

California Dreaming

Suzanne Tucker Authors Her Second Design Book



Golden girl Tucker appears relaxed despite all of her accomplishments. Her talents include interior design, textile and product design, lecturing, and writing.

ASID member Suzanne Tucker's second book, *The Romance of Design*, celebrates the beauty of California and the West. The Golden State native and principal of the design firm, Tucker & Marks, deftly weaves Old World elegance into a New World landscape. Tucker credits her childhood for this approach. "Growing up in Montecito was a powerful influence. The beauty of the architecture, inherently gracious homes, historic precedents of style, enchanted gardens, fabulous parties, and the unique quality of the light," she writes.

Michael Taylor, Tucker's mentor, also valued natural light. Another California native, Taylor created rooms dominated by light. He said, "Light, as we know, contains in itself all colors." Tucker honors and reinterprets his vision aided by her talented staff. Evidence of Taylor's trademark airiness can be seen in Tucker & Marks' installations. From the light-filled contemporary townhouse high atop Russian Hill to a sun-drenched Italianate villa in Montecito.

For each project, Tucker draws on her vast knowledge of fine and decorative arts, antiques, and architecture. Collaborating with top architects, such as Andrew Skurman and Sandy Walker, her residences combine function with flights of fancy. Location always trumps fantasy. Tucker is curious when clients want their homes to evoke another place. "Do they want to create a Piedmontese villa, Portuguese quinta, or Provencal man because they once lived in Italy, Portugal or France? Or being mooned there? Or have always just loved that part of the world?" she ponders.

Tucker listens to her clients' dreams and translates them in the Western topography. For the Francophile couple living on a hillside in Marin County she melded French antiques with a collection of American abstract art. Their Normandy-styled house is surrounded by California oaks and enjoys a spectacular view of Mount Tamalpais. "I believe we should be at home at home, especially when where we are is beautiful," Tucker observes.

In the art-filled home on Russian Hill a Matsud Neri bronze sculpture appears to be entwined by the serpentine stair-well. Tucker selected vanilla-colored Venetian plaster walls and stone floor to showcase the art. The project, a new-contemporary home, was a collaboration between the designer, clients and architect Sandy Walker. Photography by Edward Adkins.



On the 32nd floor of the Millennium Tower in San Francisco, Tucker created an urban oasis. In the kitchen she set the clients' vaunting sole maiden against new Aztec-Mar quartzite. A companion pair of vibrant Han dynasty green glazed pottery urns adds history and texture. Photography by Michel Venera.



Multi-talented Tucker also has her own line of textiles. Upholstered on the walls of a bedroom in Malibu, named after the designer's daughter. The ground is a flowy woven linen printed with a fantasy garden from an English document circa 1830. Photography by Grey Crawford.



Canole Flores's abstract painting is juxtaposed by a rustic antique Spanish candle in the 2010 San Francisco Decorator Showcase dining room. Tucker selected Michael Taylor's exotic mismatched chairs for casually elegant dining. Photography by Matthew Millman.



The cover of *The Romance of Design*, that follows Tucker's monograph *Rooms to Remember*. Published by The Monacelli Press, it has been on sale since October of 2014. Photography by Matthew Millman.



Tucker has been honored many times by being selected to participate in the prestigious San Francisco Decorator Showcase. For the 2010 showcase she designed the dining room in a Normandy-style mansion. The house was modeled after the Hôtel de Ville on the Place des Vosges in Paris. Photography by Matthew Millman.