

SEPTEMBER 2019

AERIN LAUDER • ANNA SUI NICK FOUQUET • VERSACE • JOAN SMALLS JASON WU • NORMA KAMALI • NEIL BARRETT GHERARDO FELLONI • WES GORDON

PLUS: A DIGITAL QUEEN'S COUNTRY CASTLE

September 2019

CONTENTS

FEATURES

78 LA VIE EN LAUDER

At her never-before-seen soigné family apartment, where every window faces the Eiffel Tower, *ED* gets an exclusive look at Aerin Lauder in the City of Light. BY **DANA THOMAS** DESIGNER **ANTOINE STINCO**

90 GRAND AMBITIONS

In the process of decorating her Millbrook, New York,

home, fashion's digital queen learned to indulge her passion for prints. BY JOYANN KING DESIGNERS GREGORY SHANO AND SELINA VAN DER GEEST

98 BIENVENIDOS A MIAMI

Puerto Rican supermodel Joan Smalls turns to RH, Restoration Hardware Interior Design to craft a beachy Miami aerie. BY MARC KARIMZADEH DESIGNER RH, RESTORATION HARDWARE INTERIOR DESIGN

102 C'MON A MY HOUSE

Versace's legendary Milan palazzo is transformed into a fluorescent showcase for the brand's fanciful home line. BY **CHARLES CURKIN** DESIGNER **SASHA BIKOFF**

108 SUI GENERIS

In her Greenwich Village apartment, fashion designer Anna Sui has made a home that is deeply and authentically her own. BY VANESSA LAWRENCE DESIGNER ANNA SUI

116 SHAWL IN THE FAMILY

When John Singer Sargent's great-niece, textile expert Jenny Housego, aims to re-create the legendary scarf in his paintings, her journey takes her from England to the heart of India's Kashmir.

BY WILLIAM MIDDLETON

120 GRAPHIC NOVEL

Neil Barrett's Milan apartment is a study in chiaroscuro. BY **IAN PHILLIPS** DESIGNER **NEIL BARRETT**

126 LOST IN YONKERS

A century after a New York lawyer set out to create a garden to rival Rockefeller's, the once derelict Untermyer Gardens is finally being restored to its former glory. BY MARGARET ROACH DESIGNER STEPHEN F. BYRNS

130 RESOURCES

132 NOT FOR SALE

A bespoke pair of heels are brought to life using a wallcovering by Lori Weitzner





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Is it time to upgrade your living room sofa? Consider this Sulley Comfort Sleeper sofa by American Leather, upholstered in a Sunbrella performance fabric with a queen-size gel mattress hidden within. One lucky winner will receive this sofa via white-glove delivery an \$8,200+ value. See page 130 for sweepstakes rules, and visit comfortsleeper.elledecor.com for your chance to win.



ON THE COVER

Aerin Lauder, wearing Valentino, in the living room of her family's Paris apartment, which was designed by French architect Antoine Stinco. PHOTOGRAPH BY **PASCAL CHEVALLIER**

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EDITOR'S LETTER



Fashion Lives Here

ACH SEPTEMBER, THE STYLE WORLD DESCENDS ON New York, London, Milan, and Paris for fashion month. Despite the changing retail landscape, runway shows remain one of the most important ways for luxury brands to communicate their stories. The late Karl Lagerfeld understood the power of this messaging: Just look at the fantastical backdrops he created for Chanel at Paris's Grand Palais—a tradition that continues with his successor, Virginie Viard, who showed the fall/ winter couture show inside a three-story circular library set resembling the British Museum's original Reading Room. Meanwhile, Louis Vuitton unveiled its cruise 2020 show inside an architectural treasure: Eero Saarinen's TWA Flight Center at John F. Kennedy International Airport (now a hotel), and Fendi set its last couture show amid the ruins of Rome's Colosseum. The clothes, too, grow ever more decorative, with patterns-botanicals at Oscar de la Renta and Mary Katrantzou; Venetian marbleized prints at Rosie Assoulin—that wouldn't be out of place in your living room. If the connection between fashion and the home weren't already clear, Dior's Maria Grazia Chiuri made it explicit when, inspired by the late architect Bernard Rudofsky, she created a dress shaped like a Parisian maison particulier. This cross-pollination of design and fashion is why putting

