

WILD TIPS FROM "TRADING SPACES" DESIGNER DOUG WILSON

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DECEMBER 2004

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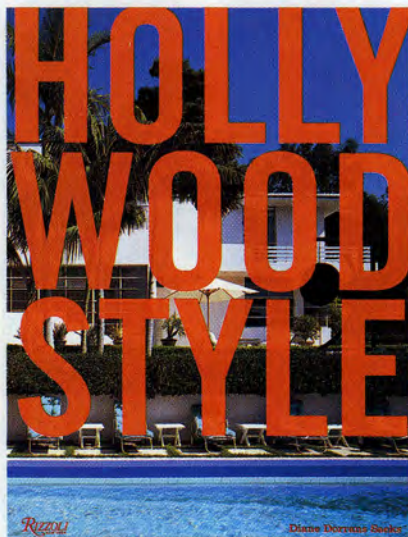


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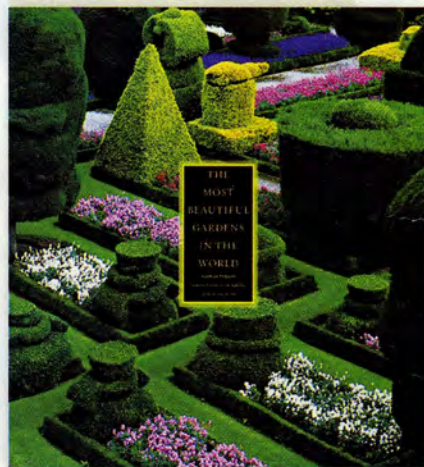
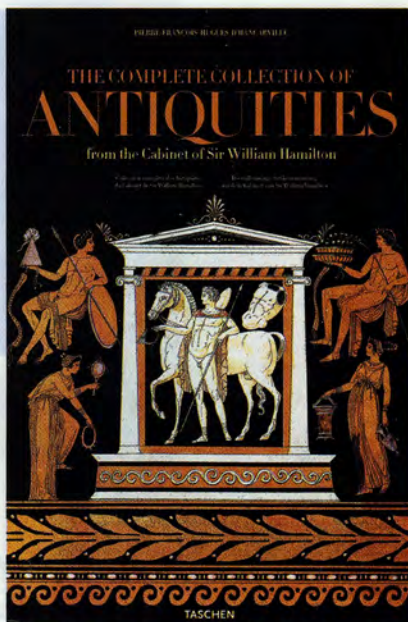
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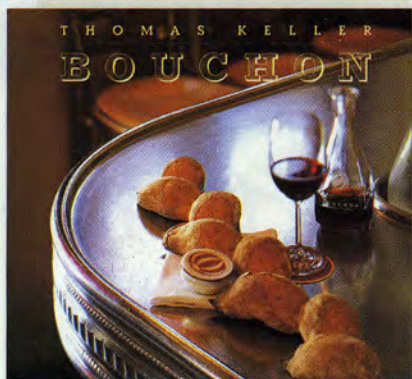


To describe something associated with a storied sliver of California real estate as glamorous is hackneyed. But if you could distill all the glittery, sun-drenched elements of filmdom lore to their essence, the result might look like *Hollywood Style* (Rizzoli, \$50) by Diane Dorrans Saeks. Covering the full range—from the quirky opulence of Tony Duquette's Dawnridge to the otherworldly modernism of John Lautner's Chemosphere—this is a visual bonbon of a book.

As hefty as its title is long-winded, *The Complete Collection of Antiquities from the Cabinet of Sir William Hamilton* (Taschen, \$200) is a reproduction of an 18th-century text originally published by the British envoy to the Bourbon court in Naples. The huge volume is a stunning catalog of Hamilton's collection of classical vases (amassed on expeditions to Pompeii and Herculaneum) rendered in dazzling engravings that helped to spark the Greco-Roman revival of the late 1700s. One look will explain why.

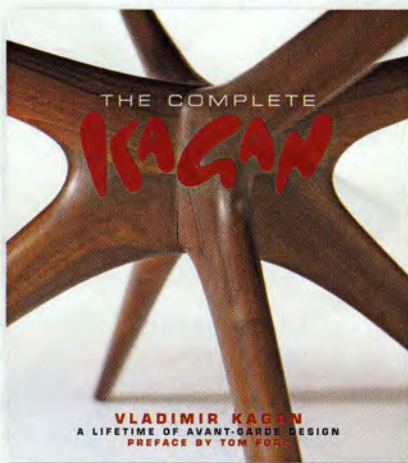


For Alain Le Toquin to title his book *The Most Beautiful Gardens in the World* (Abrams, \$60) seems hyperbolic, but the spaces he includes compose a compelling defense of the claim. While the book's geographical scope is somewhat limited (it skips all of South America), it nevertheless includes sumptuous photographs featuring such lovely patches of green as Bagh-e Shahzdeh in Iran and the Villa Gamberaia in Italy.



Chef Thomas Keller's 1999 cookbook based on the cuisine of his French Laundry restaurant was a lauded success, but his complex, multi-step recipes took hours to prepare—making *Bouchon* (Artisan, \$50), with its simple bistro fare, a welcome acquisition for Keller junkies.

While featured standards like *blanquette de veau* or *tarte au citron* are relatively easy to execute, the methods involved nevertheless retain his perfectionist's precision.



With a career that spans more than 60 years, furniture designer Vladimir Kagan first became known in the 1950s as one of modern design's most prolific proponents. In *The Complete Kagan* (Pointed Leaf, \$65) he draws from his extensive archives to recount a story that begins with his family's escape from Nazi Germany and ends with the resurgent interest in his oeuvre that resulted in commissions from the likes of Giorgio Armani and Tom Ford. ●