

# ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST

## MODERN MASTERS

A pairing of fresh talents who are redefining taste in cuisine and design.



With the "Modern Masters" series, we bring together defining voices in the fields of cooking and entertaining, design and architecture. The first pairing: chef Scott Conant and architect S. Russell Groves.

The pairing originates with Scarpetta, Scott Conant's acclaimed Manhattan restaurant designed by Russell Groves, that is bold in the best sense of the word. There's no flash or pomp; its boldness lies in being beyond convention and, like its creators, imaginative.

Both Conant and Groves have taken daring career moves, leaving behind successful ventures (for Conant, restaurants Alto and L'Impero; Groves, the renowned architecture firm Peter Marino Architect) to establish their own companies - and, in turn, enjoy a more immediate connection to approachable yet assertive - a simple spaghetti with tomato and basil quickly became the stand-out dish on his menu. (His latest cookbook, *Bold Italian*, is a collection of inviting recipes with unexpected twists.) Groves' designs echo that attitude: the restaurant's atmosphere has been aptly described as "urban Milan meets rustic Tuscany," with a mix of materials and textures. He cites the room dividers - panels of "warm, wood-holed butternut veneer sandwiched between sheets of cool, sparkly glass" - as his favorite example of the counterpoint.

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