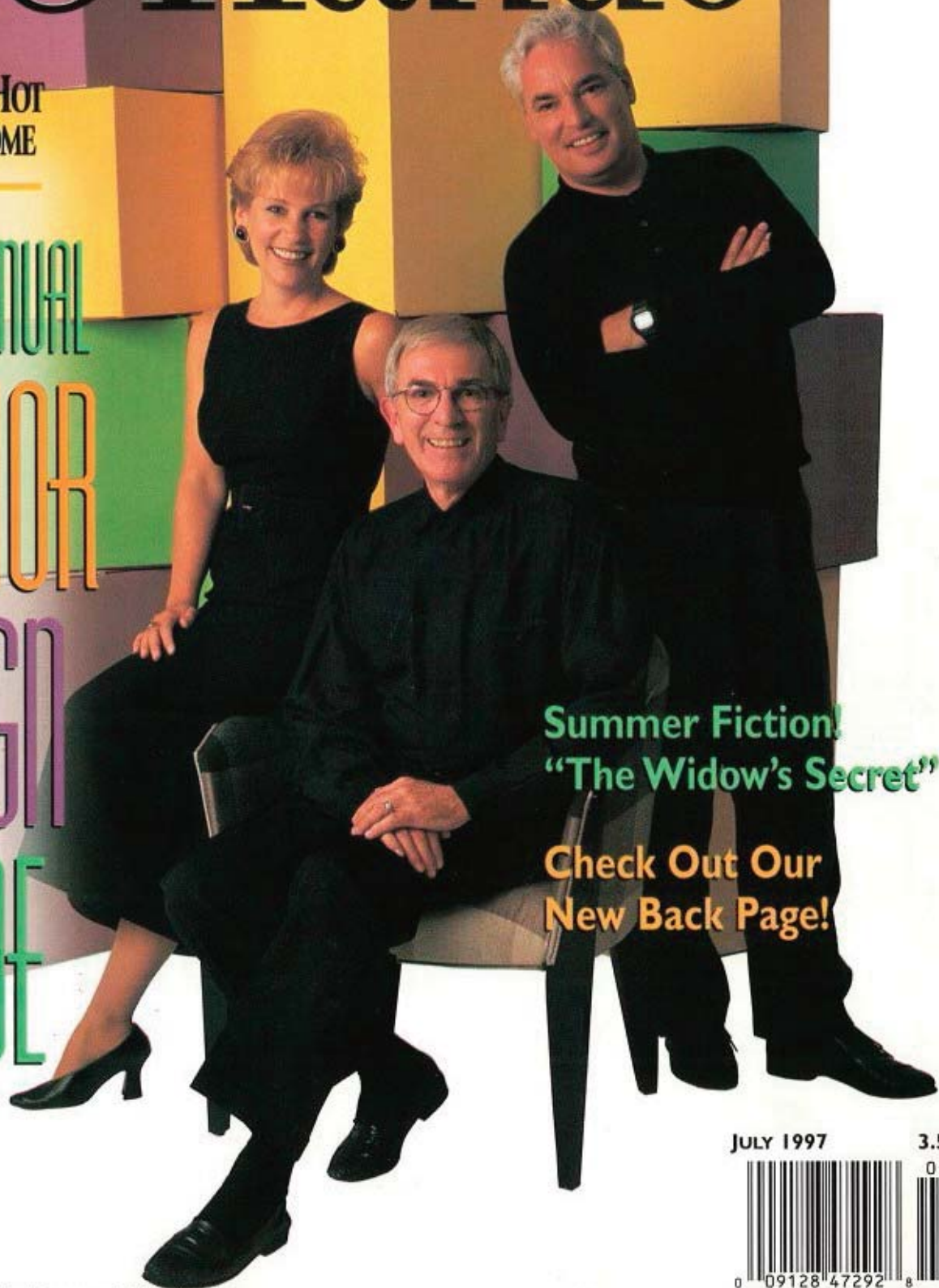


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Local designers Pam Niemann, Olen Earnest and Jeffrey Smith

DOMESTIC BLISS

BY DENISE BATES KATHERER

As we stand on the precipice of the next millenium, interior design is taking a sentimental look back—embracing the charm and grace of days gone by—while preparing simultaneously for a brave new world.

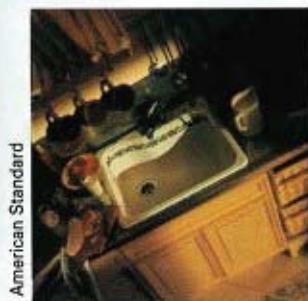
Today's interior design styles draw inspiration from an eclectic brew of eras, themes and moods. The cool chromes of the '60s stand side-by-side with the refined elegance of the Victorian age. Rich brocades and crisp cottons are paired with rattan, wicker and leather. Diverse themes are finding a place in a single piece; Colonial West Indies influences merge with the clean, spare silhouettes of Shaker style.

As Orlandoans continue to retreat to their homes in search of solace and solitude, interior design continues to shed the wretched excesses of the past in favor of simplistic, inviting com-

fort. Rooms are made to be used, not viewed; enjoyed, not evaluated.

