF THE ROOM IN ONE INTEGRATED PLAN.

TODAY, IN NUMEROUS STORE AND SHOWROOM LOCATIONS AROUND THE COUNTRY, WE

INVITE BOTH TRADESPEOPLE AND CONSUMERS TO FIND EVERYTHING THEY NEED FOR THEIR

BATHROOM PROJECTS, FROM TILES TO TOWELS, FROM ARCHITECTURE TO APOTHECARY.





But at our beginning, the bath was a space being reborn, just awakening to the luxury and variation that the room enjoys now. So we started with the basic equipment: fixtures and fittings, pieces at the core of every bath installation. It wasn't long before we turned to vintage forms and the customs of the European bath for inspiration, and rediscovered the graceful silhouettes, richly worked materials, and handcrafted production that were lacking in American bath designs. These elements had been forfeited with the popularity of molded plastics and trendy, forgettable colors, as the bath became an unwieldy status symbol: who in those days didn't covet the latest shower jet massage or space-age whirlpool, the ultimate sybaritic novelties?

Such indulgences were the most striking rejection of the postwar era of dull bath construction. And though they didn't yet reflect the understated aesthetic we imagined, submerged as they were under layers of brown and orange and acid-green laminate, they certainly embodied a desire for luxury.

Reviving an elegance of design seemed to us an imperative. Looking backward became the basis of something altogether new.

The bathrooms we love today are refined and simple. The archetypal forms are there, but with upgraded engineering, bolder proportions, cleaner profiles. We see artisanal metal finishes, handmade tile, mosaics, stone. Accessories and furnishings now reveal a classic heritage, a deep appreciation of materials and craftsmanship, and an enduring promise of performance.

The bath installation still follows its changeless template: tub, shower, water closet, lavatory; porcelain, metal, tile, stone. (The toilet here is properly called a water closet, the lavatory distinguished from the kitchen sink.) But the design resonates with the glamour of early-twentieth-century industry, as well as the beauty of natural colors and materials and the sensuality of ancient bath traditions. We keep exploring and editing and ultimately expanding on these foundations to create bathrooms that are at once timeless and modern. Add the individual perspective that accompanies each project, and the interpretations of this space grow ever more creative and varied.

With this book we hope to show you examples not just of great bathrooms but also of the fundamental elements and design tools that made them great. Use these pages to exercise your vision and to direct your own design focus toward the myriad small details – the arc of a faucet, the luster of a ceramic glaze, the plush texture of a stack of towels – that make up a lasting bath style.

– Barbara, Robert, and Peter Sallick