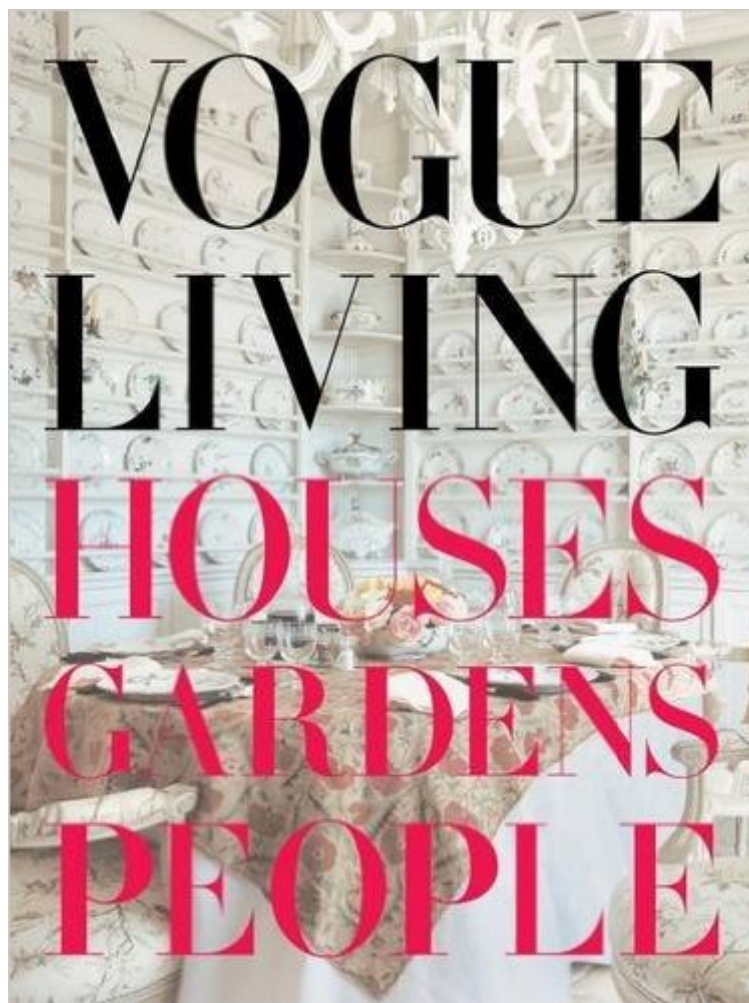


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Vogue Living: Houses, Gardens, People



Synopsis

This unique book of thirty-six spectacular houses and gardens "whose owners come from the worlds of fashion, music, art, and society" draws not only on stories that have appeared in the pages of Vogue and Vogue Living over the past two decades but also on images that have never before been published. Vogue Living: Houses, Gardens, People takes you to these style-makers' private realms around the world, captured by such celebrated photographers as Miles Aldridge, Cecil Beaton, Jonathan Becker, Eric Boman, Oberto Gili, François Halard, Horst P. Horst, Annie Leibovitz, Sheila Metzner, Mario Testino, Tim Walker, and Bruce Weber, among many others. Their dazzling photographs bring to life interiors and exteriors, modern and classical, that are both inspiring and transporting. Writers like Hamish Bowles, Joan Juliet Buck, Dodie Kazanjian, Eve MacSweeney, Julia Reed, Marina Rust, and Vicki Woods take us behind the scenes to give us an intimate view of the owners and how they live. Here are Madonna's romantic rural retreat in the depths of the English countryside and the Oscar de la Renta's coral-stone Palladian mansion on the coast of the Dominican Republic; Michael and Eva Chow's epic Los Angeles manse and shoe maestro Christian Louboutin's magical houseboat on the Nile; Donna Karan's Zenlike Manhattan aerie and legendary tastemaker Marella Agnelli's enchanted villa and gardens in the Palmeraie of Marrakesh; Julian and Olatz Schnabel's operatic downtown loft and childrenswear designer Rachel Riley's miniature chateau on the Loire; celebrated landscape gardener Fernando Caruncho's innovative Spanish gardens and Houghton, David Cholmondeley's magnificent English stately home; Janet de Botton's idyllic Provençal estate; and four decades of Karl Lagerfeld's endlessly surprising houses, both innovative and palatial. Lavishly illustrated in full color, Vogue Living: Houses, Gardens, People is an irresistible voyage through some of the world's most beautiful and private gardens and interiors.

