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Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

Spring has finally settled in the Northeast...phew! After a pretty dreary winter, it's so nice to see the trees budding and flowers blooming – nature coming to life once again is a welcome change.

If you're thinking of creating some "new beginnings" in your own home, we've got you covered. From ingenious interior tweaks to elaborate landscapes, this issue is full of design ideas to give you some inspiration, both indoors and out.

Considering a staycation? It's time to explore new places – right in your own backyard. Check out the Community Spotlight on Chester and Mendham; you'll want to hit the outdoors every weekend and hike the trails or take in each town's unique history. Plus, be sure to read our latest fashion guide, so you're ready for wherever your travels take you.

Since spring is a time of transition, why not switch up your ingredients in the kitchen as well? Claire Nines' seasonal recipes will encourage you to explore Jersey Fresh produce. And speaking of local, this month's feature on area children's author, Melissa Arps, will have you pondering your favorite Disney character. Discuss this with the youngsters in your life – I bet you'll be surprised what you discover!

Happy Spring!

Kara Sibilia, Editor

In this issue: special features

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Style Guide: Spring Staples

By Patricia Lombardo

ike a breath of fresh air, spring has sprung and there is no better time to update your wardrobe with the latest essentials. Here you will find the top spring 2019 fashion basics and necessities, which trendsetters are saying to be key for the season!

Let's begin with our classic staple... denim. Though jeans will never be out of style, your skinnies can get packed away for a bit. Baggier, looser, straighter (more comfortable) jeans have made their way back again. In a word: relaxed. Here, you are able to really dress your denim down (slightly worn or distressed with a sneaker) or up (pin tucked or seamed with a heel). But a sleeker, neater (think less shredded)

almost pant style jean is where you should be looking to go. And highrise is still the trend but a low-slung waist is of late, too. You really want to go for the effortless look this season. A relaxed fit can take you from day to night, especially with a jean that may have some added flair – think side ribbon detail or hems finished with a tie ankle or zippers.



Next up is the timeless little white dress! These breezy white duds are the perfect way to glide through the spring in style. Big hits with both retailers and the runway with classic cuts and fabrics, you're sure to see them everywhere. The cocktail dress in satin, the kimono in linen, the slip dress in silk, or the tailored shirt dress in pima cotton are all cool, relaxing and lovely to don.

And now for some color... neon is back! The spring 2019 catwalks saw many retro fashions brought back to life! And the one '80s trend that there was really no dodging from was neon. Your choice of lime green, dazzling yellow, extra hot pink and bright orange are offered in pant suits, bathing suits, caftans, slides, hair accessories, you name it. And for the not so loud colors, don't forget the trending floral print for the sunny days ahead - shabby-chic, bloomy patterns of whites, pinks and greens always scream spring. Cont. on page 6







Ulla Johnson dress, \$775

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Self

Portrait

Pink

Azalea

Dress*

Cont. from page 5

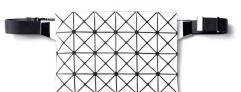
A big nod to the bolder, brighter patterns is due! Many of the spring trends are from various arenas of abstract tie-dye, jeweled, paisley, and colorful, bohemian silk scarf patterns. Faina Shapiro, owner of Diamond Dream in Bernardsville, explains, "Spring of 2019 will be all about bold, large prints and golden yellows. Some of the more refined trends of the '80s are sneaking back, so you'll see a lot of brands including puffed shoulders and (accessories like) waist bags - just don't call them 'fanny packs' anymore!" The trending bags are either belted around your waist or a shorter cross-body held up near the ribs.

Speaking of perfect spring accessories, sculptured heeled shoes, platform sneakers and miniature straw or bamboo bags are also at the top of the trendsetters' lists. Looking for a little sun coverage? Angular framed sunglasses and Bucket and Baker Boy hats are essentials. And for your evening look, long and grazing earrings are a must have for the season.

All of these fashions can be taken from work to play and back again for the delightful season of spring.



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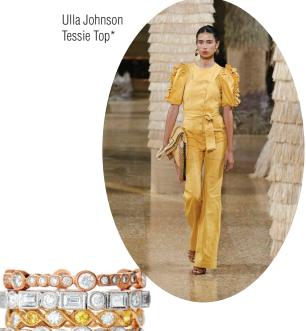
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London blue topaz ring with diamonds in 18k rose gold from Diamond Dream's Signature Collection.

*Photos courtesy of Diamond Dream Jewelry + Apparel





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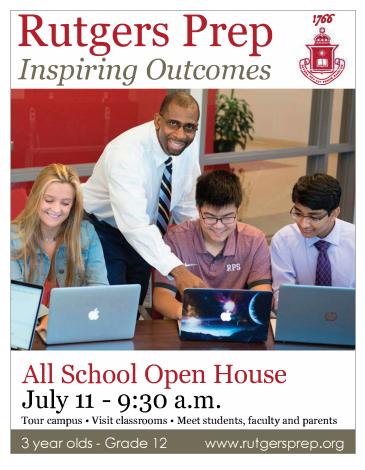
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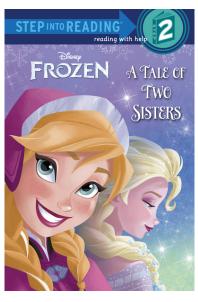