On the following pages of the First Annual Interior Design Guide, see what three local designers have to say about the sophisticated, hip, cutting-edge trends in interior design. Jeffrey L. Smith

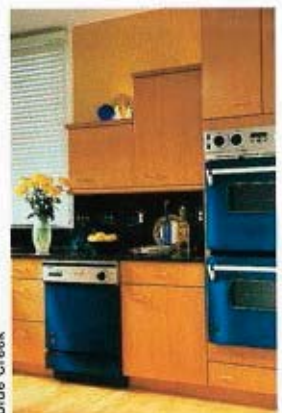
(left) and Olen J. Earnest (right) of Smith Earnest Interiors Inc.—who designed home interiors for Tiger Woods and Boston Celtic Dee Brown—and Winter Park's Pam Niemann of Niemann Interiors—who's designed the homes of NFL free agent John Williams and several high-level CEOs in town—invite you to peruse the creature comforts that best reflect today's signature styles. So get comfy, dig in—and enjoy. **CM**



American Standard



Ethan Allen



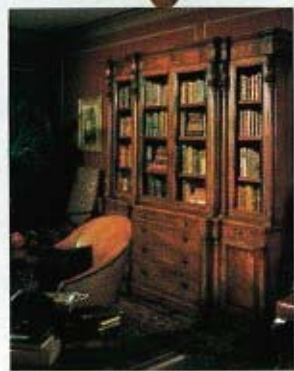
Blue Creek



Ethan Allen



MacKenzie-Childs



Ralph Lauren

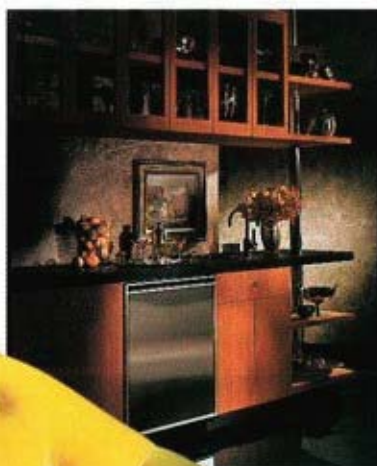
THE ROOM FOR LIVING



COMPLEMENTING CONTRASTS: Plush floral cushions framed by wicker combine to create textural interest in Lexington's chair and ottoman ensemble.

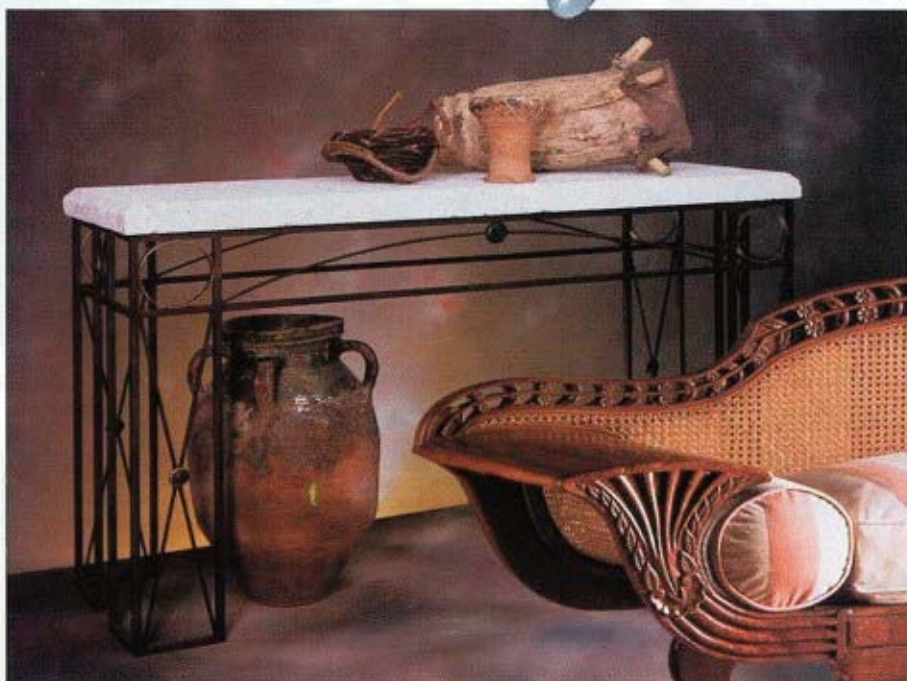
BAR NONE:

Sub-Zero's efficiently designed cold storage unit puts on the big chill.



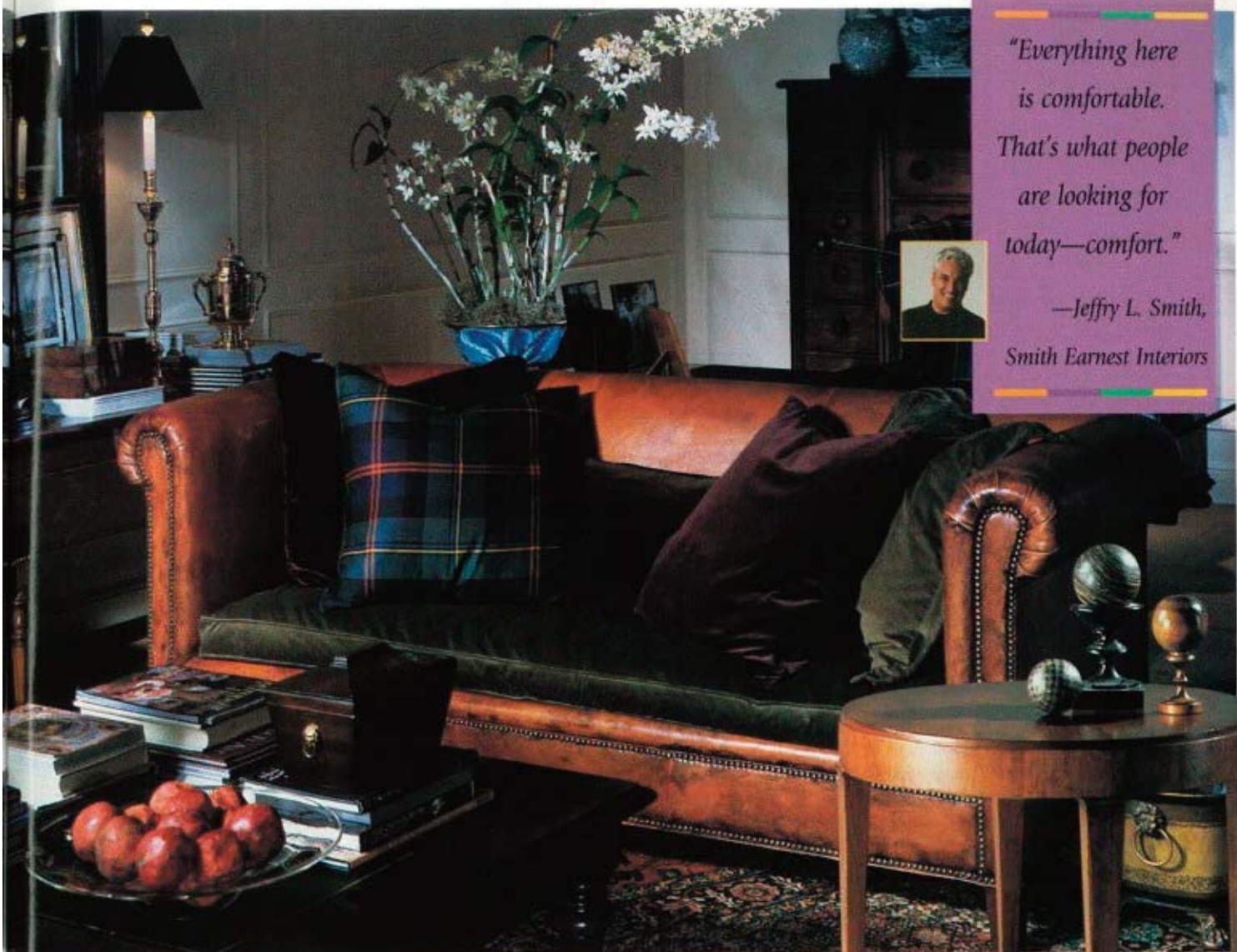
BACK TO THE FUTURE:

