



flower

FEBRUARY 2016

35 DESIGN
IDEAS
FOR THE NEW YEAR

Bring Nature Home



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fresh fabrics &
rooms in bloom

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THE ENGLISH
COUNTRYSIDE** *with*
CHARLOTTE MOSS

VOGUE EWEDDINGS BRIDES, DRESSES, DESIGNERS

Suzanne's View

Whether she's at home in Los Angeles or Manhattan, decorating rooms for beloved clients, or spending time in the garden, **Suzanne Rheinstein** is always informed—and inspired—by the botanical world

By **KAREN CARROLL**

Suzanne Rheinstein's living room in Los Angeles showcases her love for decorating with botanical motifs. When it comes to fresh materials, she brings greenery and flowers in from her garden. "I grow roses that last for a day before the petals begin to fall. They're fleeting, but that makes them even more special to me," she says. The fabric shown behind the photos is *Whilton French Blue*, one of her own designs for Lee Jofa.

PHOTO BY TIM STREET-PORTER.
OPPOSITE: PHOTO BY PIETER ESTERSOHN



I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT that gardens are about memories," says Suzanne Rheinstein. The houses she decorates are most certainly memorable, too. She fills them with exquisite fabrics, interesting objects, and one-of-a-kind furnishings that wear a refined patina that almost always comes with age or provenance. They beckon all who enter to sink into a sofa and curl up with a good novel or cup of tea to linger awhile. And at their essence, her rooms

speak of a deep and abiding appreciation for beauty, but with an utter lack of pretense, which happens to mirror this New Orleans-born designer's own sense of style and hospitality. For Rheinstein, comfort and luxury are inextricably intertwined.

Although Rheinstein has decorated more than enough houses to grace the pages of two books she has written, it's not surprising that she's just as likely to be found in a garden. Whether tending to the old-fashioned roses

climbing the brick walls of her Georgian Revival home in Los Angeles or traveling to historic gardens around the world, Rheinstein continually seeks inspiration outdoors. "There are so many parallels between the way I think about houses and gardens," she says. "With both, getting the bones right and creating a plan that suits the lifestyle of its owners are the most important things. Then, it doesn't matter if someone leaves a stack of books or makes the desk a bit messy, or that the tallest perennials flop over in the front of a flower bed. Everything looks lived in, and it feels good."



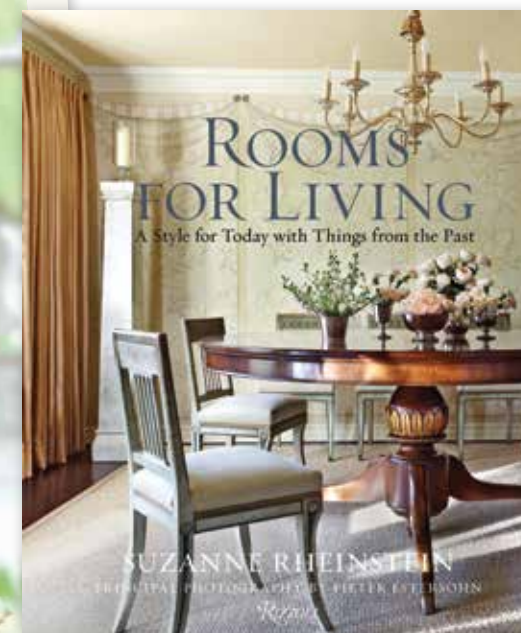
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Even the most balanced people I know admit to being a little overcommitted. When we get home, we really want something that's comforting and gives us room to breathe. In New York, my apartment has less color than my house in L.A., but I love coming in from the mad bustle of the city streets to a place that calms and soothes me.
”

© AT HOME BY SUZANNE RHEINSTEIN, RIZZOLI NEW YORK, 2010. IMAGE BY PIETER ESTERSON

Savannah, Georgia, decorative artist Bob Christian is one of Rheinstein's favorite resources for bringing the garden inside, as in this sepia-toned mural in the designer's New York apartment.

“
*I crave order in
 a garden plan,
 but good gracious,
 I have so many
 things growing up
 the sides of walls,
 and plants that
 don't behave. I've
 always thought
 that having a
 garden is humbling,
 because you realize
 that you can't
 control everything.
 You have to
 let life happen.*
 ”

“My mother and grandmother were both great gardeners, and they were wonderful influences,” says Rheinstein. “Part of everyday life was cutting things to bring into the house,” a tradition the designer continues in her Los Angeles garden. Photo by Deanie Nyman



Finding Suzanne

AT THE STORE Hollyhock, Rheinstein's stylish shop in Los Angeles, reveals the designer's enduring passion for flowers. She sells antiques, art, and accessories, many that have a botanical bent. 927 N. La Cienega Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90069; 310.777.0100; hollyhockinc.com.

ON THE BOOKSHELF Her second book, *Rooms for Living* (Rizzoli, 2015), follows the successful *At Home* (Rizzoli, 2010). Both are filled with photos of dreamy rooms that will make you want to move right in.

UNDERFOOT AND ON THE SOFA Rheinstein has created collections of fabrics and rugs for Lee Jofa. “Floral motifs are beautiful and evocative, and we'll always want to surround ourselves with them. They connect us to life,” she says. The carpet *Indian Garden* is shown at right. Available to the trade, leejofa.com.



“I love the combination of beautiful things, whether they're rustic or polished, mixed with comfort. I believe in what British decorator Imogen Taylor once said, 'Comfort is luxury.'”

Below is Rheinstein's design for a client's garden room, with a trellis mural on walls, wicker chairs, and Vladimir Kanevsky's floral porcelains. Behind the photos is *Beatriz Mist*, one of her fabric designs for Lee Jofa.



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“These wonderful peonies were a bright coral color that gradually turned this pale shade. They are my favorite kind of flower to use in simple arrangements. Making your own table garden with peonies or whatever you like in small vases is amusing to arrange and gives the table a more relaxed air.”

For more information, see Sources, page 86.