Author's Love for Disney Realized in Career

By Kara Sibilia





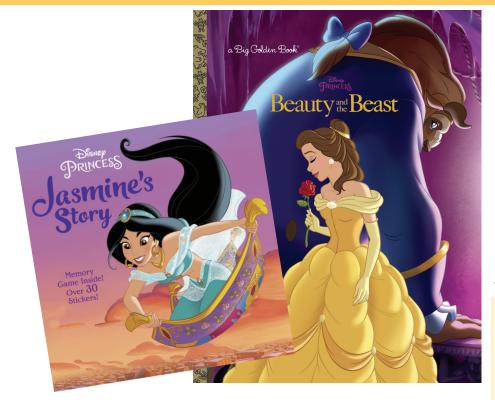


Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, Snow White, Cinderella and Peter Pan - arguably some of the most recognized Disney characters of all time. So... think about that for a moment. Who is your most beloved Disney character? Chances are, most people can name their all time favorite without besitation, no doubt, eliciting passionate conversations regarding the reason. (That would be Goofy for this writer.) In fact, people are so enthusiastic about their love for Disney, and its characters, that in August 2018 USA Today reported on the most popular classic Disney movie by state; New Jersey came out with Aladdin as the top pick — gotta love that Genie!

hildren's book author, and Chatham resident, Melissa Arps (nee Lagonegro) has penned more than 120 books throughout her career. One of her main subject matters: Disney characters. As a former author and editor for Random House, and now a contract author and editor, Arps has spent most of her profession writing for one of the most cherished brands in the world. If you have a child, grandchild, niece or nephew under the age of 10, you've probably read one of her books.

Arps says she "always knew that she wanted to work with kids" in some capacity. She earned her degree in Elementary Education from Bucknell University, worked in advertising sales at ESPN for a bit, and then started her publishing career at Golden Books in the Novelty Books division. Random House subsequently acquired Golden Books, which, for Arps, turned into a position working with both Golden Books and Licensed Publishing (including popular brands such as Barbie, Nickelodeon and, of course,

Disney). "This was a dream come true for me, because of my love for Disney as a kid," states Arps. Along with other book formats and brands, she was also the Editor of the Disney Step into Reading series – a very successful line of early readers for children. In addition, Arps has written numerous Disney movie tie-in books for films such as Beauty and the Beast, Cars, Finding Nemo, Frozen, Moana, Tangled and Toy Story; plus, countless Disney Princess stories including A Tale of Two Sisters (Frozen), which landed her on The New York Times Best Seller list.



After getting married and having children (she has three, ages 11,8 and 4) Arps stopped working full time in New York, in favor of freelance writing for Random House (now Penguin Random House), from home. This has allowed her to not only spend time with her children, but also still write the books she loves. And, she comments, working from home has really made her much better at time management, "(As a mom of three), it's hard to find (a lot of) time to work on my books. Now, I write either when the kids are at school, or after they go to bed at night."

Many of her books are written under her maiden name, Lagonegro, though she does have a list of books under her married name, Arps, as well. One of the things she enjoys the most is the expression on a child's face after realizing Arps has written a book about their favorite character, "The joy and surprise that kids show is so rewarding to me -I'm doing something that they can relate to, and their feedback (is invaluable)." Arps frequently attends her children's, and other area, elementary schools to read her stories and talk

about the "book business." She also prepares certain titles for international translation, and has worked with both the educational and promotional markets to coordinate books for new movie releases and re-released classics like Cinderella. Her most recent works are Jasmine's Story (Aladdin), a Disney storybook retold from Princess Jasmine's point of view, and Moana and Pua (Moana), a Step into Reading leveled reader for ages 4-6; both were published in January 2019. Her next book, A Puppy for Miguel (Disney/Pixar Coco), a Step into Reading leveled reader about Miguel and his best friend - a dog named Dante, is coming out in July 2019; pre-order is available now through penguinrandomhouse.com.

As for her favorite Disney character? Arps says, "It's Belle from Beauty and the Beast. She's smart, kind and stands up for what she believes is right." Arps has written several books featuring Belle, the most recent being Belle's Story and Beauty and the Beast Big Golden Book, "Which retells the classic story in a format dear to my heart," she notes.

When not writing, Arps loves spending time with her family and she also enjoys playing tennis. On most weekends you can find her attending her children's many (many) sporting events. Her books are available at your neighborhood library, or can be purchased locally at any major retailer where books are sold, including CVS, Target, Walmart, Stop & Shop and ShopRite. You can also buy her books on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Hudson Booksellers, IndieBound and many other online book merchants. Plus, you can check* the following local bookstores as well:

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*If you cannot find books by Melissa Lagonegro/Melissa Arps at your local library or bookstore, you can ask for a copy to be ordered for you.

How to Contact:

Arps is available for author visits and readings at schools, libraries, bookstores and more. For inquiries on booking appearances, interviews and book signings, please contact: melissaarps27@gmail.com.

A Room-by-Room Guide

By Kara Sibilia

The sun is shining and the flowers are blooming - sure signs that spring is in full swing. Now is the perfect time to start freshening your spaces and get ready for warm weather entertaining. From big changes with the "wow factor" to subtle adjustments that will liven up any room, we've put together some tips and advice from a handful of local experts to help you redefine your space(s) with ease. The secret? There really isn't one...but, as you'll read from these design authorities, the key to an effortlessly composed space can be found in the details.



