

SCENE

WRITTEN BY ANH-MINH LE | PRODUCED BY COLLEEN MCTIERNAN



READING ROOM

SENSE OF PLACE: DESIGN INSPIRED BY WHERE WE LIVE



Designer Caitlin Flemming has once again joined forces with her mother, Julie Goebel. Their second book, out September 19, features 21 homes—including those inhabited by Flemming (San Francisco), Nate

Berkus and Jeremiah Brent (Montauk, New York), and Malene Birger (Mallorca, Spain). As avid travelers, the past few years prompted the duo to closely inspect the virtues of their immediate surroundings. “We started to wonder how where people live influences their design,” Goebel says. “As travel opened up, we visited folks in Europe and the U.S. to learn from them. The experience made us more acutely aware of the beauty in the world.” abramsbooks.com

CHECK IN

INN AT THE PRESIDIO

WRITTEN BY PAMELA JACCARINO

Driving through the gates of the landmark Presidio, you are immersed into a serene 1,500-acre feast of natural ecological wonder: rich forests, hiking trails, bayfront access and a great lawn with remarkable views of the Golden Gate Bridge. If ever there was a bespoke historic destination for a downtown-area staycation, the Inn at the Presidio, a former army barracks-turned-charming 22-room boutique hotel, is it. Built in 1903, the new vision for the LEED Gold Certified inn, a handsome Georgian Revival adaptive reuse building, was predicated on a commitment to preservation and our planet. Inside, cozy interiors by BraytonHughes Design Studios pay homage to the area’s military history while remaining posh and appealing for today’s traveler. Thoughtfully crafted details and natural fabrics lend a homey ambience with unassuming, quality furnishings designed for rest and relaxation. A refurbished mess hall serves as a community dining room with a complimentary breakfast and nightly wine and cheese reception. presidiolodging.com/inn-at-the-presidio



READING ROOM PHOTOS: VIGNETTE; STEPHANIE RUSSO;
COVER, COURTESY ABRAMS. CHECK IN PHOTOS: PAUL DYER.

STATE OF THE ART

PULLING DOUBLE DUTY WITH DISTINCT YET COMPLEMENTARY OFFERINGS, THESE GALLERIES ARE TWICE AS NICE TO VISIT.



SERGE SOROKKO GALLERY + MARTIN RAY TASTING ROOM

Gallerist Serge Sorokko had long contemplated combining fine art and fine wine in one venue. Now the idea has finally come to fruition in downtown Napa in a joint venture with Sonoma-based Martin Ray Vineyards & Winery. “We were thrilled to be able to merge these two intellectually and sensually connected businesses in a totally new way,” says Sorokko, who also maintains a gallery in San Francisco. Courtney Benham, proprietor of Martin Ray, adds that “as someone who loves collecting and experiencing art, the opportunity for our wines to be enjoyed inside of a fine art gallery featuring some of the best-known contemporary artists was a dream come true.” Architect Craig Steely was tapped for the 4,500-square-foot indoor-outdoor venue that itself is a work of art, including retractable glass walls and an arced steel wine bar. “Napa Valley and wine country have a definite style, but there is a secret history of art and architecture there that many people are not aware of—strong geometries, different materials, abstract forms, distinct shapes in the landscape,” Steely notes. This fall, the space will exhibit paintings by Donald Sultan. sorokko.com; martinraywinery.com



STEPHANIE BREITBARD FINE ARTS + EVARS COLLECTIVE

Stephanie Breitbard has relocated her namesake gallery a short distance—from Montgomery Street to Jackson Street, remaining in San Francisco’s Jackson Square neighborhood. The move provided an additional 600 square feet in which to present rotating group shows featuring the 100-plus artists on her roster. “Our founding philosophy has always been to diverge from the traditional model of solo artist shows and instead showcase one to two pieces of every artist we work with,” Breitbard says. Beyond opening up space for exhibitions, the new 2,700-square-foot venue also accommodates an outpost of San Carlos-based Evars Collective. This was a fitting pairing as “we share such similar female entrepreneur mindsets and support each other’s businesses and endeavors,” explains interior designer Nancy Evars. Her furniture and accessories showroom has grown significantly since it launched in 2021, so extending her presence to San Francisco seemed a natural next step. sbfinearts.com; evarscollective.com

STEPHANIE BREITBARD FINE ARTS + EVARS COLLECTIVE PHOTOS: LEFT, LAUREN ANDERSEN, SEN CREATIVE; RIGHT, GUSTAVO E. PEREZ PHOTOGRAPHY. SERGE SOROKKO GALLERY + MARTIN RAY TASTING ROOM: BRUCE DAMONTE.





TALKING SHOP

FISHER'S

With her new shop in Presidio Heights, interior designer Josephine Fisher Freckmann has assembled some of her favorite things in one place—including handmade Fortuny and Pierre Frey pillows, Campbell-Rey glassware, Haute Home linens, and baskets handwoven in Colombia. Fisher's is also the exclusive San Francisco retailer for New York-based artist Max Simon's mobiles. "I went to Paris on a buying trip in January and decided then that I could offer 'jewelry' for interiors in a very curated way," says Fisher Freckmann, whose design studio, Josephine Fisher Interior Design, shares a space with the shop. Visitors can tap into her expertise when custom ordering Accents of France planters for their home, in the Fine Paints of Europe color of their choice. Fisher Freckmann is on hand to help with sizes and hues, she notes. "Just show me a picture and I can guide you!" jfidesign.com

MEET THE MAKER

CHARLES LEONARD



Decorative artist Charles Leonard comes from a long line of painters and studied at the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design. Yet it was his decade working for artist Mark Giglio's New York firm that Leonard describes as "my true education for what I'm doing now." In 2014, the Michigan native decamped to San Francisco and launched his eponymous practice.

Participation in the city's Decorator Showcase—in particular, Mead Quin's 2017 bathroom—proved a turning point for his business. Now, the Emeryville-based artist has projects Bay Area-wide. leonardfinishes.com

How do your collaborations with interior designers start? Almost always, they come to me with an idea. If we're doing plaster or a floor painting, it might be pretty basic and simple. Murals are a lot more complex. It's a different type of artistic process. The challenge is to really listen and work to understand exactly what they want. There are a lot of details, and I don't think you can over-talk it.

What does the preparation for large-scale works entail? The first thing I do is compile images of the scenery, if I can, I like to take photos myself. From the images, I create a small compositional sketch, then work on a sample board for the client—usually something close to scale, using the exact color palette. After that, it's just getting on site and doing it. There are different tricks to get started. Sometimes I project the imagery on the wall as an outline. If I can't do that—maybe the space is too small—I draw it out. It's always a combination of things and never just one technique.

What makes for a successful project? Since I'm in a client's home, time is of the essence—they don't want me there too long! It's important to have the process set up mentally to execute each piece in an efficient manner. There also has to be a certain level of trust. It's like going to a restaurant: You order what you want from the menu, but you don't necessarily tell the chef how to cook it. You just trust that it will be good.



TALKING SHOP PHOTOS: CAITLIN FLEMING. MEET THE MAKER PHOTOS: MICHELLE KLOEHN.