

SHOWCASE OF INTERIOR DESIGN®



Southern
Edition II

SHOWCASE OF INTERIOR DESIGN[®]

Southern Edition II



Vitae Publishing, Inc.

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Published in the United States
by Vitae Publishing, Inc.
50 Monroe Avenue NW
Suite 400
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
(800) 284-8232

Library of Congress
Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Showcase of Interior Design, Southern Edition II
p. cm.

Includes indexes.

ISBN 1-883065-06-2

ISBN 1-883065-07-0 (soft)

1. Interior decoration-Southern States-History-20th century.

I. Lisa Newsom

NK2002.S5 1996 728.0975-dc20

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Publisher - Sharon Rosen

Publisher - Sharon Staley

Contributing Author - Lisa Newsom

AVES INCORPORATED

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Printed in Singapore by Toppan
Typeset in USA by Vitae Publishing, Inc.

Title page Interior Designer: Noranit Tui Pranich, ASID

Design Firm: Pranich & Associates

Photographer: Dan Forer

French antique chairs flank a taffeta covered table
hosting an eclectic collection of
antique picture frames and ancient Thai pottery.

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French antique chairs flank a taffeta covered table
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PROLOGUE

Hermits don't hire interior designers. People who like people hire interior designers.

People who open their homes and their hearts to their family and friends will appreciate the assistance of a wizard in creating just the right atmosphere for sharing life's most important moments. The book is filled from cover to cover with settings for intimate romantic dinners, big family feasts, breakfast-in-bed, out-of-town guests, business entertaining, wedding proposals and baby showers.

This is an especially important edition of Showcase of Interior Design because these wizards know how to respond to each unfolding chapter in their client's vibrant lives. If you like people, you'll like these designers.

John C. Aves

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A SOUTHERNER'S SENSE OF PLACE

By Lisa Newsom

Even as a child I knew I lived in a very special part of the world. Like others whose lives are forever imprinted by that sense of place, I delighted in the beautiful and carefree surroundings that were mine to cherish. Only later did I come to realize that my identity as a Southerner who loves homes owes its strongest allegiance to those childhood years.

My youthful world revolved around Thomasville, Georgia, where even today towering live oak trees dripping with streamers of Spanish moss and magnolia trees bursting into fragrant bloom lead to historic old plantations. What a world of fantasy come true for a child to explore! In those days before television's impact, we counted upon nature's wonders to entertain us. Often our family members would gather on the front porch after dinner to enjoy the sights, sounds and smells of the South. Crickets and pond frogs would strike up a melody as lightning bugs left glowing trails through the night sky. All around us the sweet smells of honeysuckle and wisteria held us in their mesmerizing thrall.

The sense of wonder I found in my surroundings has reappeared year after year during my life as a Southerner. It is part of my identity. Being a Southerner has left an indelible mark on many others, too; just think of the writers who return in print to stories of their childhoods or the painters who recreate scenes of their earliest memories. We preserve our Southern identity not only because we feel blessed but because we love having those special moments

OPPOSITE: Stan Topol & Associates, Inc.: Brilliant white fabric and vibrant antique quilts contrast with the rustic simplicity of this inviting retreat.





from the past as the building blocks of our lives.

Another part of my childhood that obviously left a firm imprint on me involved houses. My first experience in interior design involved the daily rearranging of every single thing in my one-room playhouse. I loved doing it and would let nothing interfere with its daily completion. Now I realize that, in my carefree way, I was learning an important lesson. A room becomes an intensely personal means of expression. Surrounding ourselves by the things we love, we make ourselves comfortable. We establish a personal sense of style. We let others know who we are, what we like and how we want to lead our lives. Even in my playhouse I was striving to make these statements. I loved being part of that room, loved having it in my life, and I wanted others to know it.

That personal sense of style radiates through the South. The people and their homes look the way they do because of a sense of place that derives from an innate

ABOVE: Pat Stotler Interiors, Inc.: A contemporary glass-top table surrounded by traditional chairs anchors an eclectic dining space that treats the senses.

sense of joy over our surroundings. People often ask me, "What makes Southern interior design different? Why is it distinctive?" I reply, "It's different because Southern design is done by and for Southerners. It reflects our own particular legacy." Life in the South revolves around a gracious spirit and a deep pride in our heritage, a sense of knowing who we are, where we belong and how abundantly our blessings flow. Above all else, we know from an early age that to share our blessings with others merely multiplies our appreciation of what we have.

In the twenty years I have been editing Southern magazines about design, I have seen the rest of the country come to appreciate our designers almost as much as we do. That wasn't always the case. For a long time Southern designers got pushed aside while their colleagues in other parts of the country were thrust into the spotlight. Now Southern homes are frequently featured not only in national

BELOW: Pranich & Associates:
Traditional candlestick lamps and
antique accessories appoint the living
room of this penthouse apartment.
The sculpture in the foreground is by
artist Seymour Lipton.