First and foremost, the foyer is the entryway into your home. It welcomes your guests and sets the tone, so design is crucial. The best approach is to treat your fover as it's own room, adding ambience as you would in any other space. Interior designer and owner of Artistry Interiors in Kinnelon, Heather McManus, suggests using mirrors in entryways, "They make a space look bigger and (brighter)."

If you are looking to make a stunning, yet sensibly priced change, McManus mentions that paint or wallpaper can bring "a big facelift" to any area. When paint colors and wallpaper choices overwhelm, McManus recommends consulting with the pros, "The trained eye of a professional decorator can save you time and money by creating the updated look you've always wanted."

Lynn Ronan, owner of Lynn Ronan Design in Pompton Plains, seconds the wallpapering idea. "Wallpaper is amazing and transformative! You can totally (bring) that wow factor to a room by adding just a few rolls of wallpaper," she notes. Ronan, an A.S.I.D. member and NJ Certified Interior Designer, also



suggests using wallpaper in a non-traditional way by affixing it to the ceiling, "(This adds) an unexpected surprise to a space!" Ronan's tip for easy installation: "Choose a pattern that has an overall look with no definite top or bottom or direction to it."

Besides the kitchen, the family room or living room is probably where you spend the most time entertaining guests, indoors. A few simple, seasonal updates are all that's needed to create a warm and inviting spot. Again, Ronan offers her advice, "A

quick way to change the style or character of a living room or family room is

simply to swap out the pillows, (which) can reinvent the color palette and update a room without a high price tag."

Try mixing it up with different textures and prints - modern accents can combine beautifully with vintage ones for chic, eclectic style. "Maybe you are tired of the Old World look...you can twist a room to be more Coastal or Modern Farmhouse with the addition of some soft textured, geometric patterned or perhaps windowpane plaid pillows, (one of my favorites)," states Ronan. Curating new pieces that mix in naturally with your existing ones can easily create your dream space.

An additional design element to consider: wallpaper your bookshelves. Ronan adds, "You can reinvent built-in bookshelves by wallpapering the backs of the shelves. "(For example), an exotic, textural grasscloth can create the perfect backdrop to showcase a favorite vase or accessory."



Dining Room

When updating your dining room, it's all about the juxtaposition between formal and livable. This season, rattan is making a big comeback for interiors. Eileen Barna, from TrueLeaf Kitchens in Basking Ridge, comments, "Adding rattan chairs, lighting fixtures and/or baskets

are not too expensive but will have a big impact in any space, making it more

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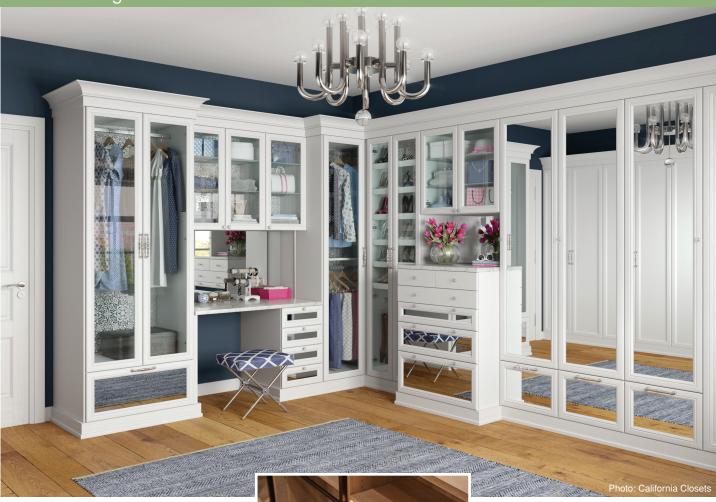
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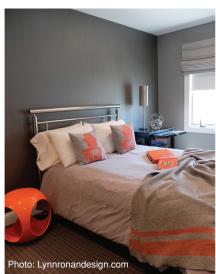


inviting and cozy."

Another option is to swap out your rugs. "A natural jute rug with a simple and subtle geometric design will update a space and give it that casual, beachy feel that looks great with most furniture," notes Barna. You can even layer a thinner cotton rug on top (of jute) to add softness and comfort.

Heather McManus from Artistry
Interiors encourages greenery in any space. "You can't have too many plants to make a space inviting. If you want low maintenance, there are very realistic looking faux plants (and flowers). A secret tip for cleaning faux plants is that you can put them through your dishwasher on the delicate china setting and they come out good as new. I have tested this and it really works!" states McManus.





Master Bedroom

Now for the master bedroom...and the master closet! The biggest investment you can make in your bedroom is, well...your bed (your mattress, specifically). It's important to note that many traditionally manufactured mattresses may contain harmful toxins. According to the Huffington Post, you spend an average of 33 years in bed, so it's best to find a mattress that is free from potentially unsafe materials. Pam Nardone, of Hibernate Bedding in Bernardsville states, "You spend more time on your mattress than anywhere else. Choosing a mattress that is certified organic or chemical-free, gives yourself and your family the gift of a healthy and comfortable night's sleep."

Interior Design

Design updates can range greatly from choosing new bedding, to swapping out pillows and accessories; you can even wallpaper the wall behind your bed, making it the focal point of the room. Lynn Ronan of Lynn Ronan Design says, "Wallpapering a bed wall in a tone-on-tone pattern adds an extra layer of interest and texture." Select soothing colors for your walls - like muted tones of blue, green or grey - to create a tranquil master retreat.



