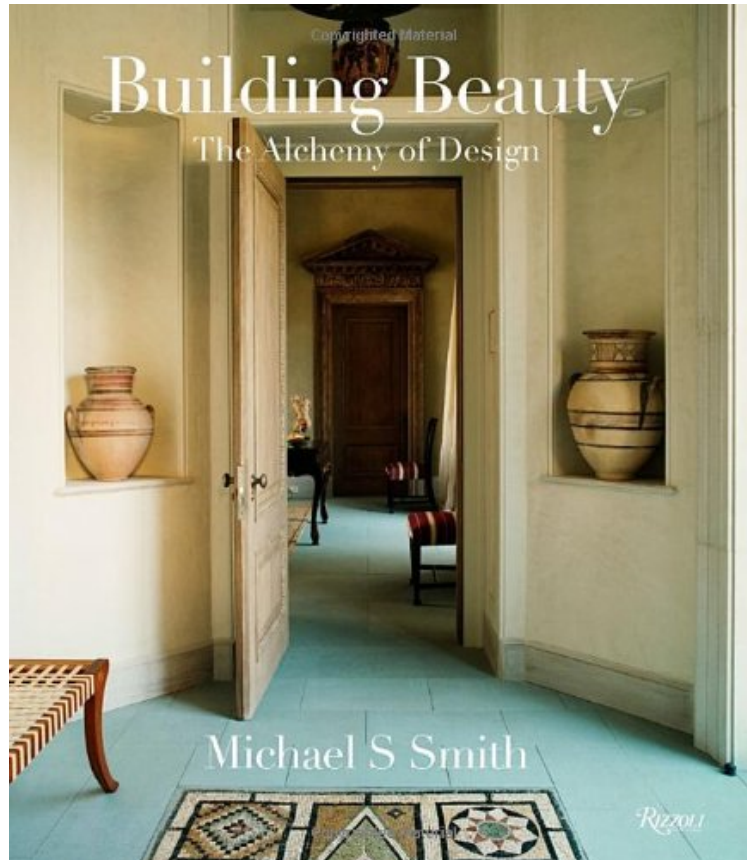


Michael S. Smith: Building Beauty: The Alchemy of Design

Michael S. Smith, Christine Pittel
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Michael S. Smith, Christine Pittel : Michael S. Smith: Building Beauty: The Alchemy of Design before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Michael S. Smith: Building Beauty: The Alchemy of Design:

9 of 10 people found the following review helpful. A broadly useful guideBy RenaissanceAs a homeowner of a 100 year old place in a city, I was surprised when a friend recommended this book. After buying it, I'm so glad she did and understand why! Michael Smith's blend of objects and design recommendations go beyond a single renovation they serve as a guide for how to integrate a range of objects and spaces into a unified whole. The pictures in the book are beautiful, and I loved it from the start and as coffee table object art. But I'm now using it as my 'vision book' to re-frame my whole apartment. The examples shown in the book are great illustrations of why objects and layouts work together, and apply equally well to my (admittedly) smaller space. The patinas and hues are timeless, and have set the tone for my renovation. I love that Michael Smith outlined the 'chemistry' that makes the objects and space work together, without reducing it to a simplistic list of items to buy. This for me made it applicable to my own space unlike other design books that just are based on a specific installation.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A Real BeautyBy Karlie GustafsonAs someone who owns a 200-year-old home -- which is in the middle of a major

renovation -- this book serves as a real inspiration. I love how Michael S. Smith's design combines both high-end pieces and more casual ones to give this spectacular home an original, homey and earthy feel. I only wish I had an unlimited budget to model my house after this beauty. Truly stunning. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. ObsessedBy MelissaI've had this book for many months and I keep coming back to it. Yes, some of the photographs are a bit dark as another reviewer mentioned. In the husband's bathroom, for instance, you can see everything pretty well except for the shower, which is completely dark. The book showcases the different craftsmen: architect, antique dealer, painter, lead craftsman, woodworking subcontractor, landscaper, etc. You get a deep sense of what went into this house- I love it!

The newest book from acclaimed designer Michael S Smith is an in-depth look at how to create the perfect American house. Michael S Smith: House and Home is a rare opportunity to experience in great detail the work of this renowned designer. Michael S Smith transformed an ordinary house and its outbuildings into an extraordinary suite of rooms that display the best of this design superstars work. As he walks the reader through its myriad rooms and gardens, explaining each decision made, Smith provides a complete, invaluable up-to-date design vocabulary that every homeowner and design aficionado is keen to know, from the initial renovation plans to the finishing details, indoors and out. Interviews with the architect, Oscar Shamamian, the landscape designer, and various craftsmen help Smith guide the reader through the process of creating a house, and in so doing provides a blueprint for anyone building or renovating their dream home. Richly informative, this is a visually stunning, indispensable guide to designing an unforgettable house, one decision at a time.

"a visually gorgeous exploration of an uninspired 1993 Malibu home that Smith transformed into a stunning architectural specimen. The photos serve as both renovation inspiration and detailed information on what goes into transforming a home." ~Los Angeles Confidential"Good interior design is as much about logistics as it is about art, and famed designer Michael S. Smith has it all down to a science in Building Beauty: The Alchemy of Design. Taking the reader through the process of creating a beautiful space step by step--whether with new construction or renovation--Smith provides a hands-on approach that demonstrates his professional grasp of everything interiors-related." ~CS Interiors"Highly sought after designer Michael S. Smith takes on the renovation of a 1993 new-build and chronicles the entire experience before your very eyes. Experience the transformation blow-by-blow with technical details and beautiful "after" photos. The ultimate home makeover!" ~Traditional Home" ..pure gold. I read the book cover-to-cover in one sitting and it is the most remarkable tale of the most remarkable project. Christine Pittel tells the tale in an intimate and conversational tone...Rather than instilling envy, the story of this process filled me with awe." ~Patricia Shackelford, Mrs. Blandings"As temperatures are rising and city dwellers are retreating to coastal beach houses, designer Michael S. Smith delivers a masterwork on the genre, devoting an entire book to one Malibu residence." ~Angeleno MagazineAbout the AuthorDesigner and author Michael S Smith is considered one of the design industry's most respected talents, with an international profile of residential and commercial clients. He is the recipient of many prestigious awards, including multiple times on Architectural Digests "AD 100" list. He has also been named "Designer of the Year" by Elle Decor. The author of three previous books, The Elements of Style, Houses, and Kitchens and Baths, his projects have been featured in many noted publications. In 2010, Smith was appointed by President Obama to the Committee for the Preservation of the White House. Christine Pittel is a writer and senior editor at House Beautiful.