

BUSINESS OF HOME

by EDITOR AT LARGE

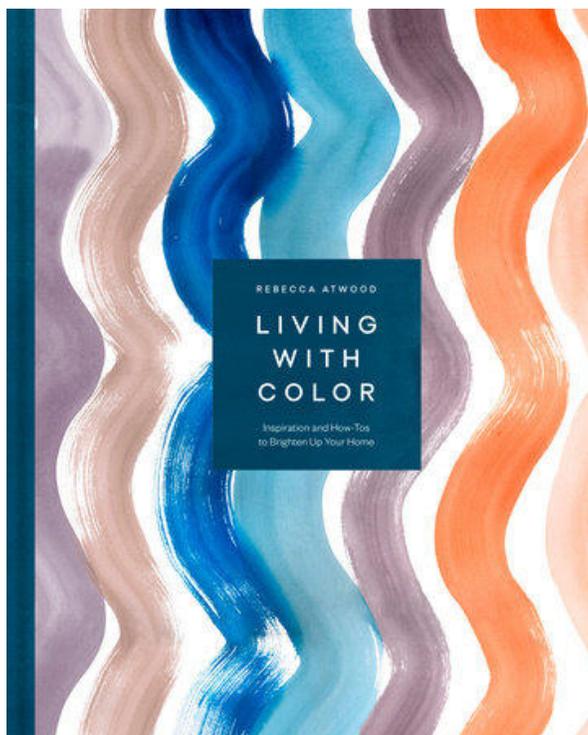
Industry Insider | Jul 31, 2019 |

BOH

Must reads: Rebecca Atwood, Pierre Yovanovitch and Carleton Varney

By [Staff](#)

This month, *Business of Home* takes a look at three design books that caught our eye: a handbook on color by textile designer **Rebecca Atwood**, a career-spanning monograph by star French designer **Pierre Yovanovitch** and a look at the classic Mackinack Island Grand Hotel by **Carleton Varney**.



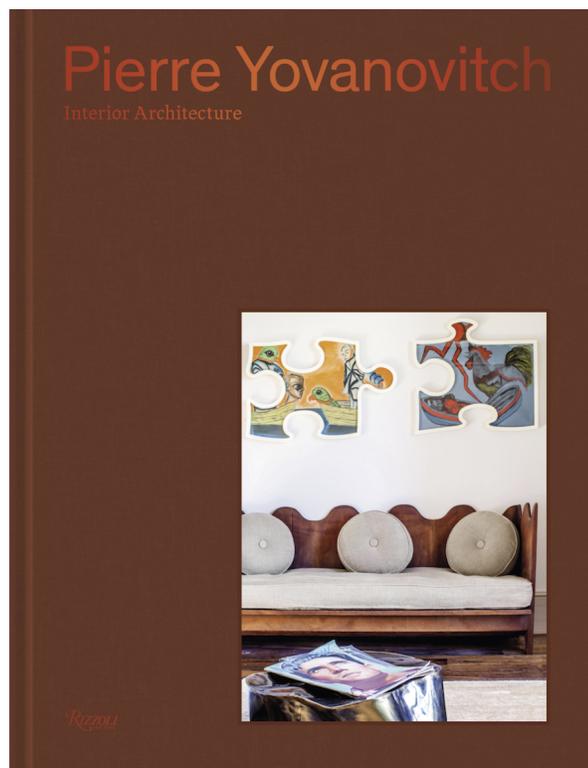
Living with Color Penguin Random House

***Living with Color* by Rebecca Atwood**

Textile designer Rebecca Atwood's new book *Living with Color* is just as lovely and whimsical as her debut tome *Living with Pattern*. Atwood encourages the reader to think about how color makes them feel and not to shy away from hues that bring them joy. She walks readers through the process of creating a palette and, using real homes as examples, shows how using color can create spaces that are soft and subtle as well as vibrant and bold. More than just a style guide, Atwood's book takes the conversation around color in refreshingly unexpected directions: She writes eloquently about the Himba tribe in southern Africa, who have many names for the color green but none for the color blue. Atwood uses the example of the Himba to spur readers to consider the language that surrounds color as well as the hues themselves. It's a comprehensive look that encourages a more thoughtful discussion of a design building block. —*Haley Chouinard*

The Showstopper: In the section of the book focused on real homes, there's an apartment in Queens (page 124) that uses a bold palette of blue, orange, and tomato red that blends together to create a surprisingly soft, dreamy effect.

Choice quote: "Open yourself up to new ideas about texture, usage, tint and shade, and the positive associations that follow will surprise you."



