



TUCKER TALKS

Interior designer Suzanne Tucker shares some of her design secrets and sources.

Key design influencers in your career?

I would say there were four key influencers. Growing up in Santa Barbara was a great architectural and garden influence; my first “real job” in management at I. Magnin, Beverly Hills, was a great lesson in business and in white glove service; living in London for several years was an extended education in decorating; and ultimately, the biggest was Michael Taylor. And that was all before I was 25 years old!



Design books on your coffee table right now?

My revolving library at the moment: *Emilio Terry, Architecte et décorateur*, *Diana Vreeland Memos: The Vogue Years*, *Luxurious Minimalism Elegant Interiors*, *Fritz von der Schulenburg*, *Tom Scheerer Decorates*, and I keep my girlfriends close—Charlotte Moss and Bunny Williams. I am just wrapping up a book tour for my second book, *Suzanne Tucker Interiors—The Romance of Design*, but I seem to have a never-ending stack of books still to sign.



Recent travel destinations or hotels that have inspired you?

The Villa Feltrinelli on Italy's Lake Garda is magical! Designed by my colleague Pamela Babey of BAMO, it is pure heaven on earth. And I recently completed the third phase of the redesign of Auberge du Soleil in Napa, and staying there is always the best. I worked on the Auberge when Michael Taylor did it, so it has a sentimental place in my heart.

Five key elements to a great room?

1) The right scale and proportion of furniture to the room and to each other. If it looks wrong, it is! 2) Well-thought-out balanced

lighting from tabletop to ceiling. 3) Use color in layers. Even whites have a multitude of shades, and every room needs a touch of black. 4) Something old, something new—no room is complete without a vintage or antique piece. 5) Mix it up—old with new, antique with modern—and never decorate to trends. That's the kiss of death!

Go-to paint colors? Benjamin Moore 918 (White Rock), 191 (Macademia Nut), and HC-33 (Montgomery White).

Describe some of your recent fabrics? I developed *Corsica* for Auberge du Soleil. *Christophe* is a really dreamy, versatile stripe. *Capri* and *Corfu* were both inspired by the Mediterranean Riviera and *Hatley*, named after my daughter, is a bestseller.

In a fire, you'd rescue which three items? Assuming the people in my life don't need rescuing, I would go for my four-legged friends: Rufus, my Abyssinian, my dog Sadie, and old photographs of my father. Beyond that, stuff is stuff and it can all be replaced, although I might grab my Tony Duquette gold frog for good luck!

Some favorite Bay Area design resources and shops? I love the stores on Sacramento Street, especially Sue Fisher King (where I always find the perfect gift), March (a new take on housewares), Anthem (grab a quick accessory), and Hudson Grace. Jay Jeffers' and Michael Purdy's Cavalier on Post Street is chic and delightful. Bell'occhio is where I can find the greatest little treasures. Then there's Lotus Collection for gorgeous antique and vintage textiles, and Gump's (located next door to my office!).

Design mantra? When in doubt, take it out! ♦

