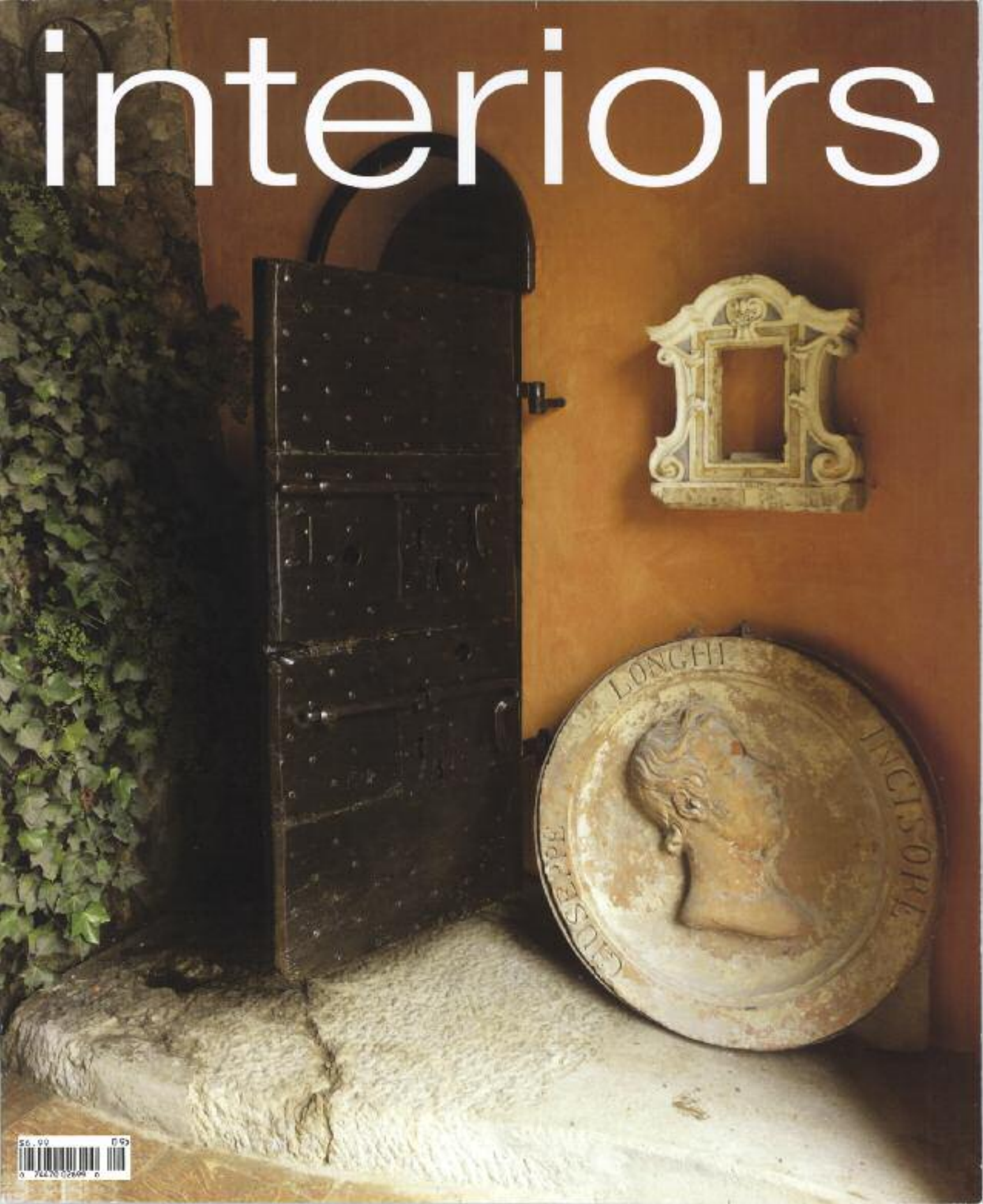


interiors







THROUGH A LENS SOFTLY

With the precision of a director's eye
Lynne Scalo's cinematic vision is about the solace of escape

text: Nancy Ruhling photos: Philip Ennis









LADIES AND GENTLEMEN—KINDLY TAKE YOUR SEATS. For your pleasure allow us to present Lynne Scalo's delightfully designed residence that achieves an exquisite balance between the practical and posh.