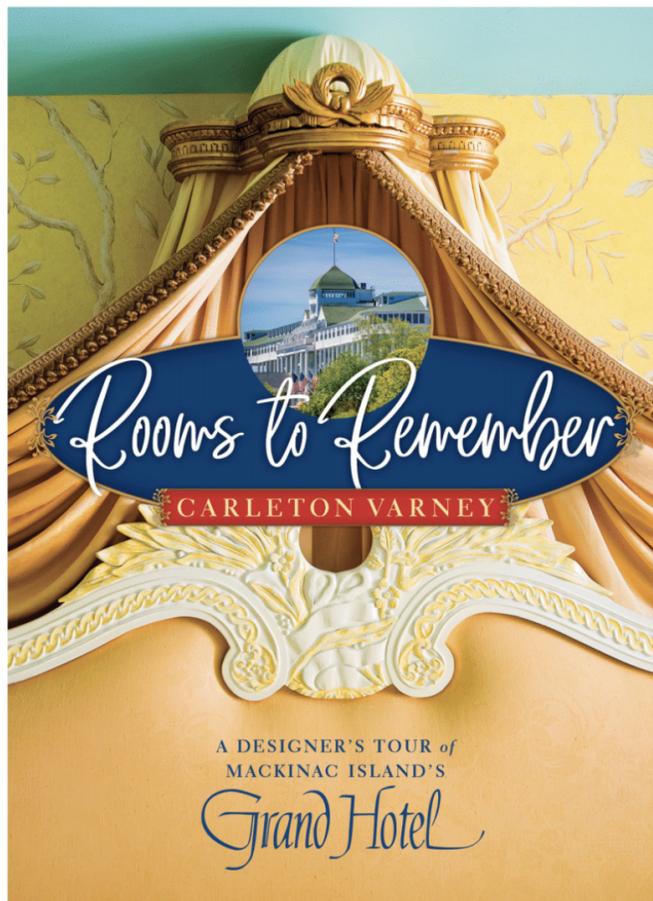
Pierre Yovanovitch: Interior Architecture Rizzoli

***Pierre Yovanovitch: Interior Architecture* by Pierre Yovanovitch**

Over the course of a twenty-year career, the French interior designer Pierre Yovanovitch has perfected a blend of two seeming opposites: grandeur and humor. One image from this, Yovanovitch’s first monograph (what took so long?), sums up the look nicely: a large, impressive-looking monolithic sculpture serves as the backdrop for three fuzzy armchairs with teddy bear ears. Richard Serra, meet Goldilocks. Elsewhere, the much lauded designer (his is often the only French name on the AD 100 and *Elle Decor* A-List) creates modern palaces and exquisite hideaways across Europe and occasionally New York. His work is a testament to the fact that a strong voice—not play-it-safe restraint—is what makes a room feel classic and timeless. —*Fred Nicolaus*

The Showstopper: There are a lot of contenders, but Yovanovitch’s work on his own home—a sprawling Provence chateau called Fabrègues (page 49)—is tough to beat. A pitch-perfect combination of classic French architecture and playful modern detailing, it’s a thesis statement for the designer’s aesthetic as a whole.

Choice Quote: “Some people dread moving houses. Personally, I have repeatedly made the choice to make it happen. Regularly changing my living environment is something I relish. It feels to me like a breath of new life.”



Rooms to Remember Shannongrove Press

***Rooms to Remember* by Carleton Varney**

On a tiny island in Lake Huron sits the Grand Hotel, which boasts, among other bonafides, the world’s longest front porch (which this writer has a few fond memories of running up and down as a kid during summer vacations). Designer Carleton Varney was tapped to redecorate the Victorian hotel in 1976 and this fall he’ll release *Rooms to Remember*, his 36th book, which gives readers a tour of the iconic property. Among the highlights are the First Lady Suites, designed in collaboration between Varney and each former First Lady—many of whom he worked for personally on both private and official projects—to create a space that reflects their personal aesthetic. Other rooms are inspired by an array of figures from history and pop culture alike, from **Napoleon Bonaparte** to **Gloria Vanderbilt**. Varney’s sense of humor is felt throughout, witness the “Reagan Red” he used in the **Nancy Reagan** suite. With more than 40 years since Varney first took the hotel on, it’s easy to see why the place still occupies a place of pride in his portfolio. —*Haley Chouinard*

The Showstopper: The Napoleon Suite, with its appropriately over-the-top palette of sumptuous reds and playful sense of grandiosity.

Choice Quote: “Each year I add ephemera—be it photographs, artworks, or other pieces that I happen across that relate to the room. I continue to collect for Grand Hotel to this day.”

Homepage photo: Design by Pierre Yovanovitch, photo by Jérôme Galland

Rooms to RememberShannongrove Press

***Rooms to Remember* by Carleton Varney**

On a tiny island in Lake Huron sits the Grand Hotel, which boasts, among other bonafides, the world's longest front porch (which this writer has a few fond memories of running up and down as a kid during summer vacations). Designer Carleton Varney was tapped to redecorate the Victorian hotel in 1976 and this fall he'll release *Rooms to Remember*, his 36th book, which gives readers a tour of the

iconic property. Among the highlights are the First Lady Suites, designed in collaboration between Varney and each former First Lady—many of whom he worked for personally on both private and official projects—to create a space that reflects their personal aesthetic. Other rooms are inspired by an array of figures from history and pop culture alike, from **Napoleon Bonaparte** to **Gloria Vanderbilt**. Varney's sense of humor is felt throughout, witness the “Reagan Red” he used in the **Nancy Reagan** suite. With more than 40 years since Varney first took the hotel on, it's easy to see why the place still occupies a place of pride in his portfolio. — *Haley Chouinard*

The Showstopper: The Napoleon Suite, with its appropriately over-the-top palette of sumptuous reds and playful sense of grandiosity.
Choice Quote: “Each year I add ephemera—be it photographs, artworks, or other pieces that I happen across that relate to the room. I continue to collect for Grand Hotel to this day.”

Homepage photo: Design by Pierre Yovanovitch, photo by Jérôme Galland