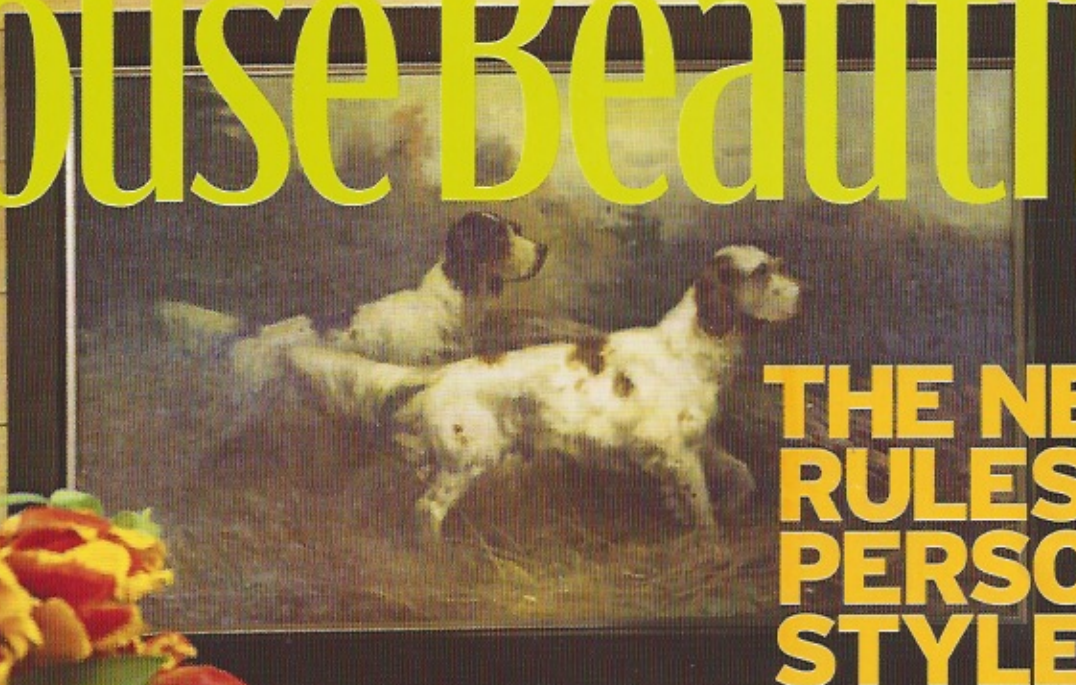


# WHAT IS TASTE?

# House Beautiful

APRIL 2006



**THE NEW  
RULES OF  
PERSONAL  
STYLE**

**DOES GOOD  
TASTE MATTER  
ANYMORE?**

**SHAKE IT UP!**

**PLUS:  
INSTANT ROOM  
PAINT COLORS  
GREAT KITCHENS**

**ASK THE  
BAREFOOT  
CONTESSA**

\$3.95 US/\$4.95 Canada/Foreign

0 4



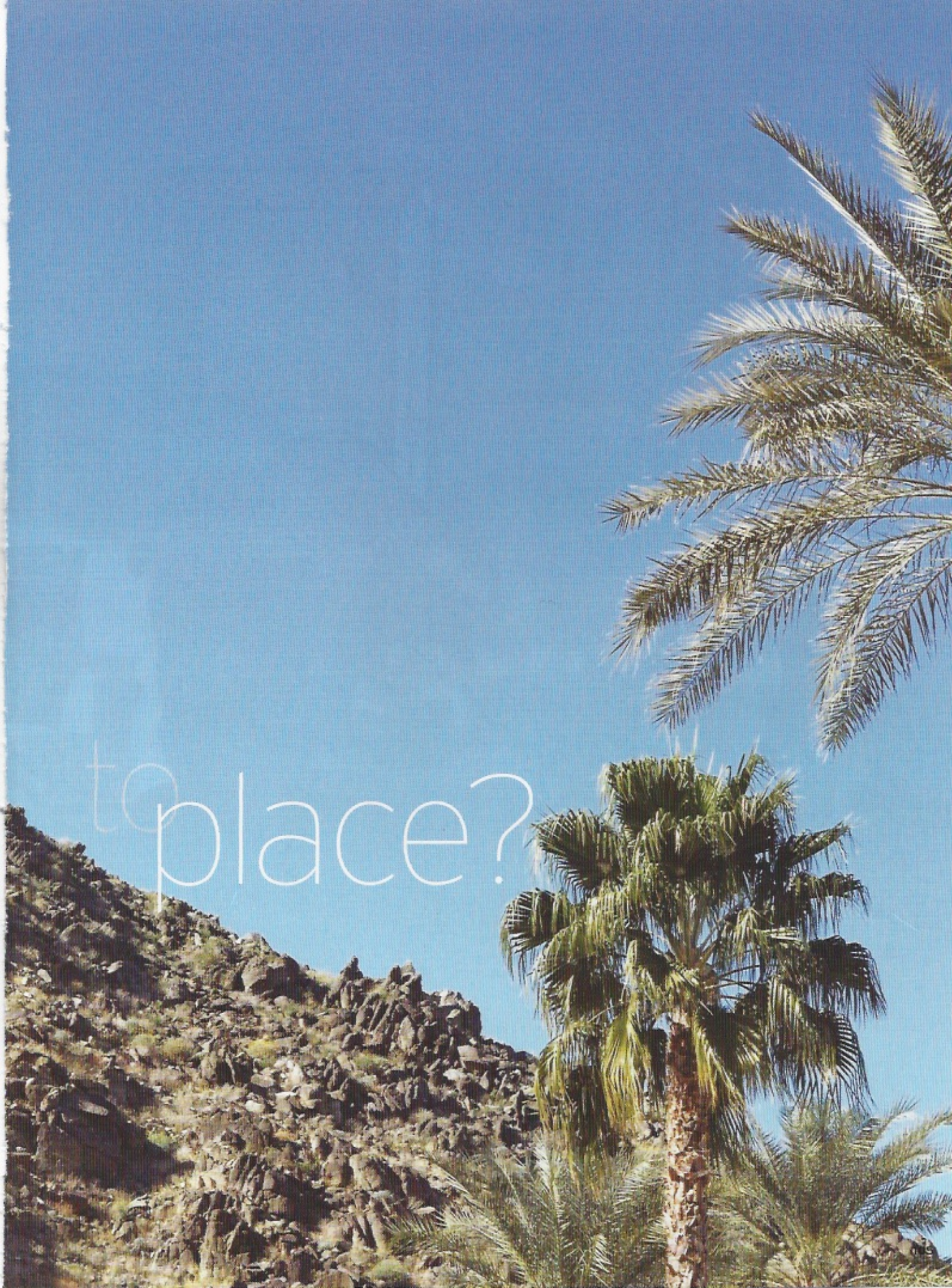
0 74820 08458 8



is  
taste  
connected