The scene: A Normandy style manor in the heart of Greenwich, Connecticut, home to a former Manhattan couple and their elementary school-age twin daughters.

Shot one: Twins in pale pink tutus playing a duet on the baby grand and toe dancing on the zebra skin rug.

Shot two: Father in his photo lab printing his latest striking shots.

Shot three: Mother, in the living room with her feet warming by the fire, stealing two seconds to read a chapter of a best-selling novel.

These are the stills from interior designer Lynne Scalo's latest picture. "I approach every project as if it were a movie," says the Westport-based interior designer. "I study how the owners use the house and create visual snapshots that reflect back to them serenity and beauty. I click, click, click on the images to create a point of view that shows how they experience the space. And then I edit it to suit their lifestyle."

An Oscar-worthy production, Scalo's montage blends classic lines with the subtle shine of antiques from France and Italy to create a space for elegant and easy living. For Scalo, there's no need to rely on the gimmicks of a blockbuster. "It's pleasing enough to satisfy the parents, who enjoy the ease and natural beauty of Hamptons' style but also feel drawn to the metropolitan inspiration that comes from working in Manhattan," says Scalo. "They love to travel but rarely have the time, so they trust me to bring them back things they'll love."





PHOTO: JACQUES + JACQUES





In the spirit of legendary Hollywood-style transformation, Scalo created a universe where each shape, texture and surface align to create gentle movement throughout the home. But as Scalo knows, real glamour isn't attained until there is something almost entirely unobtainable on display to entice. Enter Alfred Eisenstaedt, Eugene Smith, Roman Vishniac and Margaret Bourke-White: legendary photographers whose gritty, black and white prints insert instant urban chic.

Classic pieces like the Georgian-style buffet and Venetian mirror complement the Atlantic-inspired shimmering blue-grey palette the wife, her leading lady, requested. "These are pieces the eye will never get tired of looking at because they are beautifully proportioned. Both the eye and the soul resonate." The former Manhattanites agree. "We always feel completely comfortable, not only because the interior is soothing but because it's classically beautiful without being stuffy. Our home stands the test of time; it won't look dated when a new color trend hits," say the owners.

"I used a lot of luxurious fabrications that give texture and depth," Scalo continues. The little Bombay chest in the living room is outfitted in real lizard skin, and its cousin—a book table in the master bedroom—is flamboyantly adorned in charcoal shagreen. And in the master bath, an oversized comfy chair, covered in fluffy white beach-towel terry cloth, offers the familiar embrace of a much-loved robe. A tufted headboard bejeweled with shiny silver finery recalls Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers' days of puttin' on the ritz.









An equally delicious tension between the sophisticated and soft radiates from textural walkcoverings. Light-reflecting cerulean grey silk grasscloth, in the monumental foyer and billowing silk draperies offer a striking contrast to the sisal carpeting and leather-upholstered furniture, a strategy that makes even the most imposing rooms as inviting as a day in May.

But don't be fooled by the shimmer, Scalo made sure that there would be no unnecessary drama. No harm will befall the petrified wood table in the living room, which the parents see as end tables and the twins see as the best seats in the house. "The rooms are designed to put your feet up on the coffee table, and people actually do," Scalo says. "The wife tells me that she virtually lives in the living room and feels free to put her feet up on the faux-limestone lacquered coffee table I purchased in London." Moroccan mirrors and French crystal chandeliers sit comfortably next to much-loved overstuffed club chairs and stark-white linen chairs.

A bibliophile's dream, the master bedroom proudly displays the couple's overabundance and love of art, photography and design volumes. In honor of the girls, Scalo "twinned" piles of books on each side of the stone fireplace, where they read as sculpture.

The closing credits? "Well," says Scalo, "they, like the home, belong to the owners and their twins, who are living *It's a Wonderful Life* to the fullest" ■ Lynne Scalo, Lynne Scalo Design, 23 Jessup Road, Westport, CT 203.222.4991

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