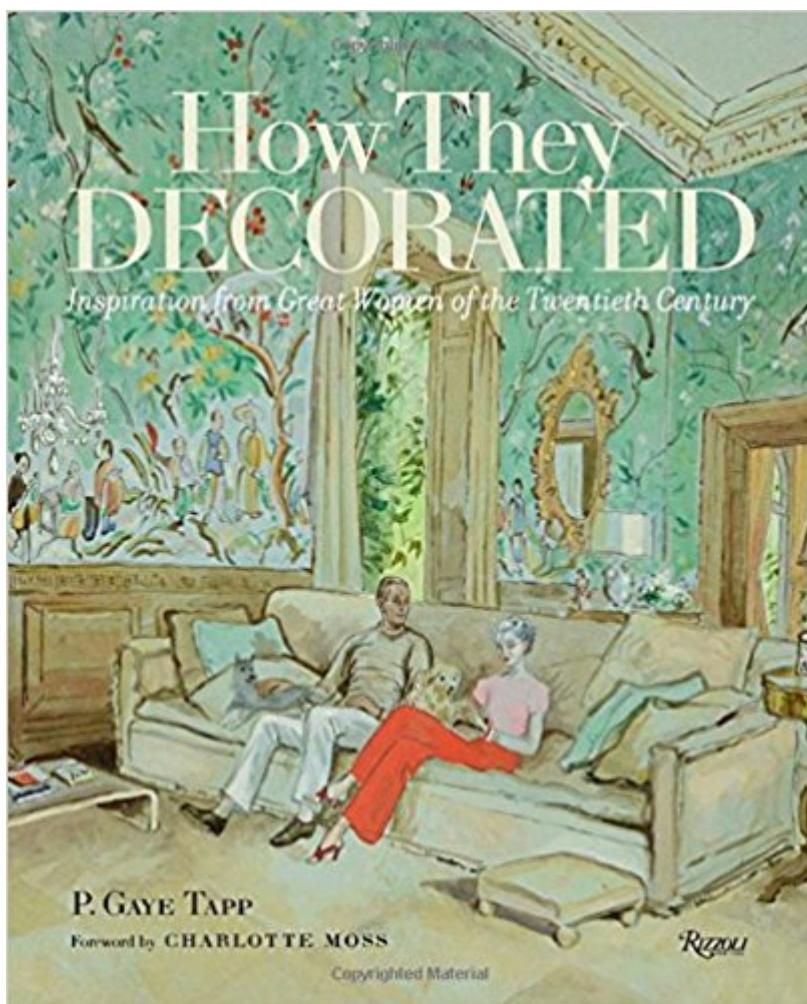


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# How They Decorated: Inspiration From Great Women Of The Twentieth Century



## Synopsis

How They Decorated illustrates some of the great rooms of the twentieth century, whose stylish residents influence our tastes today. As Gloria Vanderbilt cleverly noted, "Decorating is autobiography." Reflecting that truism, the interiors in this book capture the individual approaches of these icons of style: Bunny Mellon's spare all-American elegance; Hélène Rochas's refined sophistication; Vanessa Bell's colorful bohemianism; Mona von Bismarck's breezy opulence; and Georgia O'Keeffe's earthy chic. Author P. Gaye Tapp analyzes each of her subjects' refined way of living, how she embellished her residences (or left them elegantly stark), and the long-lasting effects on today's generation of designers and connoisseurs of beauty. The book is presented in four sections that describe the aesthetic approaches that the ladies took in decorating their abodes: "The Fashionably Chic"; "The Unconventional Eye"; "In the Grand Manner"; and "Legacy". Each interior illustrates the crucial aspect of the lady's definitive taste. Some worked closely with decorating legends such as John Fowler, Albert Hadley, Billy Baldwin, Syrie Maugham, and Jean-Michel Frank. Others took to the task of decorating single-handedly • like Pauline Trigère, Sybil Connolly, Vita Sackville-West, and Fleur Cowles. The interiors of these trendsetting ladies defied their time and inspire and delight to this day. In How They Decorated, one can learn from the most notable style muses of the last century.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"In "How They Decorated: Inspiration from Great Women of the Twentieth Century," blogger P. Gaye Tapp casts her eyes on the decorating styles of iconic women like Babe Paley, Pauline de Rothschild, Mona Von Bismarck and Elsa Schiaparelli. Whether these women employed top decorators or executed their homes on their own, the book provides great insights into lives fabulously lived." [Forbes.com](#) "visually-attuned" [Vogue](#) "How They Decorated is a lovely and interesting book that anyone with an interest or passion for interior design should read from cover to cover." [La Dolce Vita Blog](#) "The interiors of these trendsetting women defied their time and inspire and delight to this day. In *How They Decorated*, one can learn from the most notable style muses of the last century." [Political Style Blog](#) "Design lovers everywhere should ready themselves for a real treat, as this April [Rizzoli](#) releases P. Gaye Tapp's "How They Decorated: Inspiration from Great Women of the Twentieth Century." Peaking past the curtains and into the homes of the most discerning aesthetic icons of their time, from Babe Paley and Elsa Schiaparelli to Bunny Mellon and Mona von Bismarck, the book straddles styles, eras, and tastes for an interior journey anchored in a certain, *je-ne-sais-quois* sense of refinement. " [Guest of a Guest](#) "Illustrated with vintage photography and watercolor renderings, " [How They Decorated](#) is an archaeological volume at heart, tracing the genesis of the many enduring decorating styles that were influenced by the women in its pages." [Carl J. Dellatore](#) "A fascinating book" [Architect Design Blog](#) "Interior designer and blogger P. Gaye Tapp recollects the lives and impeccably decorated homes of 16 iconic women in her upcoming book, [How They Decorated: Inspiration From Great Women of the Twentieth Century](#)" [New York Magazine](#) ". . .this book takes the reader into the homes of heiresses, artists (including Georgia O'Keefe) and tastemakers of their generations. Written by a noted female interior designer, the book celebrates the discipline and the many women who have shaped its evolution." [HGTV.com](#) "In *How They Decorated: Inspiration From Great Women of the Twentieth Century* (\$55, [Rizzoli](#)), P. Gaye Tapp explores the aesthetic approaches of 16 style-setters, including Pauline de Rothschild, Babe Paley, Bunny Mellon, Georgia O'Keeffe and more." [Modern Luxury Interiors, Atlanta](#) "Covering these sixteen elegant women, she shows how they (most of course worked with decorators, architects and designers) orchestrated rooms of great charm, individuality and style. Tables are lavishly set, bedrooms invite lingering, fashions are paraded. And then, just when the lavish interiors are feeling rather intense, she introduces Georgia O'Keeffe (bold simplicity) and then Lesley Blanche,