After enjoying a restful night's sleep, what better way to start the day than in a brand new, completely organized master closet. If total closet redesign sounds like a massive task, you can always tackle it in steps. Melanie Statlander, of California Closets in Fairfield states, "California Closets systems are adjustable, so you can always start with a basic system now, to get more organized in general, and then add drawers and accessories later down the road."

To make your closet feel more tailored, Statlander suggests, "Add doors or drawers with a decorative element, such as a pop of color or textured material like leather or printed glass." Another key element in closet organization is slideout hooks or drawer organizers. "Having a specific place for all of your accessories makes it so easy to for you to put together outfits each day, (as well as) keep your accessories neat," comments Statlander. Plus, she adds, "You know exactly where to put them back at the end of the day."







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The Breakers

he bistoric "town by the sea," Spring Lake in Monmouth County, welcomes guests from around the world and residents alike with its small-village graciousness and relaxed atmosphere.

Nestled within the family-friendly "Jewel of the Jersey Shore," Spring Lake's shopping district provides fashionable boutiques, unparalleled customer service, unique galleries, casual outdoor eateries and fine dining experiences, according to officials at the Spring Lake Business Improvement District.

Cultural events, including the many fine performances at the historic Community Theater as well as downtown festivals and events, enhance the Spring Lake experience. The magical atmosphere of Spring Lake makes it ideal for a memorable wedding, summer vacation, romantic weekend, or short retreat.

Downtown is a short tree-lined walk from the soothing ocean waves and non-commercial boardwalk, charming B&Bs and hotels, and an enchanting park surrounding a spring-fed lake.

The Breakers on the Ocean has the distinction of being the only full-service hotel located on the ocean in Spring Lake.

Originally built in the late 1800s when it was known as the Wilburton, it was later renamed in 1905. The Hotel has since been through numerous renovations that both preserved the integrity of the past while updating the interior to incorporate 21st century amenities. The serene ocean atmosphere, the unique feeling of the Hotel and the charm of Spring Lake all come together to create the special environment that is The Breakers on the Ocean.

Upon entering the lobby, guests will experience an ambiance and style unique to the Jersey Shore. Sparkling chandeliers, etched glass windows, granite floors and custom-woven carpeting are reminiscent of European resort properties. Soothing and complimentary hues of coral and teal exuding a comfortable elegance, welcome you.

The Hotel is situated just a few steps from the ocean. It features an outdoor swimming pool and large wrap-around porch. In front of the Hotel is a 2.5-mile non-commercial boardwalk, perfect for a leisurely stroll or exhilarating jog. The gazebo, directly in front of the Hotel and on the boardwalk, is a welcoming spot to sit and relax or read a book.

Classic Italian cuisine, fresh seafood specialties and prime steaks are offered in the Seashell Dining Room overlooking the ocean. The sunny Veranda Restaurant serves an extensive breakfast and lunch, offering daily specials as well as homemade pizza.

The Breakers on the Ocean offers beautiful accommodations - many with an ocean view, a beach and private pool, with golf, tennis and fishing nearby. Nearby attractions include Monmouth Park Racetrack and Six Flags Great Adventure, and the Atlantic City casinos are just a short ride away. Come enjoy it all! Whether for a Spring adventure, a Summer vacation, or a Fall or Winter escape, The Breakers on the Ocean is the perfect yearround destination.

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APRIL 5 - MAY 26, 2019

Paintings and Studies by Anthony Panzera Seascapes: Shifting Sands, Seas, Skies

tudio 7 Fine Art Gallery in Bernardsville offers the work of many talented New Jersey artists. The two small windows on Route 202. with eye catching rotating art, are deceiving. The gallery is 2500 square feet, on the second floor at 5 Morristown Road, in the heart of Bernardsville. In April the gallery is honored to be featuring the Seascapes of Anthony Panzera.

Anthony Panzera's works have been exhibited widely in the United States and abroad for the past 45 years. He is a recently retired professor of art at New York's Hunter College where he taught since 1968. Panzera also taught at the Rhode Island School of Design, The New York Academy of Art, Manhattanville College, Brooklyn College and the Newark Museum. From 1978 to 1996, he was codirector of the Art in Florence and Rome Programs in Italy.

In addition to formal studies, two very different places have influenced him and his realistic works: Florence, Italy, and Nantucket, Massachusetts. In 1975, while on a sabbatical leave, he lived with his family in Florence, Italy. The experience – and an independent study of the works and methods of the great Italian masters, particularly the works of the Renaissance Florentine painters - had a powerful impact on his figurative art. Back in the states, he continued to immerse himself in the study of anatomy and proportion.

While primarily a figurative painter, he was captivated by Nantucket's serene simplicity and began painting, en plein air, its seascapes, landscapes and vistas. His roster of one-man shows also includes exhibits at Everson Museum, Syracuse, N.Y.; New Jersey State Museum, Trenton, N.J.; Richmond University Museum, Richmond, Va.; Virginia Beach Center for the Arts, Virginia Beach, Va.; Maitland Art Center, Maitland, Fla.; Hickory Museum, Hickory, N.C., Bates College Gallery, Lewiston, Maine: Nelson Fine Arts Center. Tempe, Ariz.; Asheville Academy of Art in Asheville, N.C., Quidley & Co. Gallery, Boston and Nantucket, Elizabeth Eisenhauer Gallery, Martha's Vineyard and Studio 7 Fine Art Gallery. In addition, two prominent articles on Panzera's art were featured in Drawing Magazine in 2005 and 2009. His most recent accolade is a feature article in Fine Art Connoisseur, April 2019: Anthony Panzera in Dialogue with the Past.