Paying homage to the Space Age with bold chrome feet and voluptuous shape, this Urbana chair is ready for the 21st century.



FLORIDA FLAVOR: Borrowing basic elements from nature—Florida coral stone, malachite medallion insets and hand-forged iron—interior and furniture designer Phil Carpenter orchestrates striking occasional pieces.





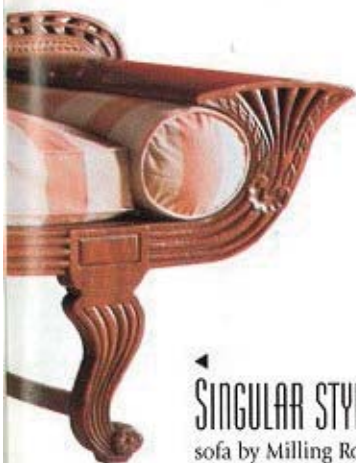
"Everything here is comfortable. That's what people are looking for today—comfort."



*—Jeffrey L. Smith,
Smith Earnest Interiors*

DISTRESSED TO IMPRESS: Springing from its old-world chesterfield roots, this weathered leather piece by Ferguson-Copeland looks ahead to today's trend of comfortably broken-in fabrics.

WELL-ROUNDED: Milling Road's streamlined shape and understated elegance come to life in cherry.



THE ESPRESSO ROUTE: The simple, single coffee table of old is replaced with a pair of Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired wood and metal tables that mirror the sofa's crisp angles; all by Milling Road.

SINGULAR STYLE: This sophisticated sofa by Milling Road incorporates an Anglo-West Indies interpretation of an Empire settee with Regency accents.



KITCHEN BASICS

BRIGHT IDEAS:

Warm wood and cool metal mesh to create an illuminating look for this Ethan Allen chandelier.



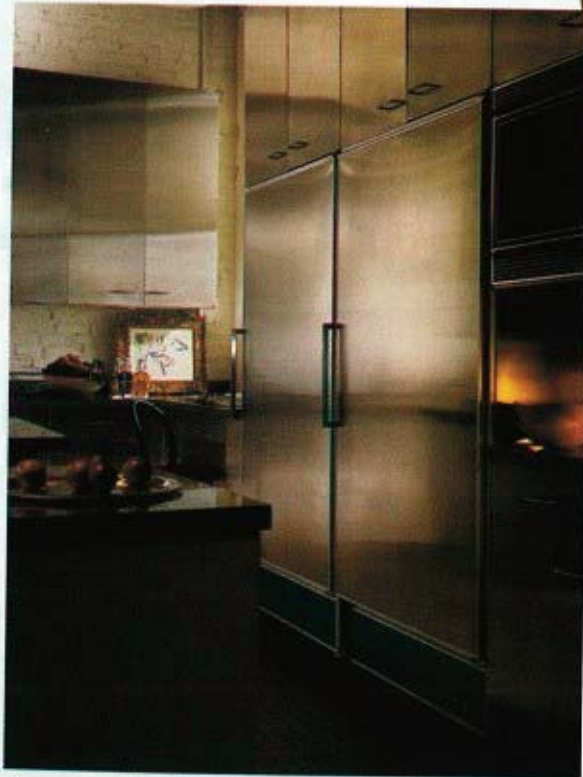
LET THERE BE LIGHT:
MacKenzie-Childs' bright, hand-painted pottery candlesticks are made for mixing and matching.



