



Monacelli Press

# INTERIOR SEDUCTION

*Designer Suzanne Tucker's second book reveals the secrets of Napa Valley luxury living*

By Carolyn Zinko

Suzanne Tucker is a bit of a tease, in the finest sense of the word.

The San Francisco interior designer, whose firm ranks among *Architectural Digest's* 100 Top Designers of the World, says a room needs to entice — with detail.

"It's sort of the seduction of a room — a room and houses should unveil themselves to us, and that's about layers, whether it's the paint colors or the textiles," she said. "That's what makes things unique and special and your own."

More than a dozen enticing homes are on display in her second book, *"Interiors — The Romance of Design"* (Monacelli Press, 288 pages), released Tuesday, just in time for her lecture at the Fall Antiques Show on Saturday.

Among those pictured are Napa Valley estates and penthouses whose interiors balance sumptuousness with relaxed comfort.

Tucker, who holds degrees in interior architecture and design, was a protégé of the renowned San Francisco interior designer Michael Taylor. She formed Tucker & Marks, a design firm with her husband, Timothy Marks, in 1986, after Taylor died. Her line of Suzanne Tucker Home textiles launched in 2009.

Tucker's aesthetic is informed in part by her childhood in Montecito (Santa Barbara County). There, she and her friends played at Lotusland (now a botanical garden), and she and her sister were married at the 42-acre estate owned then by industrialist John Bacon and his wife, Eloise (now owned by Oprah Winfrey).

Tucker was also influenced by Taylor, whose voice she still hears in the back of her mind from time to time. From him, she learned the importance of scale and proportion, that color is subjective, that every room needs something old, and something black in it, for weight.

Most important, she said, "every room should be approachable, no matter how fancy or casual. You should feel you can kick off your Jimmy Choo's and sit on the couch, or be in blue jeans."

Among the projects pictured is the apartment home on



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Michal Venera

**Suzanne Tucker:** "Creating the Blend: Passion, Vision and the Collected Interior 1930s." San Francisco Fall Antiques Show, 2:30 p.m. Saturday. Lecture tickets, \$15; general admission \$15. Fort Mason, S.F. [www.sffas.org](http://www.sffas.org).

Washington Street owned by OJ and Gary Shansby, with an inviting blend of antiques, traditional furnishings, souvenirs from Morocco and modern art, all framing views of the San Francisco Bay.

The apartment, the third

residence Tucker has done for the couple, had been featured on the cover of *Architectural Digest* in 1980 when it was decked in chartreuse and red. The Shansbys gutted the place, reconfigured several rooms, and opted for soothing warm neutrals instead.

"She creates these spaces that are not only beautiful but comfortable and livable," said OJ. "You feel you can nestle into the sofas and everything is very cozy."

"There's a fine line between layered and confusing," Tucker says. "People put in a cacophony of prints and colors. It's about a very subtle balance — balancing the textures and the sheen with the matte of something else, a large pattern with a small pattern. It's fun to go to a home that has in-your-face design, but do you want to live with it every day? No. There needs to be balance and harmony."

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