Panzera's works have been featured in numerous group exhibitions, including shows at Newark Museum, Newark, N.J.; and National Academy Museum, Tibor de Nagy Gallery, Art Students League, Hunter College Galleries, and Painting Center, all in New York City. In Europe, he showed in the Museo Civico, Taverna, Italy, and Museum Architektury, Warsaw, Poland. His art and writings have been published many times; most notably The Leonardo Series published in 2015 by SUNY Press

He is represented in the permanent collections of The National Academy Museum, New York, N.Y.; Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse, N.Y.; Richmond University Museum, Richmond, Va.; Hickory Museum of Art, Hickory, N.C.; Munson Williams Proctor Art Institute, Utica, N.Y.; Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Art Museum, New



Anthony Panzera

Brunswick, N.J.; Museum of Art, Bates College, Lewiston, Me; Johnson & Johnson Collection, New Brunswick, N.J.; Rutgers Center for Innovative Printmaking, New Brunswick, N.J.; Century Association, New York, N.Y., and numerous private collections in the United States and abroad.

Panzera was elected a member of the National Academy in 1995. He is also a recipient of many awards and honors, including grants from the CUNY Research Foundation, the New Jersey Council for the Arts and the Michigan State Council on the Arts.

He was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1941, and resides in Mendham, NJ. Panzera is a graduate of the State University of New York at New Paltz, N.Y., where he received a Bachelor's Degree in 1963. He was awarded a Master of Fine Arts degree from S outhern Illinois University, Carbondale, Ill., in 1967, and in 1975-1976 did a year of independent study in Florence, Italy.

The current exhibition, *Seascapes:* Shifting Sands, Seas, Skies will run from April 5 through May 26 with an artist reception on April 5, Friday, 6-9pm. The gallery is open 10-4, Wednesday – Saturday. The gallery can be rented for events or business meetings. It is located at 5 Morristown Road, Bernardsville, NJ 07924 with free parking on site. For information, contact Kathleen Palmer, Director, at 908-963-0365. Sign up for show announcements at www.studio7artgallery.com. Follow us on Instagram and Facebook.

Anthony Panzera

Seascapes: Shifting Sands, Seas, Skies APRIL 5 - MAY 26, 2019



Quidnet Summer by Anthony Panzera, oil on canvas, 38" x 73"

ARTIST RECEPTION April 5th Friday, 6-9pm



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Bath Updates



Georgia Cleaning" is a term we love, in theory, yet hate to admit is not as fun as we'd like it to be. As you look around your home – and think about the washing and polishing to come – you may want to go the extra mile with some significant, yet, affordable bath updates. If the task seems daunting, don't worry...reviving your bathroom doesn't require a total overhaul. We've put together a few simple fixes that can instantly refresh one of the most important rooms in your house.

Powder Room

The powder room is on constant display to any guest you may be entertaining. For a major change, add a small chandelier as an eye-catching focal point; one with a dimmer would create an even more welcoming mood. And if the room needs a new coat of paint...

no time like the present to try a different hue. The powder room is also the perfect place to add wallpaper - with the absence of a shower or bath, you lose the risk of steam peeling the



Photo: Boll & Branch

beauty right off your walls. If you're feeling a bit indecisive, you can try peel and stick wallpaper or removable wall decals - think gold-toned confetti dots to place wherever you'd like, sleek borders or a show-stopping accent wall.

Replacing the hardware on your vanity is quite transforming. If you are short on time, other low-commitment changes can be: decorative hand towels, aromatic soaps and seasonal candles (such as gardenia for the spring or jasmine for the summer).

Guest Bathroom

A guest bathroom is just as important as a guest bedroom. Here, you are able to truly spoil your visitor with plush bath linens. Stack or roll towels decoratively and place in a wicker or galvanized metal basket. Scented hotel soaps and lotions are also the perfect addition for that one-time, individual use.

For added warmth and comfort, a terrycloth robe is a must-have when

Cont. on page 24



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Bath Updates

pampering your guest. Shop at Boll & Branch in Short Hills where you will be able to find such luxuries. Owner Missy Tannen shares, "We, at Boll & Branch, (have just launched) our Spring Spa Robe, using our award-winning Signature Soft fabric – it is light-weight, absorbent and adorable!"

New soap dispensers, drinking glasses, toothbrush holders, soaps, lotions, matching soap dish and a stylish wastebasket all add to the beauty of bathroom accoutrements. Try pretty mason jars filled with cotton balls and swabs to give your guest the feeling of a small haven away from their home.

Finish the look with containers filled with bath salts infused with essential oils. Alternatively, a bundle of fresh rosemary sprigs, thyme or lemon leaves tied with a satin ribbon could make for a beautiful sight and scent. Nothing feels more cordial than a personal spa awaiting you.

Master Bath

And now to update your own master bathroom. Your biggest change can be from a brand-new tub to just the modest change of a shower head. A current trend working in bathrooms is stenciled walls. Find your favorite pattern and paint shade and have at it. Need color inspiration? Think tranquil water hues, clean whites or warm creams.