INTERIOR DESIGN BY BONESTEEL TROUT HALL INTERIORS  
INTERVIEW BY MIMI READ PHOTOGRAPHS BY KARYN MILLET

The view of date palms, rocky hills, and blue sky from a house near Palm Springs, California, provided inspiration for the interior palette and textures. This tailored but sexy wing chair by Andrea Newcomer has matte silver nailhead trim; it's covered in a Rogers & Goffigon linen.

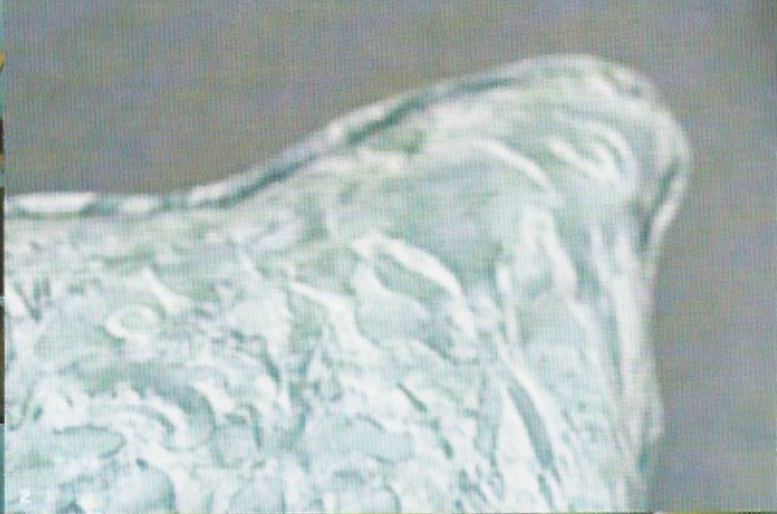


to  
place?





