

# New England HOME

CT

Celebrating Fine Design, Architecture, and Building

## Luscious Looks

Connecticut designers show just how beautiful living can be.



# Perspectives

## Bookshelf



### 1 Country Houses: The Architecture of Mark P. Finlay

BY MARK P. FINLAY

Leafing through this selection from Southport architect Mark Finlay's three-plus decades of work, you might get the feeling that he's an architectural chameleon. And, it turns out, that's a perfectly fitting metaphor. As Finlay explains in the book's introduction, his ability to imagine sympathetic dwellings for many different kinds of clients stems from early years spent creating shelters for the creatures that skittered or slithered or flew through the woods surrounding his childhood home. The houses he fashions these days, mostly for animals of the two-legged variety, are often English in feel. But some breathe of other lands and climes, such as a Greenwich house that evokes thoughts of Morocco, or, for a client in South Carolina's Lowcountry, an edifice that wouldn't seem at all out of place in New Orleans or Martinique. Note: *Country Houses* goes on sale May 15, but you can pre-order from Amazon. | \$60, *Images Publishing*, [imagespublishing.com/us](http://imagespublishing.com/us)

### 2 Classical Principles for Modern Design: Lessons from Edith Wharton and Ogden Codman's *The Decoration of Houses*

BY THOMAS JAYNE

Back in 1897, *The Decoration of Houses* became one of the founding texts of American interior design. Authors Edith Wharton and Ogden Codman—both with strong New England ties—laid a special emphasis on function and simplicity that continues to guide design thinking today. Contemporary

decorator Thomas Jayne first encountered *The Decoration of Houses* as a student, and he has revisited Wharton and Codman's ideas ever since in conceiving his own work. This new volume is a product of that manifestly fertile cross-century conversation. Chapters focus on both the whole of a space, and on the individual elements—walls, doors, windows, ceilings, floors—that make up that whole. But, to be honest, even on those days when you might not feel up to a history lesson, you'll still love the book simply for its photographs of Jayne's own beautifully orchestrated rooms. | \$50, *The Monacelli Press*, [monacellipress.com](http://monacellipress.com)

### 3 New Landscaping Ideas That Work BY JULIE MOIR MESSERVY

Yes, the book presents itself as a how-to tome. But even if you never intend to set hand to spade, it's well worth perusing. Vermont-based Julie Moir Messervy provides do-it-yourselfers and non-gardeners alike with an education on how landscape designers think, outlining some of the ways they structure our experience of the outdoors. How appealing and functional spaces can be defined, what materials and details will evoke the right mood: all of this is knowledge to enhance your appreciation of any gardens you visit, and it will help assure success when the time comes to create (or recreate) some outdoor scenery of your own. The substantially updated edition of Messervy's original 2014 book also features plentiful examples from landscape professionals across the U.S. (including glimpses of several projects that have appeared in *New England Home*.) | \$24.95, *The Taunton Press*, [tauntonstore.com](http://tauntonstore.com)

| REVIEWS BY KYLE HOEPNER |