the ultimate romantic. It's a book to treasure. I love it." •The Style Saloniste

P. Gaye Tapp is the creator and author of the highly regarded blog Little Augury and an interior designer for more than twenty-five years. Charlotte Moss is a noted American interior designer and author.

I really enjoyed reading "How They Decorated" by P. Gaye Tapp. I found the book to be informative, leaving me to want to know more about the featured women, and wanting to know more about other designers, artists, and locales related to the subjects. I also enjoyed all the cultural and literary associations. Great pics and illustrations I haven't seen before! Hoping there will be a 2nd volume?!

AWESOME book. I gave it as a retirement gift to an interior designer and design professor and she loved it!

"How They Decorated: Inspiration from Great Women of the Twentieth Century" opens with a brief quote from Gloria Vanderbilt-- "Decorating is autobiography"-- and this new volume from Rizzoli is far from the first to link interior decor to the personal styles and biographies of famous women. To be sure, however, it is one of the best of books in this genre. And, with each chapter providing a perfectly rounded stand-alone portrait, it is an ideal book for picking up and putting down, inviting repeated visits. Every one of the women featured in "How They Decorated" is now deceased, and so some photographs of their residences may well be familiar to devotees of shelter magazines. No matter: the beauty of the photographs and the excellence of their captions makes this a most visually stunning and captivating book. The 16 women featured in the book are drawn from the worlds of interior decor, fashion design, visual arts, diplomacy, aristocracy, and considerable wealth. Hailing from the two sides of the Atlantic, they include Lady Diana Cooper, Evangeline Bruce, Louise de Vilmorin, Helene Rochas, Gabrielle van Zuylen, Mona von Bismarck, Pauline de Rothschild, Babe Paley, Elsa Sciaparelli, Fleur Cowles, Pauline Trigere, Bunny Mellon, Dominique de Menil, Georgia O'Keefe, and Lesley Blanch. A strong sense of personal style is common to all of these women, but there is enough variation in their home decor to provide a varied garden of reading delights.

Excellent photo content and no too much print

First time author P. Gaye Tapp has written a book that is textbook and magical too. A difficult path to maintain, but she manages it with aplomb by using word pictures, archival photography and new illustrations of iconic rooms. The book brings 16 women from past decades into the light and introduces a new generation to this and compelling subjects.

Gave it as a gift. Looked beautiful.

Great book.

If there was ever a wish come true, it would be for an 'Encyclopedia Stylistica', and should that exist...then THIS IS IT! Ms. Tapp worked diligently to offer many images unseen and information gleaned from years of research. A beautiful and timeless tome that will be used by many generations to come when referring back to a Lost Age of Glamour, Elegance and most importantly Respectable Style...attributes and values rarely seen in todays pages of Worldwide Society and Fashion. Don't hesitate to exhibit this gorgeous hardbound on your Nakashima coffee table in a MidCentury setting, or on your 18thC Venetian Chinoiserie painted lacquered Scholars Table either...it'll shimmer visually in any setting, befitting the 'Art' which lies beneath the Cecil Beaton drawing of the book jacket. The Swan

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