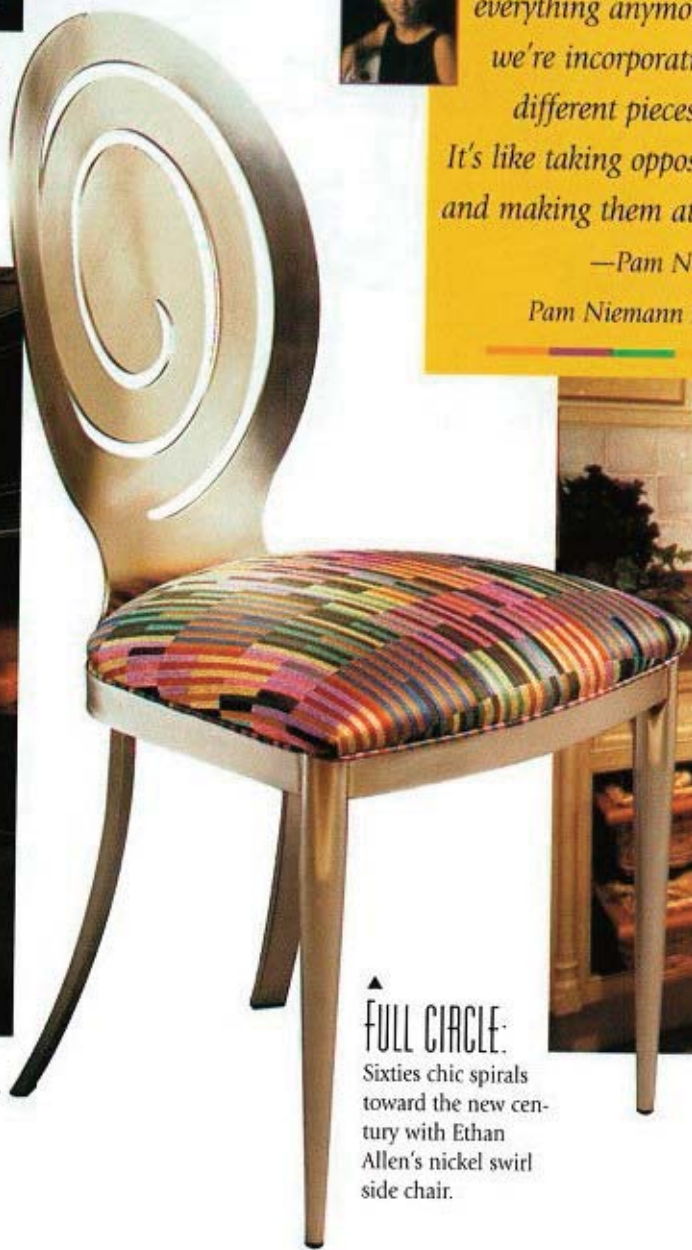
BRAVE LITTLE TOASTER:
Sporting a racy Machine Age facade, this Williams-Sonoma toaster adds zip to the staff of life.



"We're not matching everything anymore—we're incorporating different pieces. It's like taking opposites—and making them attract."
—Pam Niemann,
Pam Niemann Interiors



B-BABY, IT'S COLD IN THERE: Sub-Zero's cool interior is concealed behind sleek, brushed stainless steel doors.



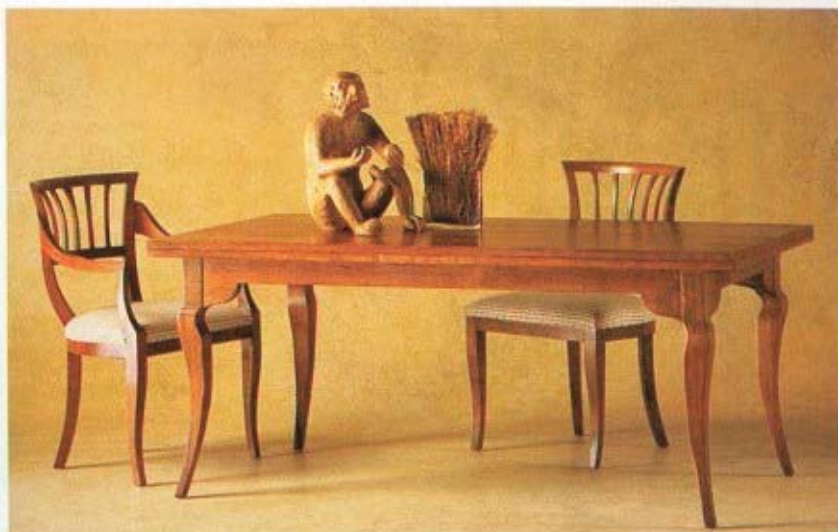
▲ FULL CIRCLE:

Sixties chic spirals toward the new century with Ethan Allen's nickel swirl side chair.

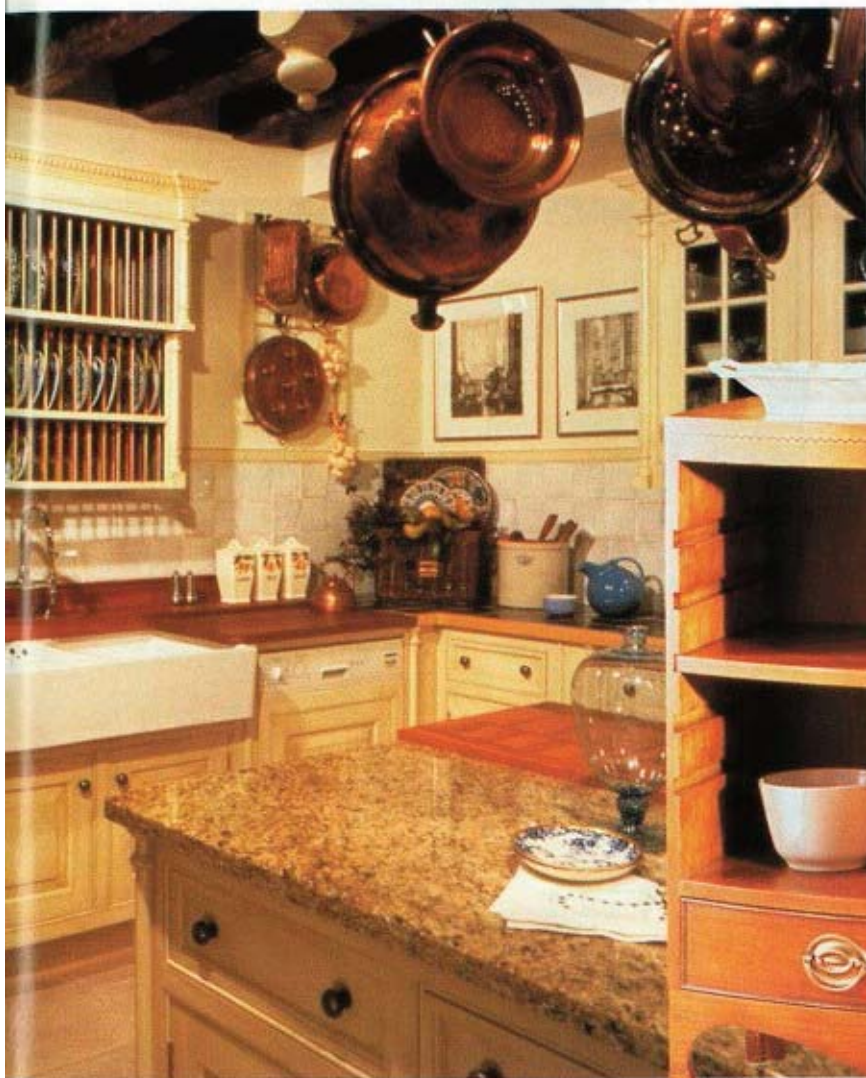
PERFECT FIT: Puzzle-piece salt and pepper shakers of bass wood by Palanza add whimsy to every table.