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Customer Reviews

There is no disputing that this is a sumptuous volume. Lavishly produced, its oversized 384 pages are crammed with images of exquisite rooms and lush gardens from 36 unique homes, owned by the rich and/or famous in Europe, America and North Africa and into the likes of which you and I will never set foot. (Which is the reason, thankfully, such books are produced and why we lesser mortals buy them.) There are rooms modern and rooms classic, arranged with the taste, elegance and restraint of the world's best decorators and captured by the world's greatest photographers. And yet the rooms are not museum pieces, but are demonstrably inhabited by their owners, their well-scrubbed children and their adorable dogs, such as the greyhound on page 317 filching a piece of cheese from the dinner table. My favourite room which is featured on the front jacket cover is of Janet de Botton's breakfast room in Provence, its French chateau décor a study in white, cream and faded pastel, the background, literally a wall of china - floral motified white plates and platters displayed on white-painted, floor-to-ceiling wooden plate racks built into the walls. (Already I've been measuring my walls to see how I can incorporate something similar - though less vast - into my old house). At the opposite end of the décor spectrum is Amanda Brooks NYC loft, all kitsch and brash eye-popping colour like a Barbie Doll house with Brooks herself photographed in a Barbie Doll style gown in a Barbie Doll pose. (It's not to my personal taste but cleverly done & I had to look twice to be sure the figure lying stiffly across the bed wasn't a mannequin).

Flash review: The perfect gift book for this season. This new book, timed for Xmas giving, features a selection of the best homes shown in Vogue in the past several years. It is a large-scale book, filled with wonderful color photography. Although Elle Decor and Architectural Digest have come out with similar books this season, neither can hold a candle to Vogue's tome. If you are familiar with the 1968 publication, "Vogue's Book of Houses, Gardens, People", which now sells for \$400 and up if you can find it, you will know what is in store for you. Maximum emphasis on homes you would love to see in person, owned by people of impeccable style: Janet de Botton in the south of France, Marella Agnelli in Marrakech, David Cholmondeley's stately, etc.; minimal number of celebrity digs done by decorators of questionable taste which you tend to see in Architectural Digest. The style

and taste of the featured houses, gardens (and, yes, people) are on an entirely different plane than those shown in the new books by the other two lifestyle magazines. July 2010 Follow up review: Just how tight is the upper class of England? On page 312 we meet the Hanbury girls, mom looking beautiful and daughters Marina, 21 at the time the story was originally done in 2003, and Rosie, then 19, obviously both gorgeous, as they gambol about their lovely Devon estate. Now, in the June 2010 issue of Tatler, we read about the marriage several years ago of Rosie Hanbury, at age 25, to David, Marquess of Cholmondeley, 49, who was discussed on page 358 of the book as the owner of Houghton Hall. You may remember that name from the Treasure Houses of Britain exhibit. He is one of the wealthiest men in England, an intimate of the Queen, and Rosie has now given him two sons.

The styles in this book are so varied - from super modern, 70's super expensive tacky, Classic, English to Moroccan rustic to Lagerfeld who is a class of opulence all by himself. I read it cover to cover and admit I was disappointed in the focus on name dropping and was left wanting for more intimate details about the homeowners lives and more pictures of the rooms and spaces that the author talked about. Coppola's study on page 110 and 111 is a disaster area, she should be embarrassed but I guess perhaps the madness of the success of "the virgin suicides" (never heard of it) makes it ok to live like a slob, or perhaps it is considered artistic??? I loved the little glimmer I got into Janet de Botton's world and loved the bit about her guest book, "It's delightful, it's delicious, It's de South of France, it's de paradise, It's de Botton, it's de-best, it's de-luxe, it's de-lovely..." I wish there was more of this sort of personal touch throughout the book and less about who's who in the world of who ness.... The other thing that bothered me just a little, where the huge gilded spaces with nothing more than a table and chairs in them - it seemed so wasteful and empty on all kinds of levels... I would have rather seen a picture of these spacious gilded rooms full of people dancing in long gowns - beautiful ladies and debonaire gentlemen, but perhaps the people that own all these huge properties are so busy working and traveling that they just use these houses as momentary pit stops.

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