A dramatic mirror change, or just framing your current one, can really update the look of your bath sanctuary. Adding houseplants, such as Aloe vera, ferns or bamboo, are sure to brighten the room as these plants thrive with just enough light and humidity. Floor accessories like towel stands, freestanding shelves, toilet tissue holders, hampers and wastebaskets are all easily accessible and affordable.

New bath towels with vivid patterns and bold colors can be a wonderful way to give the room a beautiful breath of fresh air. Again, Boll & Branch's Tan-







nen really gives a clean perspective here stating, "For the spring season, the easiest update is to swap out your bath linens. Sometimes we think towels can last forever. While they may be intact, without any signs of holes, the color will get dingy and the feel will get dryer over time. If you haven't treated yourself to new towels in two years or more, you'll be surprised at how happy new towels will make you feel!"

Nothing can make you feel better than clean and improved medicine drawers and cabinets. Look at all of your accessories and paraphernalia closely. Expiration dates passed? Old mascara?

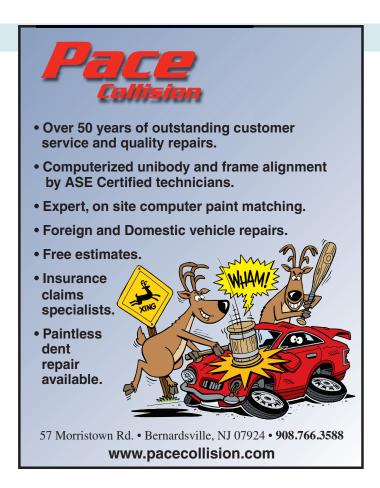
You really never used that moisturizing lotion? Time to let it go. Flatware drawer organizers are a great way to store tubes, bottles, cremes, balms, etc.

Children's Bath

And, of course, for the wee ones in your life. You can easily (and affordably) transform you child's bathroom by changing its theme – with so many fun prints and colors to choose from, half the fun is in the shopping! Whimsical shower curtains, bath mats, towels and accessories can be found in an endless amount of home goods stores. Fun step stools for those little feet can make teeth brushing and face washing exciting. Cute and trendy soaps and lotions that are easily accessible is a sure way to get your child to use them!

Reviewing the expiration dates on all tinctures for your child is always a good idea. It's also smart to check the ingredients on bath products, keeping an eye out for artificial dyes, fragrances and chemicals that may be irritating. Lauren Baker, Director at clean beauty company, Beautycounter, and Chatham resident, shares "Consumers of all ages seek out Beautycounter to reduce their exposure to potentially harmful chemicals. But especially for little kids, it is so important to find truly safe products." With the assortment of organic and chemical-free shampoos and soaps available now, there are plenty to choose from. Some of Baker's favorite Beautycounter kids products are the Super Duper Clean Kids Body Wash, Nice Do Kids Shampoo and the Not a Knot Kids Conditioner. All are free from irritants and hidden, harmful ingredients.

Clean, new and healthy-minded. On a budget or even a splurge, updating your home's bathroom(s) can be done. And with a little flair and a lot of fun... "Spring Cleaning" will be more enjoyable than ever!







Community Spotlight: Mendham and Chester

s spring begins to blossom around New Jersey, the warm sunshine draws us out of our homes to visit favorite spots and explore new places. Packed with rich history, tranquil nature walks and quaint downtown streets, Mendham and Chester should sit at the top of your list for your next weekend adventure.

A Tale of Two Mendhams

Mendham Borough is not to be confused with nearby Mendham Township, but that wasn't always the case. Mendham Borough was a section within the Township from 1749 until 1906 until some of the more urban areas of Mendham petitioned the Township to construct sidewalks and install streetlights. When rural residents of the Township objected to the expense, Mendham Borough broke away and incorporated into the town we know today through an act of the New Jersey Legislature.

Hit the Town-ship

New Jersey weather can be unpredictable, especially in the spring, but Mendham is packed with indoor and outdoor family-fun activities for any kind of day. Rain or shine, you don't want to miss out on these destinations.

Ralston Cider Mill stands as a reminder of the once booming apple cider and applejack industry in New Jersey's past. The mill is still operational today and is open for a visit on Sundays in May. Ask your tour guide about the Ralston Cider Mill's resident ghosts and check out the secret still that kept business going during prohibition.

Brookside Beach offers a sandy spot and cool water that is sure to satisfy everyone in the family. For those seeking more action, try the paddleboat rentals or one of many organized game days starting in May and going throughout the summer. Events include laser tag on the beach, outdoor movie nights and so much more!

















Patriots' Path spans 292 acres along the Whippany, Black and Raritan rivers. Its system of trails traverses Morris County - connecting multiple parks and historic sites. Whether you're looking for a spot to hike, bike or horseback ride - the Patriots' Path has what you need. For a list of hiking trails that run through Mendham, visit hikemendham.org.

Buttermilk Falls & India Brook Natural Areas offer some of the most picturesque sites in Mendham Township. This 265-acre forested space offers trails wandering through wetlands and ponds; scenic historic sites along the way include 18th century dams and saw mills, with the highpoint being Buttermilk Falls – the falls spill over a rock ledge into a pool, used as a "swimming hole" for years.

