

ELLE DECOR

THE FASHIONABLE LIFE

TOP NEW YORK DESIGNERS AT HOME

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UPDATE**



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BOOKSHELF



For half a century, Mario Buatta has reigned as the Prince of Chintz—one of America's best-known and most beloved decorators, his rooms as fanciful as they are immediately recognizable. But until now, he hasn't had his own book to take its place of honor on our cocktail tables. Packed with images of the homes he has designed for such clients as Mariah Carey and Barbara Walters, as well as touches of his signature wit, **MARIO BUATTA: FIFTY YEARS OF AMERICAN INTERIOR DECORATION** (Rizzoli, \$75) is a fitting guide to the masterful career of the designer who never met a floral he didn't love.



In the introduction to his new book, Thomas Pheasant acknowledges his debt to the classical principles of order and harmony. Ten years in the making, **THOMAS PHEASANT: SIMPLY SERENE** (Rizzoli, \$60) puts the designer's signature passion for symmetrical arrangements, Greek sculpture, and spacious, light-filled interiors on full display. It also reveals his more forward-thinking side, as seen in a home executed not in his traditional neutrals but in rich, distinctive colors, from a lush blue living room to a family room in red and orange.



"Light is law," writes Axel Vervoordt. In **AXEL VERVOORDT: LIVING WITH LIGHT** (Flammarion, \$75), the influential Belgian antiques dealer and designer shows how the most ephemeral tool in the architectural paint box can be the most essential. The book showcases 20 of his interiors, from a subtle renovation of an 18th-century Belgian chateau to a home in a former Italian monastery. Each project is an object lesson in restraint and tactile pleasure.



From Gianni Versace to Lee Radziwill, the Rothschilds to royalty, the Genoa-born Renzo Mongiardino (1916–1998) was the 20th-century decorator of choice for an elite clientele. **RENZO MONGIARDINO: RENAISSANCE MASTER OF STYLE** (Assouline, \$95; November) is a beautifully illustrated guide to the architect's career, from the Academy Award-nominated film sets he created for Franco Zeffirelli to the opulent homes he designed and decorated based on his love of classicism. The aptly titled book reveals the lengths to which this modern-day Renaissance man went to create atmosphere in his richly layered, antiques-filled interiors.