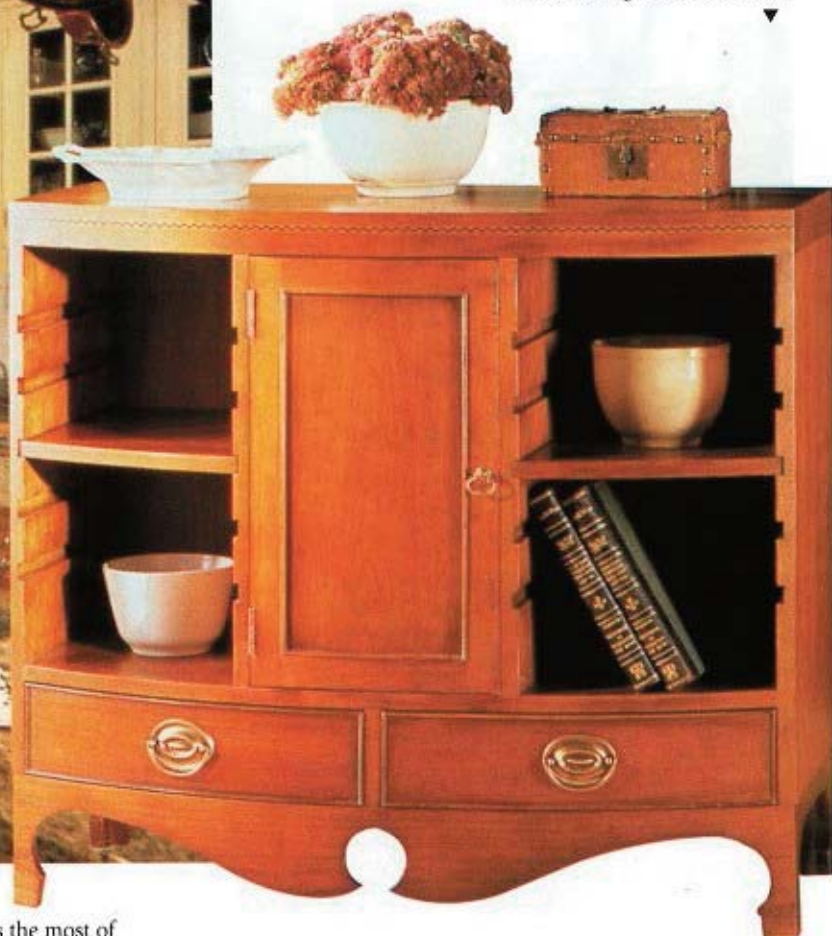
SOME LIKE IT HOT: Blue Creek's red-hot stove-top gets the kitchen cooking.



FINE DINING: Antique cherry adds the perfect finishing touch to the elegant silhouette of Milling Road's dining ensemble.

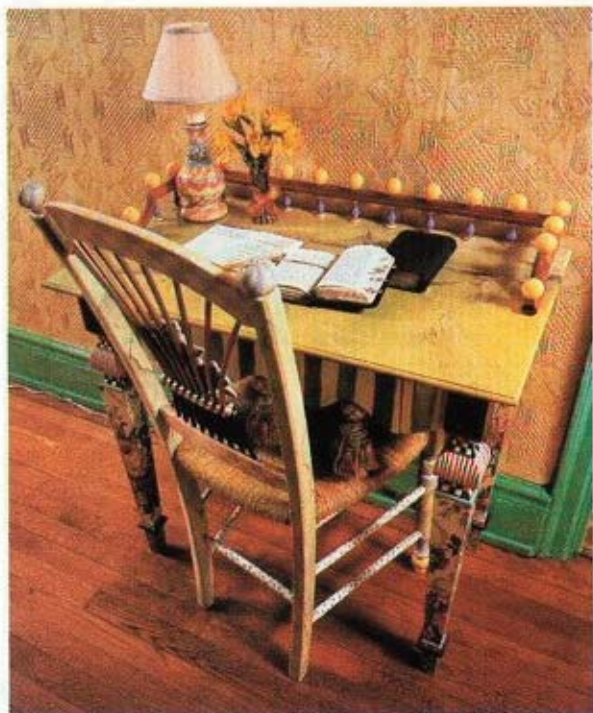


A TALE OF TWO ERAS:
Classic Colonial meets spare Shaker style
in this Milling Road sideboard.



