

Personal BEST

A veteran designer takes you inside her most incredible romantic homes.

BY MERYL SCHOENBAUM

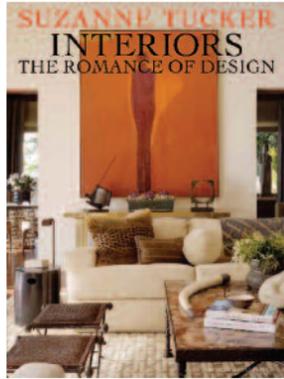
SUZANNE TUCKER WROTE the book on aspirational romantic residences—literally. The renowned interior designer's latest coffee-table tome, *Suzanne Tucker Interiors: The Romance of Design*, is a compilation of her 25 years' work creating elegant and refined yet warm and personal retreats for her firm's clients.

This collection of images from Tucker's extensive portfolio supports her position that the homeowner's lifestyle and dreams should come before a designer's signature style in creating a room's décor.

"When a house is overlaid with one's personal collections—art, furnishings, accessories—it can become an expression of individuality and a vessel for memories, tangible and intangible," she writes. "A house can be a lifelong romance, and we should find ourselves falling in love with our homes over and over again."

In each chapter, Tucker deconstructs the elements that make the featured room special, including the specific materials used to achieve the effect, such as bleached Douglas fir ceilings and an antique Swedish pine clock.





Suzanne Tucker
Interiors: The
Romance of Design
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RECIPES FOR SUCCESS

Suzanne Tucker's best tips on creating your favorite style.

DESIGN LIVES IN THE DETAILS. Develop an eye for the minutia, such as hinges, cabinet pulls and doorknobs, and even sink faucets. Tucker calls them "house jewelry."

SHARE YOUR DREAMS WITH YOUR DESIGNER. If you hire a professional to help you realize your decorating goals, speak freely about what's important to you—not only in the design but in your personal happiness. Let her know about your collections and how you like to spend your free time. Are there certain colors you are attracted to? Do you love to travel? Do you like the look of painted furniture, or do you like to keep it natural? Discussing your personal preferences are integral to the success of the design project.

