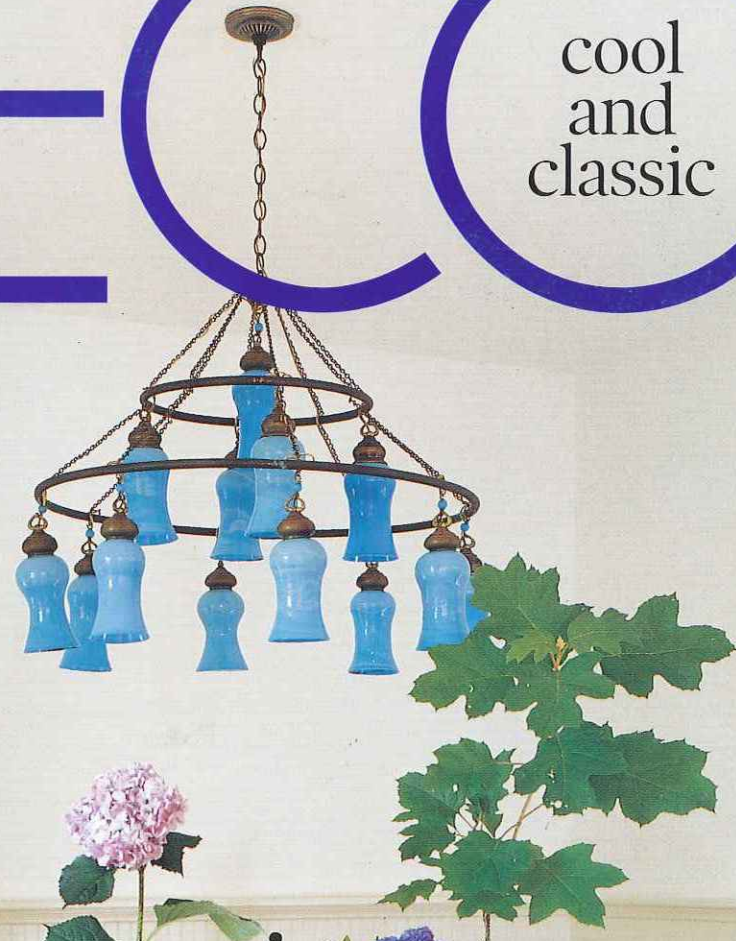


THE DECOR

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Tradition Gets Hip

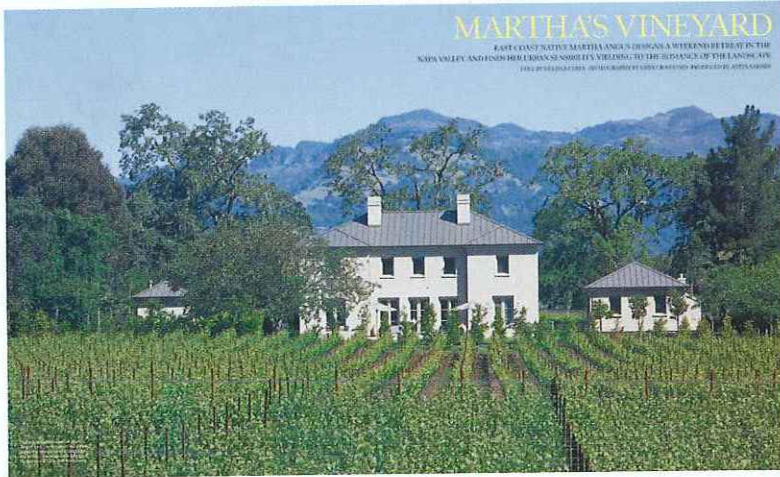
Stylish Family Homes
Dramatic Dining Rooms
Sarah Jessica Parker's
Tropical Retreat



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fresh energy!



OCTOBER 2005



From top: Designer Martha Angus's retreat in the Napa Valley. The July/August cover.

Valley Girl

I was pleasantly surprised to see Martha Angus's Napa Valley house in your July/August issue ("Martha's Vineyard"). I love visiting the wine country, but too often owners in the area strive to make their houses look like something out of Tuscany or Provence. It's all so faux. Angus's approach, mixing casual design details and eclectic furniture, with all that wonderful art, was refreshing.

Erica Goodrich, via e-mail

The Big Picture

Loved your article about Ralph Lauren's Montauk retreat ("Everybody's All-American," July/August). A more recent photograph of Mr. Lauren would have been more appropriate though, don't you think? There is nothing wrong with showing how people actually look. People are like homes: Some just get older, others have perennial style and character. Ralph definitely has accumulated a bit of "patina" over the years—in a terrific way. Please don't be afraid to show him as he really looks!

Barbara Adams, Parker, CO

California Dreaming

Imagine my delight at discovering your beautiful magazine in a waiting room. I was born in Huntington Memorial Hospital (as were both of my children) and lived in or around Pasadena for most of my life, so I was thrilled to see "ELLE DECOR Goes to Pasadena" (July/August). The city has changed a great deal, yet the best of it is blooming better than ever. My memories of school days and many celebrations of weddings and engagement parties at the Ship Room are dear to my heart.

Marlene Benedict, Seattle, WA

Close Encounters

The July/August issue was a real standout. The theme was set by your editor in chief's editorial comment that "the stories that really jump off the page are those that also inform you about the lives that are lived in such fanciful spaces." The feature that jumped off the page for me was "Up Close," showing the home of Chuck and Leslie Close. My brother, like Mr. Close, is now confined to a wheelchair, and he and his wife are about to begin building a new home. What an inspiration to see this delightful, practical, and simple home. Nothing about the house shouts "wheelchair accessible," yet it so clearly meets the couple's needs. It's a creative and marvelous example of universal design at its best. Kudos to all those involved with it!

Pam Oman, Barron, WI

Regarding Leslie Close's sentiment, "We don't need eight bedrooms—I don't understand who does," all I can say is, "Right on!" Her words should become the mantra of the Hamptons' zoning boards and every other resort community that's impinging on the natural world. The Closes prove that less can indeed be enough. Lovely story!

Jane Weston, via e-mail

Under the Influence

When I read "The Art of Display" in the March issue, in which the owners copied numerous pieces of "name" furniture, my instinct was to chuckle as the list went on and on. The whole exercise seemed lacking in imagination. However, I also feel it is disingenuous of Margaret Russell to state in her "Editor's Page" (June) that editors don't "censor what is relayed in an interview." (What else do they do?) I was left wondering if sister publication ELLE would run a photograph of a model in head-to-toe H&M or Zara, even if the designs pay homage to Chanel. I think not.

Catherine Gildor, via e-mail

Looking Back

ELLE DECOR is my favorite home-decor magazine. I have stacks of old copies, which I continue to take out and revisit. The only things that I ever find outdated in those back issues are the appliance ads. I love your timeless sense of personal style and, of course, all the fabulous interiors!

Amanda Dumas-Hernandez, via e-mail

Send Mailbox your letters—but keep them short and to the point (we reserve the right to edit for length and style). The address: Mailbox, ELLE DECOR, 1633 Broadway, 41st floor, New York, NY 10019; e-mail: ELLEDECOR@hfmus.com. For subscription problems, call 850-682-7654 or e-mail elledecor@neodata.com. Please include your mailing address and all pertinent information in your e-mail.