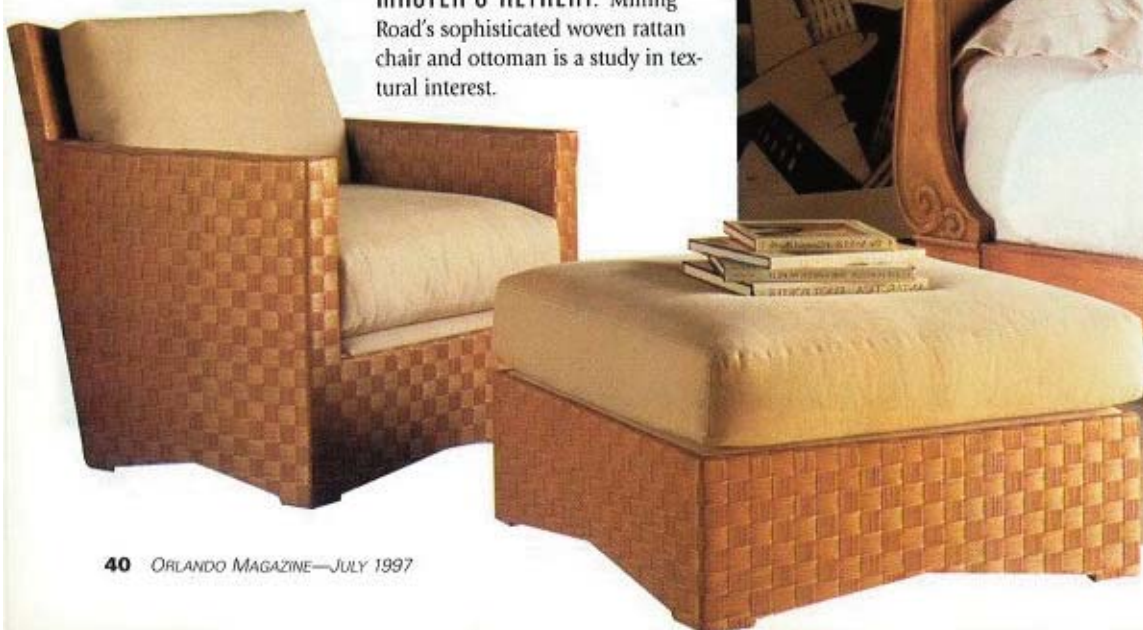
HAUTE CUISINE: Finely crafted Smallbone cabinetry makes the most of this inviting kitchen that's lavished with teak countertops and a granite-top island; designed by Architectural Artworks.

SWEET DREAMS



WRITE ON: MacKenzie-Childs' writing table-chair outfit epitomizes the design house's fanciful detail and faux finishing.

MASTER'S RETREAT: Milling Road's sophisticated woven rattan chair and ottoman is a study in textural interest.



TOP DRAWER: Contemporary focus on quality craftsmanship and detail is reflected in the intricate marquetry of Milling Road's oak chest.



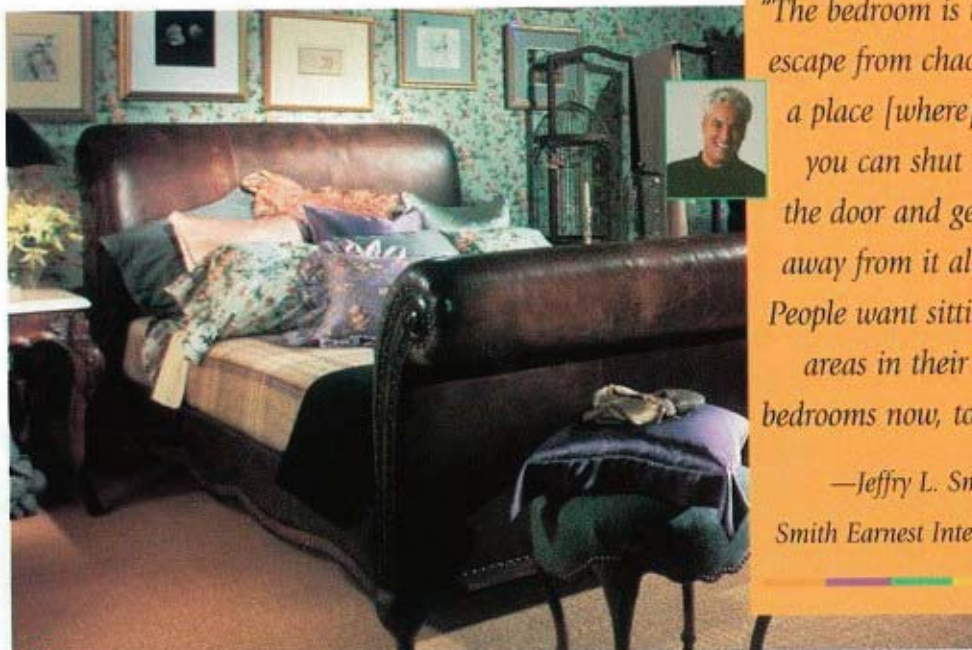
SLEIGH RIDE: The gently curving lines of Milling Road's pine sleigh bed beckon sweet dreams.





FORM AND FUNCTION:

More like a piece of modern sculpture than a utilitarian object in appearance, Palanza's svelte clothes valet is crafted of maple and brushed aluminum.



"The bedroom is the escape from chaos; a place [where] you can shut the door and get away from it all. People want sitting areas in their bedrooms now, too."

