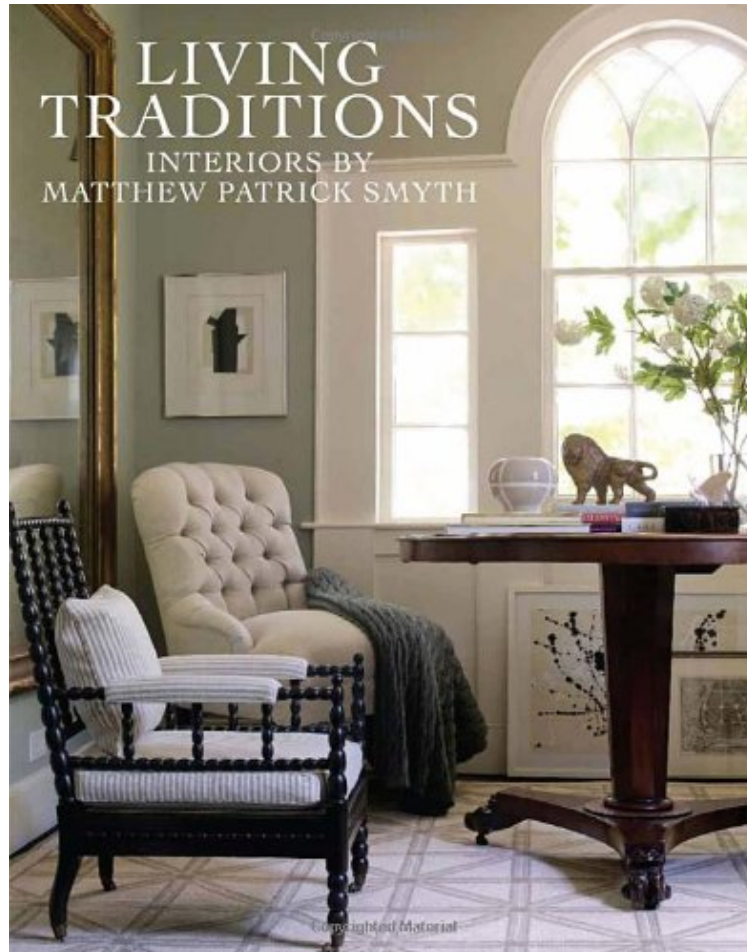


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Matthew Patrick Smyth : Living Traditions: Interiors by Matthew Patrick Smyth before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Living Traditions: Interiors by Matthew Patrick Smyth:

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Refreshing the ClassicsBy Melinda PappMatthew Smyth's book offers creative rebuttal to the notion "there is nothing new under the sun" !His work offers a refreshing take on the classics. He brings a new look to the traditional while maintaining both comfort and function. It makes for interesting reading as he reveals his sensible and sensitive points of view while the excellent photos prove a rich study of what makes something timeless. "Living traditions" makes the old young again !3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful!By mrgThis is an absolutely beautiful book. The designer, Matthew Smyth, uses rich fabrics and the juxtaposition of interesting collections in an unparalleled way. His luxurious treatment of the classic and traditional is evident throughout but his treatment of ultramodern collections are equally flawless.11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. I love this book!By Annie KellyMatthew Patrick Smyth is one of the finest traditional

decorators in America, and much can be learned from this new book. His interiors radiate calm and comfort, and are full of carefully thought-out details, which include russet-red moss fringing on a beige suede sofa, wall-to-wall framed antique prints of 18th-century Paris in place of wallpaper, and the quiet glamor of armchairs upholstered in pleated silk. As befits a fabric designer (Smyth sells a range of his fabrics at F. Schumacher,) he uses color and texture in many different ways-- the book ranges from elegant townhouses in New York, to his own Connecticut Colonial house in Sharon, and showcases one of my favorites- a wonderfully grand apartment in London that you may recall seeing on the cover of a recent issue of Elle Decor magazine. In his easy-to-read introduction Smyth tells of his start as a decorator, "The reality of working as a designer came as a shock. I discovered that I would only be devoted to actual design 10 percent of the time. The rest, the hard and important part, was detail--running around, problem solving, organizing on a massive scale with military precision." Living Traditions comes with all the benefit of Smyth's years of experience, and he writes, " Design is a set of relationships, of interactions among objects, colors, patterns, materials, and light--all with definite parameters. Through point and counterpoint, I strive for balance. Balance is everything." This fairly sums up this gracious book, as page after page features Smyth's elegant decorating, where every seat is comfortable, and nothing ever looks out of place.

Classic style and impeccable attention to detail are hallmarks of the work of interior designer Matthew Patrick Smyth. His comfortable, timeless rooms are tailored to fit his clients' personalities and lifestyles, whether they are dynamic young couples with children or cultured art collectors. Smyth masterfully blends contemporary pieces with antiques to endow each space with a sense of solidity and history while maintaining a completely fresh, modern sensibility. Smyth credits his mentor David Easton for teaching him how to see the intrinsic value of any given piece and to successfully mix furnishings with similar lines, materials, and forms even when they are products of different centuries. Easton also embedded in Smyth a love for travel—leading to the designer's devotion to all things French that permeates his work. Smyth opened his own firm in New York in 1987 and now works with clients around the globe. His designs—characterized by refined, flawless interior architecture—are seen in grand Shelter Island mansions, classically proportioned San Francisco townhouses, and demure Parisian pied-à-terres alike. In this lavishly illustrated volume, Smyth reveals his own design tips, rules, and approaches to meeting challenges offered by uniquely shaped spaces. He focuses on editing collections to better showcase individual works, the personal nature of color selection, adding—or restoring—historical references, and finishing a space off with glorious, often unexpected fabrics and trims. Over two hundred color photographs showcase a wide variety of styles, from a nature-infused Aspen vacation home to the quintessential Upper East Side apartment to a London flat that smoothly blends its owner's inherited collection of Renaissance art with fine Indian pieces.

"Living Traditions: Interiors by Matthew Patrick Smyth (\$50, The Monacelli Press) finally launched last week, and I have to say, it was a long time coming. Ever since Matthew started his practice, in 1987, he has been urged by his friends and clients like Gloria Vanderbilt to do a book of his own designs. But Matthew is that rare bird in the design business: a true gentleman with virtually no ego. His work is elegant and understated, and he always leaves enough room for his client's tastes to shine through." —Wendy Goodman, New York Magazine
About the Author Matthew Patrick Smyth opened his eponymous interior design firm in New York City in 1987, after working with David Easton for many years. He designs a collection of fabrics for F. Schumacher and a line of rugs for Patterson, Flynn Martin. His work is featured regularly in Elle Decor, House Beautiful, House Garden, Traditional Home, and the New York Times.