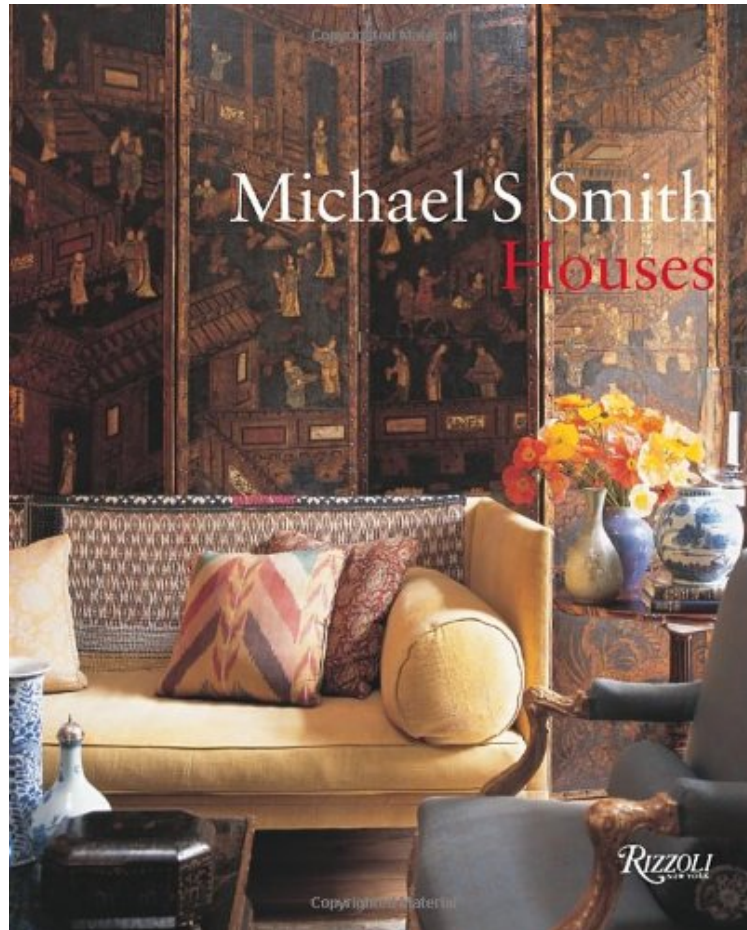


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Michael S. Smith Houses

Michael S. Smith, Christine Pittel
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Michael S. Smith, Christine Pittel : Michael S. Smith Houses before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Michael S. Smith Houses:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. style and ideas. By Julia James As an Interior Designer this book is a must have. I completely enjoyed his explanations and in sites into the creation of his most interesting and wonderful home. Michael Smith's close working relationship with his esteemed architect is such an important part of the success of this project. The reader is entertained from start to finish with gorgeous photography and his ability to reveal with such eloquence his design process, style and ideas. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Big Yawn By Robert R. I really love his work in his other book (The Elements of Style) but here everything's a crashing bore, and the image quality isn't very pretty. I was very surprised to find myself not into it at all while going through the pages and also realizing that not even one room stood out. I also have no interest in looking through this book again, unlike his other book, which I revisit regularly. I'd check it out in a brick and mortar store before buying it -- unless you want a book to put you to sleep before bed. :) 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. This is what happens when

piles of money and talent combine. By Michele S. An excellent second effort from the designer to the super rich. Smith has exquisite taste and clearly a connoisseur's eye. The designer's own written text gives one good insight into the interior designer's inspirations and jumping off points for his interior schemes. The photography is splendid. A must for any design follower who relishes the English country house ideal as freshened by a young American.

Creating your dream house a prospect as exciting as it is daunting. Michael Smith, a favorite among celebrity clientele, reveals the method of his design magic. Offering thoughtful ideas and practical advice, the designer walks the reader through his process, from the gathering of resource material (from magazines and iconic films to something as simple as a shell or a swatch of vintage fabric), expertly pairing simpler and grander elements (or inexpensive with more extravagant objects), perfecting the editing process, to knowing when a room is finished. Detailing the nearly encyclopedic range of styles he culls from to create his signature style, the designer describes recent examples of his work, beginning with a modest and quirkily designed house in Bel Air, Smith redid for himself. Razed, rebuilt, and decorated over the course of five years, the house allowed Smith to experiment and explore ideas freely and the result is a gracious home, as welcoming as it is stylish. In addition to his California residence, twenty other projects are featured, from a New England clapboard to a Malibu villa overlooking the Pacific to a city townhouse. In each, Smith deconstructs the elements which come together to make the ideal home.

"A master of design metaphors, he mixes them in his own inimitable way." ~Veranda "...an impressive collection of the sophisticated and comfortable interiors he is well known for." ~Western Interiors and Design "Gorgeous photos take you into each home, and the elegant writing of House Beautiful's Christine Pittel creates a dialog between the reader and designer. You feel as though you are sitting with him, and he is telling you these stories." ~Stylebeat.com "...shares generous and thoughtful advice on ways to achieve his signature look." ~Florida InsideOut "...book feels like an extended issue of Architectural Digest, and, like that magazine, it leaves you with a mix of envy and desire." ~The Washington Post "[Book] has a soulful edge... And although Smith is known for using high-end fabrics and fine antiques, his interiors are enduring, flexible, and never need to be 'updated.'" So, in a way, there is something frugal and very real about them." ~Style Court Blog About the Author One of Architectural Digest's 100 Top Designers and winner of Elle Decors Designer of the Year Award in 2003, Michael S. Smith is an internationally respected interior designer. He is the author of Michael Smith's Elements of Style. Christine Pittel is a senior editor at House Beautiful magazine. Her writing has also appeared in the New York Times, Town Country, Harper's Bazaar, House Garden, and many other publications.