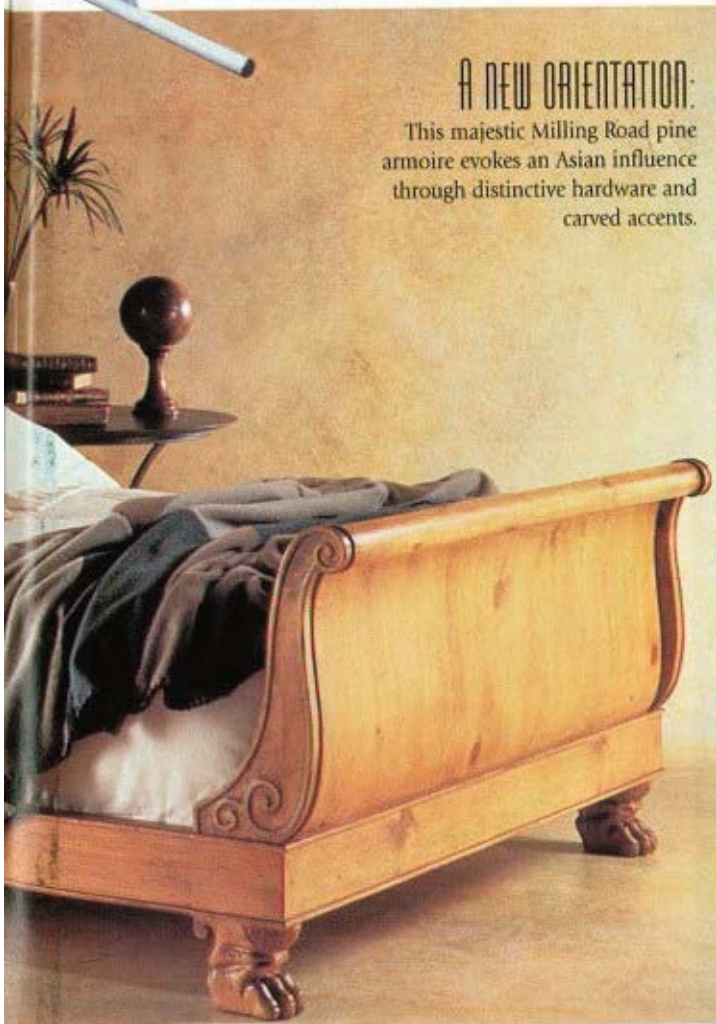
*—Jeffry L. Smith,
Smith Earnest Interiors*

LEATHER FORECAST:

Leather upholstery and nail-head trim offer a bold reinterpretation of Ralph Lauren's classic sleigh bed.

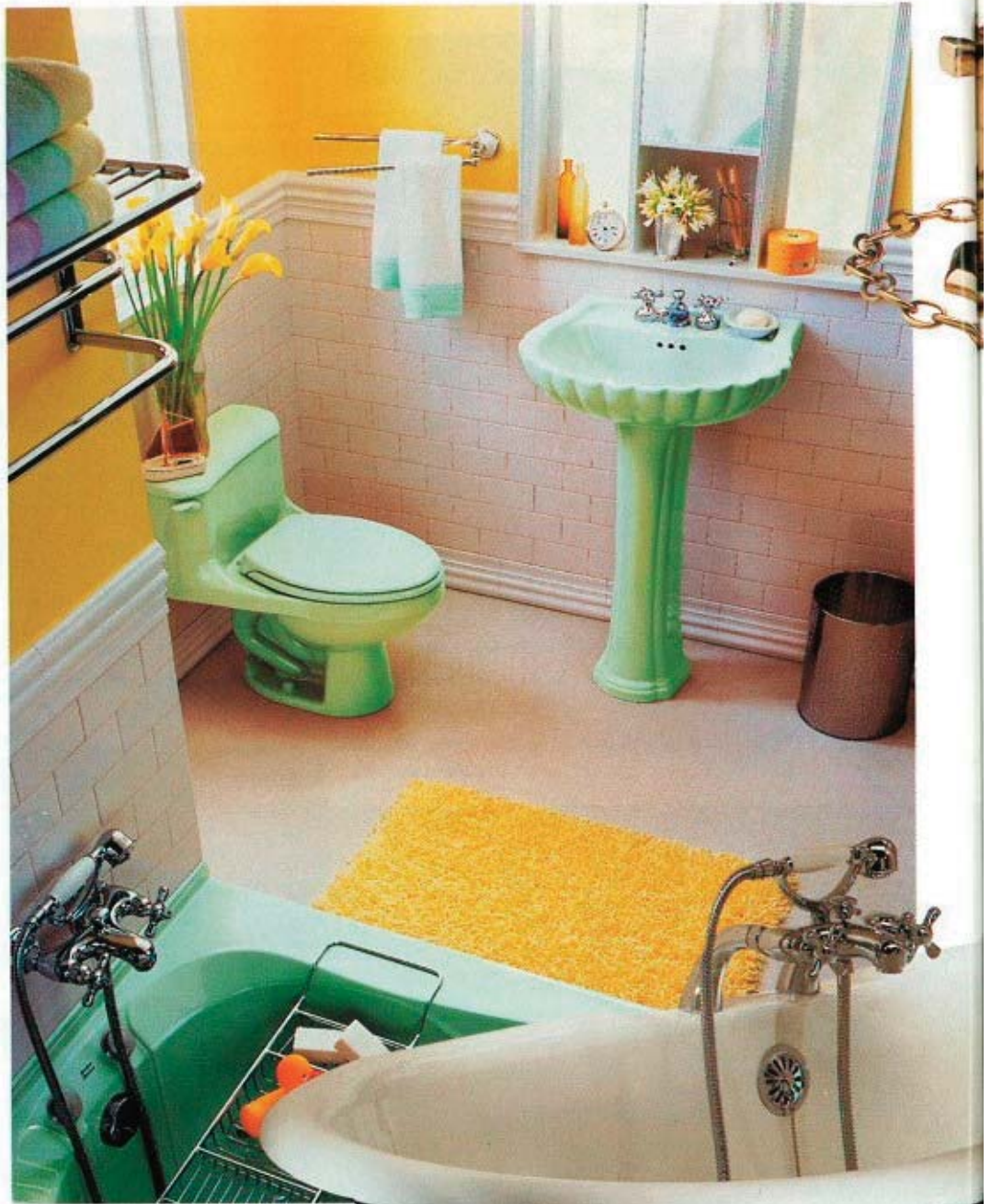
A NEW ORIENTATION:

This majestic Milling Road pine armoire evokes an Asian influence through distinctive hardware and carved accents.