The tall mercury glass lamp is by Christopher Spitzmuller, from Hollyhock in Los Angeles. A one rope chest from the Bradbury Collection at Pacific Design Center. The pair of Madden sculptured sofas by Andrea Newcomer is covered in Donghia's relaxed linen. Fortuny French blue/Antique White and a chocolate-and-cream print by Donghia was used for the pillows. Ed Ruscha's *If* painting hangs above a sunken bar.



**IMI READ:** This house is so clearly a product of the California desert. What's the story behind it? **MARY LYNN TURNER:** The clients were newlyweds. Shortly after the wedding, they bought this weekend place in Indian Wells, where she had been taking her two boys for years. It's a midcentury modern house that had been remodeled two or three times and had lost its original integrity. **How did you arrive at a style for it?** **MLT:** Originally, they wanted to tear the house down and build a new Spanish-style house. But then the clients realized it would take two years to build. The wife wanted to enjoy the house with her boys while they were still in high school. So she said "OK, let's just fluff this house, make a few changes, and stick with the Spanish theme."



1. LIMES in the garden. 2. A FORTUNY PILLOW. 3. Antique TURQUOISE POTTERY. 4. AGAVE. 5. WOVEN SEAGRASS on a John Hutton chair. 6. HELICHYRUM. 7. A pair of DAVID SUTHERLAND TEAK CHAISES LONGUES near the pool. 8. ROCK CRYSTAL FRAGMENTS from Mecox Gardens. 9. Provençal OLIVE JARS from Brenda Antin in Los Angeles. 10. A FLOCKED WHORL on a William Yeoward linen. 11. DESERT GREEN.



After a few years we'll build the Spanish house and move all the antiques with a Spanish flavor into it." It's funny—with a midcentury modern house, you would never think about using Spanish antiques. But we did, adding some modern pieces and modern art, and it just became such a fun mix. Sometimes things just happen. **So this is provisional?**

**MLT:** No. Once we removed all the strange architectural additions and decorated it, it turned out so fabulous they don't want to tear it down anymore. **How long did it take to decorate?**

**MLT:** The house was empty, a blank slate. We did it in eight weeks. It aged me! But the clients want to enjoy life and live for today. They wanted the house ready for a big fam-

ily reunion at Thanksgiving. So we rolled up our sleeves and went crazy, going into Los Angeles and buying furniture right off the floor, begging our upholsterers to rush things. **How did she respond when she saw it all for the very first time?**

**HEIDI BONESTEEL:** Sometimes when you install a job, it's overwhelming for people to walk into a house full of brand new furniture. Often they get very quiet. But she started crying. It was such a fast turnaround, and there she was, with her new marriage, her new life, her new house. She was really happy, awash in raw emotion. **Are there any other decorating themes here besides Spanish style and desert colors?**