together our annual fashion issue is such a joy. The issue starts with a cover exclusive: Aerin Lauder's never-beforeseen family residence in Paris. (And yes, every room in the sycamore-lined space faces the Eiffel Tower.) We also visit the divine Anna Sui, who has coolly defined New York's sartorial landscape for nearly 40 years, at her exuberant Greenwich Village pad. Jason Wu shows us that in addition to designing gowns for Michelle Obama, he is just as talented at conjuring chic furniture. On the world stage, there's an Italian-Roger Vivier's Gherardo Felloni-in Paris, and an Englishman—fashion designer Neil Barrett—in Milan. Finally, we tracked down Los Angeles milliner Nick Fouquet, my former high-school buddy, whose hats are worn by Diane Keaton and Lenny Kravitz. We are starting a new print and digital series with Fouquet on the renovation of his 1970s geodesic-dome house in Topanga Canyon. When I visit, I'll be sporting my favorite beaver-felt Fouquet cap. You might say we've both come full circle. ■

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Whitney Robinson, Editor in Chief elledecor@hearst.com Follow me on Instagram: @whowhatwhit





BENVENIDOS AMAMI

PUERTO RICAN SUPERMODEL **JOAN SMALLS** TURNS TO RH, RESTORATION HARDWARE INTERIOR DESIGN TO CREATE A BEACHY VIBE IN HER MIAMI AERIE. BY MARC KARIMZADEH PHOTOGRAPHS BY VICTOR DEMARCHELIER STYLED BY LILI ABIR REGEN WARDROBE STYLED BY ERIC MCNEAL





OAN SMALLS'S DECORATING EUREKA MOMENT CAME AT A fashionable dinner party. The supermodel was seated next to designer Jeremy Scott, whose clothes for both Moschino and his own eponymous label are known for their color and camp. "I asked him, 'Is your place decorated in the same style?" Smalls recalls. "And he said, 'Absolutely not. It's extremely white and clean.' You wouldn't expect it from him, but I can understand why. He wants that contrast between what you do and how you live, which I love."

With that in mind, Smalls had a clear idea of how she wanted her new Miami vacation condo to feel: breezy, cool, and comfortable—the opposite of her peripatetic lifestyle, which has her jetting from her home in New York to fashion

weeks in Milan and Paris and other far-flung destinations. To bring this vision to life, she turned to RH, Restoration Hardware's Interior Design concierge-level services. Its team of designers takes a holistic approach to design, consulting on everything from colors to wall treatments, antiques, and objets d'art. Smalls was already a fan of RH's aesthetic, having decorated her New York apartment with the company's furnishings.

For her two-bedroom apartment, which she purchased in Miami's downtown Brickell neighborhood in January, Smalls chose a palette that included cool grays and warm whites for an airy, seaside feel; black detailing for a touch of drama; and lush greens that nod to the tropical





environs. She also combed RH, Restoration Hardware's website for inspiration and shared screenshots of the items that best spoke to her. The designer came back with mood boards featuring a curated mix. "A lot of the time, my eye is drawn to more masculine shapes in furniture and not soft and delicate ones," Smalls says. "The colors balance it all out."

The end result is a space that is rich in texture and designed for lounging and entertaining. The rooms feature designs by Milo Baughman, Jonathan Browning, and Kelly Hoppen, among others, and plenty of luxe yet earthy materials—think cashmere, linen, and mohair velvets as well as natural agate, shagreen, and quartz crystal. "It felt like when you walk into a hotel room and think, I love how this space makes me feel," Smalls says of the moment she first saw the completed project. "It is such an escape."

She now plans to throw dinner parties for friends, including her model BFFs Candice Swanepoel and Doutzen Kroes, with everyone gathered around the kitchen—or, as she calls it, "the heart of the home." She will prepare pasta or a favorite dish from her native Puerto Rico, such as *habichuelas guisadas* (red rice and beans). And when the final guests have said their goodbyes, Smalls can retreat into the master bedroom, which features her favorite piece in the entire apartment: RH, Restoration Hardware's polished-nickel Ravelle round chandelier. "I always wanted a chandelier above my bed," she gushes. "To me, it's like a fairy tale."