THE BEST SOAKS

A TASTEFUL TRIO: Soothing seafoam green makes a comeback in this scallop-edged pedestal sink, sleekly curved commode and tub by American Standard.



UNBEATABLE BEAUTY: Distressed finishes add textural interest to bathroom fixtures, as in this hammertone satin brass sink from Bates & Bates.





A LINK TO THE PAST: Samuel Heath's chunky chrome faucet set pays homage to fixtures of old.



FINISHING TOUCHES: Samuel Heath's bath accessories put an accent on style.



BEST FEET FORWARD: American Standard's silvertone ball-and-claw feet provide a dramatic contrast to the tub's black exterior and milky white porcelain interior.

▶ SINKING TO NEW HEIGHTS:

Bates & Bates' majestic pedestal sink recalls ancient Greece's fluted columns through gracefully sculpted travertine marble.



ALL WASHED UP: Grohe's multi-head custom shower with cross jets covers all the angles.



"The cleanliness and texture you see here is all going back to simpler times.

It's simple, understated elegance."

*—Olen Earnest,
Smith Earnest Interiors*



THE OUTSIDERS

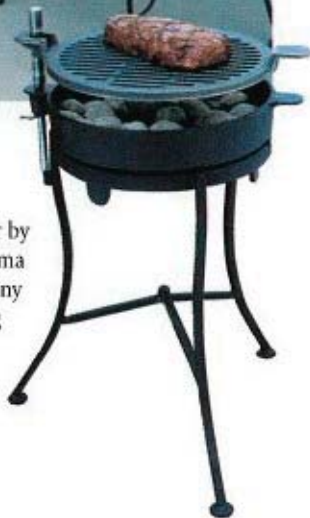
HEAVY METAL: Basket-woven iron chairs provide a pleasing contrast to the table that rounds out this Meadowcraft patio set.



MADE IN THE SHADE: Lloyd Flanders' wicker-look umbrella ensemble invites you to sit back and relax.



FAST FOOD: Charcoal griller by Williams-Sonoma adds sizzle to any outdoor dining escapade.



A REAL SWINGER: Lloyd Flanders' woven wicker-look frame and plump seat cushions invite you to take a load off.



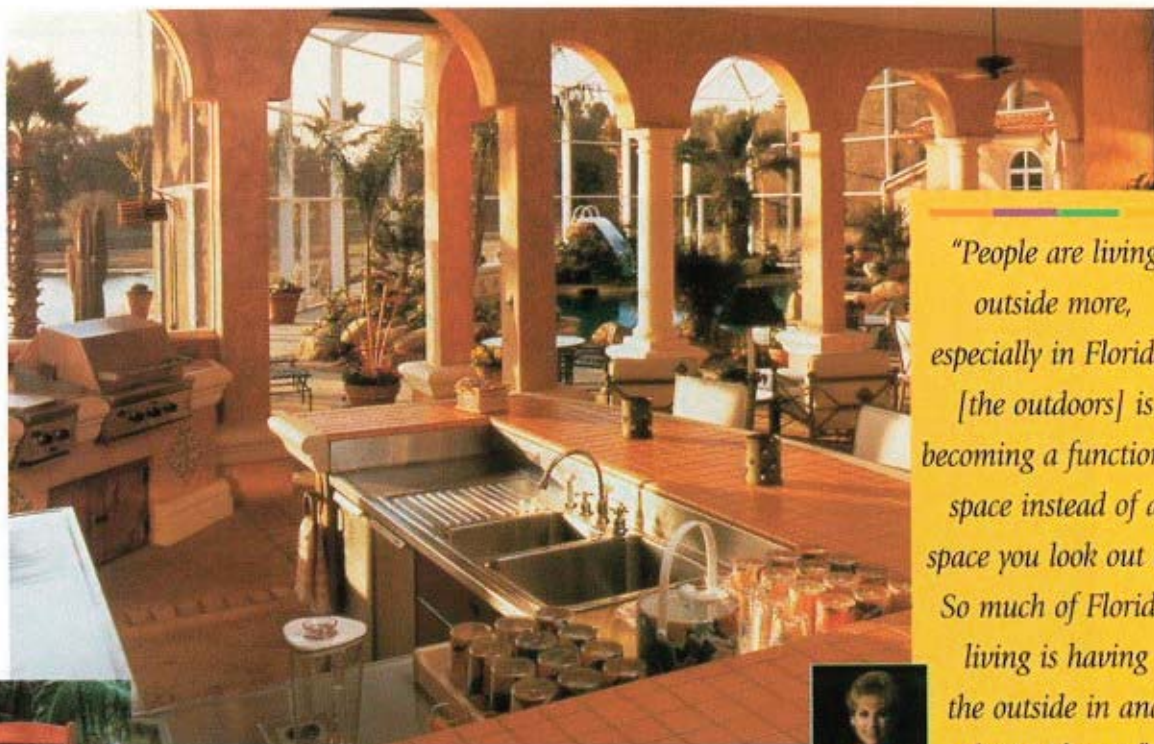
UNDERSTATED CHIC: Homecrest's mesh-and-stainless-steel chaise stylishly defines the art of leisure.



FOR DOMESTIC BLISS
RESOURCES,
SEE PAGE 78.

▶
AL FRESCO ELEGANCE:

Mirroring the pale tones and smooth tile of the home's classically contemporary exterior, Architectural Artworks' fully equipped outdoor kitchen design is an entertaining addition to the lanai.



"People are living outside more, especially in Florida; [the outdoors] is becoming a functional space instead of a space you look out to. So much of Florida living is having the outside in and the inside out."

*—Pam Niemann,
Pam Niemann Interiors*



SEVENTH HEAVEN: Jensen Jarrah's seven-position recliner made of Australian jarrah wood can withstand the elements with ease.

HIGH-TECH: TEC's professional-quality grill makes outdoor cooking state-of-the-art.

