

DESIGN FOR THE WELL-LIVED LIFE

# HOUSE & Garden

DECEMBER 2007

Celebrating  
Classic  
Style

Aerin  
Lauder's  
Holiday Chic

+The Biggest  
House in  
America

The Wild  
World of  
Tony  
Duquette

Chanel's  
New Look

The Real  
Stars of  
Lake Como  
(the Gardens!)







what we're seeing

**ICON** You went to the Café Carlyle for the jazz stylings of Bobby Short or Eartha Kitt—not for the decor. “The place was about fun rather than appearances,” interior designer Scott Salvator says of the cabaret that opened at Manhattan’s Carlyle Hotel in 1955. Overseeing a recent renovation of the café, Salvator had the task of maintaining the feel-good vibe while injecting a bit of pizzazz. He started with soap. The café’s signature design element—graceful murals by Marcel Vertes—were filthy. “Buckets of brown water came off after fifty years of people smoking,” says Salvator. He improved the performance space: the ceiling was raised to provide better sound quality, acoustical panels made of denim were installed, and real stage lighting took the place of track lights. He added new banquettes upholstered in fabric by Brunschwig & Fils, and gave the bar a face-lift. “In the fifties the idea was: if it has liquor and ice, we’re done,” says Salvator, who brought in Dakota Jackson barstools topped with Zoffany vinyl seat covers. “Nightlife used to be more casual. You can now come to the Café Carlyle and relive that spirit.” [thecarlyle.com](http://thecarlyle.com). —GERALDINE DE PUY

**BOOKS** Here’s a title that delivers on its promise: **INSPIRED STYLES** (Assouline, \$65), in which 17 high-profile designers who have worked with Kravet and Lee Jofa discuss the creative process. As *House & Garden* editor in chief Dominique Browning notes in the foreword, we “see magic being made.” Beth Dunlop’s smart, exceptionally well-informed **MIAMI: MEDITERRANEAN SPLENDOR AND DECO DREAMS** (Rizzoli, \$75) runs from the time of the early settlers, who saw “the possibilities for creating the paradisiacal,” to the city’s concrete-and-glass present. **RUSSIAN TEXTILES** (Abrams, \$50) catalogs the rich array of printed cloth (who knew paisley could look utterly Russian?) made for Central Asian bazaars ca. 1860 to 1960. Just as fascinating as the fabrics themselves are the 1911 color photographs by Sergei Mikhailovich Prokudin-Gorskii, who documented much of the empire just before the revolution. In the lively social history **HOTEL** (Yale, \$37.50), A. K. Sandoval-Strausz persuasively argues that “the hotel was the physical manifestation of a distinctly American vision of mobility, civil society, democracy, and, ultimately, space.” We need constant reminders of global warming. **EARTH UNDER FIRE** (University of California, \$35), by photographer-writer Gary Braasch, is a vivid and frightening one, but a positive rallying cry. **AMAZING RARE THINGS** (Yale, \$37.50) is just that: exquisite drawings, paintings, and other artistic renderings of the natural world, made when much of that world was still new to its human inhabitants. One gift follows another, from Leonardo’s depiction of a bear (ca. 1490) to the beautiful metamorphoses of insects in Surinam (ca. 1705) by Maria Sibylla Merian, a German naturalist. —KATRINE AMES



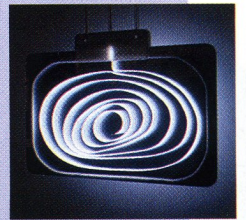
## DESIGN DATEBOOK

NOVEMBER 29 TO JANUARY 27

**“HAWAIIAN MODERN: THE ARCHITECTURE OF VLADIMIR OSSIPOFF,”** HONOLULU ACADEMY OF ARTS Russian-born and Japan-raised, Ossipoff played an important role in the Tropical Modernism movement, creating architecture that fused Western and Eastern influences and was designed in response to the landscape. [honoluluacademy.org](http://honoluluacademy.org).

DECEMBER 6-9

**ART BASEL MIAMI BEACH** The child of Art Basel in Switzerland, the Miami Beach fair combines art, fashion, music, and design—and many parties. Offerings from 200 contemporary art galleries will be seen, and architects Herzog & de Meuron will be special honorees. [artbasel.com](http://artbasel.com).



DECEMBER 7-31

**“LIGHTWORKS: AN EXHIBITION BY MARCUS TREMONT,”** PHILLIPS DE PURY & CO., NYC Tremonto’s transcendent light sculptures, three years in the making, will have their first public viewing at the auction house’s showroom in Manhattan’s Chelsea district. The 16-odd pieces on view, made of materials such as acrylic and shaped into simple yet arresting forms, like the spiral design, above, announce the appearance of a creative talent whose work rivals that of such masters of light as Ingo Maurer. [phillipsdeputy.com](http://phillipsdeputy.com).

DECEMBER 8

**FINE WINE AND SPIRITS AUCTION, CHRISTIE’S, NYC** Belly up to the auction block, well-heeled tipplers. Thanks to a recent change in state law, auction houses can again sell rare liquor to the highest bidder. Christie’s will hold the first spirits auction in New York since Prohibition. Vintage cognacs, Armagnacs, and aperitifs will be on offer, with estimated prices ranging from \$250 to \$100,000. Two highlights: a “super lot” of more than 700 bottles of different Scotches (estimated at \$70,000 to \$100,000) and a bottle of Macallan, left, distilled in 1926 (estimated at \$20,000 to \$30,000). [christies.com](http://christies.com). —G. DE. P.