Preserving Mendham

The historical district in Mendham is a testament to the borough's pride and

commitment to preserving its roots. In fact, in 2013, Mendham Borough was voted #1 on *NJ Monthly*'s list of "Top Towns". With over 140 properties on the register, the historical district maintains the integrity and character of the much beloved town. Even the

road that runs through town is steeped in history. East and West Main Street is over 200 years old and began as a stagecoach route, connecting Easton, PA and Morristown, NJ.

If you're interested in touring the historical side of Mendham, some key points of interest include:

The Phoenix House was built in the early 1800s and has been used for municipal offices since 1938. Take a break from daily life in the Phoenix House Gardens, which are maintained by the Mendham Garden Club. The public garden provides a peaceful place to enjoy the colors of spring or sit back with a nice book.

Community Spotlight: Mendham and Chester

The Black Horse Tavern marks the center of Mendham. This historical building has continuously served as an inn and tavern since 1742, making it one of the oldest restaurants in New Jersey.

Ralston General Store Museum is a one-room building that was built in 1785. It served as a general store from 1785-1893, a post office from 1893-1941 and is now a museum featuring local artifacts.

Robinson Drug has served families in Mendham since 1870. The full-service pharmacy continues to provide individual pharmaceutical compounding, and it remains a favorite candy stop for kids heading home from school.

The Bustling Town of Chester

Not far from Mendham is another town you should put on your list of things to do. Chester offers a quaint historic district and booming business community. Pioneers originally called the area Black River, after the waterway that cuts through the nearby landscape. In 1779, residents created their own township and changed the name to Chester – in honor of their ancestral home of Chester, England.

A Stroll Through Chester

Since the late 1700s, Chester has offered travelers, visitors and residents a place to eat, sleep and shop. Still today, with numerous boutiques lining its streets, you can find everything you need by strolling around the town.

Shop for the perfect housewarming gift at one of the many stores offering antiques, handcrafted furniture and home décor. Now that you've shed your coat, look for a new spring wardrobe in Chester! You can find the latest trends in apparel, accessories and jewelry right downtown. With many pet stores, the streets and several stores are dog-friendly. So, bring your four-legged

Alstede Farms Publick House Chocolatier Redwoods Ice Cream

friend along for the day

If you're a bit craftier than most, or an aspiring artist, you can also find crafts, music and specialty food stores that will take you to the next level. And don't forget to visit top regional artists at the Spring Craft Fair in June.

A Tasty Trip

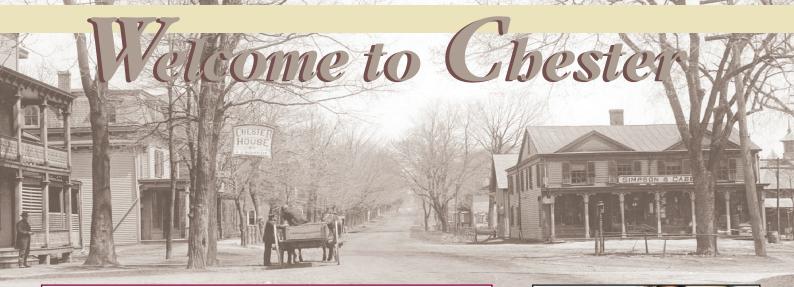
Shopping isn't the only thing to do in Chester. Sprinkled around town are many popular restaurants to grab a bite. Enjoy a fresh snack at Alstede Farms where you can pick your own produce; strawberries are the first fruits of the season and are typically ready to pick in May. Or find a wide variety of fruits and vegetables in their farm store year-round. If you're looking for a spot to sit down and enjoy a meal, The Publick House, Fresco Mexican and Redwoods are some of the local favorites. After dinner, try Black River Candy Shoppe, J. Emanuel Chocolatier or Taylor's Ice Cream for a sweet treat.

Nature & History

The best way to enjoy the outdoors in Chester is with a trip to Hacklebarney State Park. Hiking trails wind through the lush park, overlooking the Black River. The water cutting through the area is filled with trout. Check with the Division of Fish and Wildlife for more information on fishing at Hacklebarney.

If you're looking to step back in time, the Cooper Gristmill should top your list. Built in 1826, the site's 2,000lb. millstone and water wheel continue to grind corn, wheat, rye and buckwheat into flour, to this day. Listed on the State and National Registers for Historic Places, the mill – and its surrounding 14-acre property – is a great spot to spend an afternoon.

Whether you're looking for an indoor or outdoor adventure, Mendham and Chester offer wonderful outings to celebrate the start of spring.

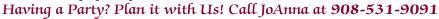




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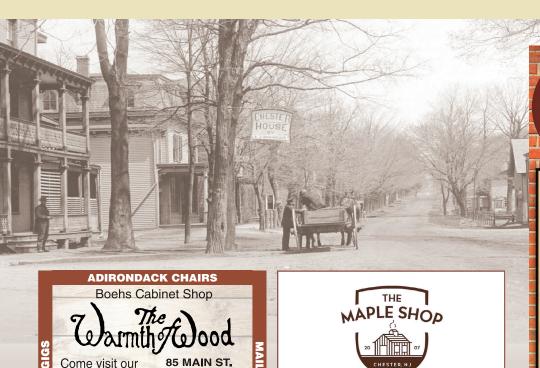
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Backyard Entertaining



utdoor spaces for entertaining are becoming more and more popular and there is nothing better than the enjoyment and comfort of your own backyard. With the warmer weather approaching, you are able to truly enjoy the seasonal opportunity to relax, play and sometimes party – all outdoors and steps away!