**MT:** We used a lot of prominent textures. The house has



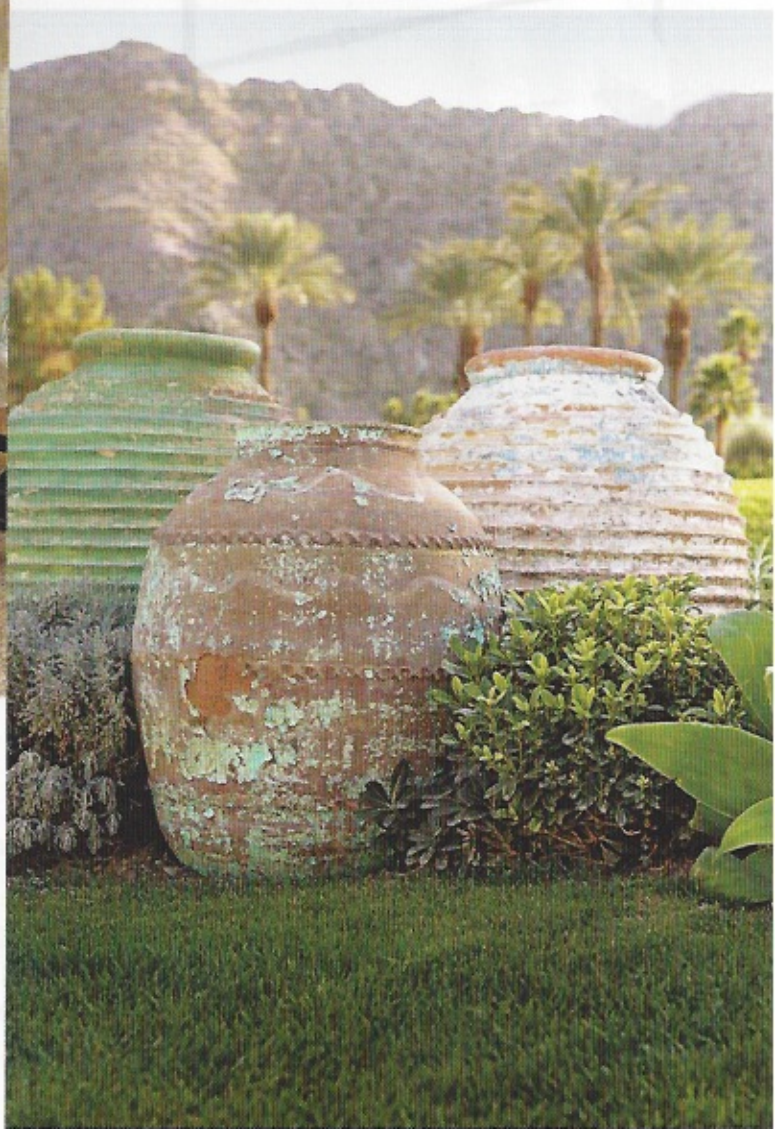
huge windows, and the light is so pure and beautiful. Textures really grab your eye. One of the most powerful things about the house is that you're very close to mountains—very rocky ones. That texture must have inspired us to choose the rope chest. **How else does this house express a sense of place?** **HB:** As much as it's a desert house, it's also pure California, with California's casual, natural, and organic aesthetic. It's oversized and comfortable, with down pillows and a lot of depth to the upholstery. We make everything a little bit bigger and cushier so you can really cozy in and relax. **It's startling to see a big plasma TV in a rather formal living room. Why did**

**you put it there?** **MT:** A lot of people don't use their living rooms much. But these people really wanted to use theirs. There are so many pretty furnishings and fabrics that you don't really notice the TV. **I wonder, do the homeowners have to keep it inhumanly neat in order for it to look good? Can they bring new stuff home without ruining everything?** **MT:** It's not the kind of house you'd want to clutter up. But at the same time, there are lots of places to put things—tables, baskets, chests. I think they could bring things home. **What if the clients brought home a big red and black painting?** **MLT:** They would never do that.





LEFT: In the dining room, William Yeoward's Hortense linen with flocked velvet spirals on George III-style arm and side chairs. The hand-painted sideboard is Italian and the circa 1900 walnut table is French, but they were chosen for their Spanish air. BELOW: Antique terra-cotta olive jars with flaking paint capture the feeling of the California desert.






**Your color palette in this house looks like you lifted it straight from the landscape.**

We did. The Rogers & Goffigon linen on the two blue wing chairs in the living room is the exact color of the desert sky. The silver-green in the master bedroom comes from the agave plants everywhere. The golf course is chartreuse green and the hills are brown. We just brought all those colors indoors. You can walk inside and then outside and it's all the same palette. It gives you a feeling of extreme freedom—no barriers, no boundaries.



**LEFT:** In a guest bedroom, the headboard is upholstered in Dek Tillet's Palazzo print; the nameless brown hill behind the house appears in almost every window. **OPPOSITE:** The master bedroom's rectilinear iron tester bed is by the designers. Agave green velvet on the bench was the inspiration for the room's color scheme.



The master bedroom's sitting area has a watery cool and calm, helped by bamboo shades. Bridgewater-style club chairs by Bonesteel Trout are slipcovered in white linen. OPPOSITE: Reflected in the swimming pool, date palms and the twilight sky. FOR MORE DETAILS, SEE RESOURCES.

