



SAN FRANCISCO ROMANCING THE HOME

Legendary interior designer Suzanne Tucker speaks to the heart in her latest tome.

By Jennie Nunn | Photography by Matthew Millman

Mention the name Suzanne Tucker in any conversation among design aficionados, and three words come to mind: sophisticated, classic and timeless. The San Francisco-based decorator and co-founder of design firm Tucker and Marks has long been a darling of the industry, as well as a beacon of California style, having applied her unequivocal eye to everything from elaborate Mediterranean-style estates in Montecito to the recently debuted suites at Napa's famed Auberge du Soleil resort. Now, Tucker is debuting her second monograph, *Suzanne Tucker Interiors: The Romance of Design* (\$65, The Monacelli Press), an overview of some of her most exquisite projects and a celebration of her unmistakably elegant aesthetic. "The book is really about the strength of my interiors," she says. "I think there is a certain romance to all of them—we should all fall in love with our houses over and over again." Read on for our exclusive interview.

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What is most important to you when designing your interiors? I love the use of color, and I'm a big proponent of using a lot of texture, whether it's in textiles or woods—texture catches light differently and it's what gives a room interest. I also find importance in the tactile quality of things and how they make you feel. There's so much subliminal psychology behind design—from asking yourself, 'Why do I feel good in a room?' to 'Does the seating work?' There's no right way to do something—I hope to encourage readers to stand back and look at their homes and make them uniquely theirs.

One of our favorite houses is Enchanted Oaks in Monterey. How would you describe it? It's a Spanish hacienda-style home set on a gradual sloping hillside and covered with beautiful, sculptural California oaks. My clients didn't want a grand villa or a farmhouse, so this is kind of in between. There's a play on textures with antique doors from Spain, terra-cotta floors, distressed beams and soft, inviting fabrics. I love the library—we paneled it all in oak, bleached it and gave it a cerused effect. It has a wonderful indoor-outdoor feeling and is very cozy.

What are your biggest influences? I'm always inspired by my travels, whether it's Italy, Morocco or England. I think it's important to take pictures and create digital files of your inspirations—if I lost my camera and someone looked at it, they would see everything from doorknobs and tree barks to floorboards, gates, gardens and ceilings! ■

TASTING ROOM In the kitchen of Enchanted Oaks, Tucker used hand-glazed tiles from Tunis, waxed walnut floors and a warm olive-toned palette.