Carmin Fusco, Founder and President of Landscape Aesthetics in Bernards-ville explains, "We find that there is a huge interest in four season outdoor living. Homeowners are interested in creating backyards which are custom designed to suit their lifestyle preferences for enjoyment and relaxation throughout all seasons."

From an inviting pool oasis to the best use of an outdoor shed that we've ever seen; here are some great ideas to get your backyard party-ready.

Pool and Game

Summer screams for fun and sun; a pool party is a great way to host an afternoon. Fusco recommends a multilevel approach to your entertaining area, noting "Stone walkways (can) lead from the patio to a pool scape which might include a spa or waterfall, landscape plantings and a pergola." With new planters, a new pool float or two, freshened up chair cushions or even new furniture - you are easily able to revitalize your backyard into a plush terrain, which is perfect for hosting any type of occasion.

In need of installing or just updating your Pool House? Creating a modern setting is certainly desirable while having everything at the touch of a button. Olivia Manning, CAPM and

Marketing Director for Wavelength Audio Video in Bernardsville, tells us, "Technology for your outdoor spaces has become insanely popular over the years. Depending on the size, budget and desire, you can create an atmosphere with music, lighting, outdoor TVs and overall control that enhances the backyard experience." These installations and/or upgrades will give you the opportunity to really enjoy and entertain in a myriad of settings.

Accommodating with food is as easy as firing up the grill. Break out some horseshoes, bocce and badminton and you've got yourself a great summer afternoon.

Garden Dinner

Thinking of hosting an al fresco evening dinner? An outdoor kitchen can certainly help put your beloved

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Backyard Entertaining



garden to use. "Outdoor kitchens (offer) amenities such as grilling stations, stonework counter tops, refrigeration units, storage units and side burners," explains Fusco. If you have extra room, Fusco suggests expanding your stonework patio to include a dining and/or seating area with a fire pit (or fireplace). Looking for something fun? A pizza oven will do the trick. "Pizza ovens have become a popular item often requested to complement the outdoor kitchen," adds Fusco. The style is casual, yet jovial, with that party-like atmosphere. On hotter days, you might have covered patios and when the sun goes down, you can light fire pits or outdoor fireplaces to keep diners comfortable.

Cocktail Hour

The latest and coolest...Bar Sheds. Your yard might be the hippest place in town and the neighborhood cocktail hot spot. Allan Epstein from Al's Shed World in Florham Park can surely help with your design. "Sheds were (once just) used for storage, and now we see them as a show-piece to complement your back-

yard," states Epstein. Whereas sheds were previously utilitarian with no design savvy, these days, style choices abound from stone or brick, to columns and full view doors. Epstein says, "Let your imagination run wild!" You'll never miss a happy hour with a new backyard bar.

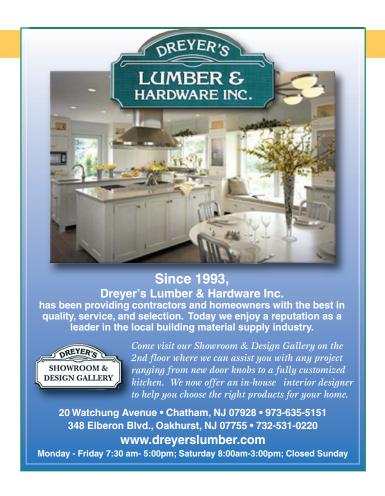
*Photo courtesy of nextluxury.com

Once you've got your event set, don't forget to wisely invest in melamine stem and dinnerware...no worries for any breaking glass! Enjoy your outdoor sanctuary... right at home.



*Photos courtesy of Landscape Aesthetics (unless otherwise specified)









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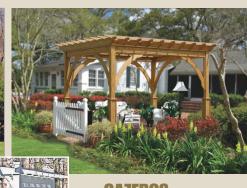
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Recipes

Spring brings a renewed sense of taste to the kitchen with produce in abundance at local markets and farms. It's a time to try new pairings, new flavors or new ways to prepare old favorites.

These recipe stories begin with a Meyer Lemon Focaccia appetizer. Slathered with basil ricotta then topped with roasted Balsamic strawberries and radishes, there is a playful balance of flavor that exudes spring.

Our next venture dives into the fillings of an Empanada, altering their appearance and flavors to celebrate the season. Fluted tartlets are filled with sweet peas, Vidalia onions, Fontina and Gorgonzola cheeses.

The last recipe - a festive Sangria Sponge Cake is no ordinary cake! A rum and orange sponge is soaked in Rioja syrup, topped with a mascarpone cream and doused with Rioja soaked fruit. Happy Spring!



Lemon Focaccia with Basil Ricotta, Balsamic Strawberries and Radishes

Focaccia

4 cups + 2 tablespoons flour Zest of two Meyer Lemons 1 packet Red Star Yeast 2 teaspoons salt 1/2 teaspoon pepper 3 tablespoons olive oil, divided 1 cup water 3/4 cup milk

Grease a large bowl with 1 tablespoon olive oil. Set aside. Whisk flour, zest, yeast, salt, pepper and oil in a stand mixer; then, apply dough hook attachment.

Combine water and milk; heat in small pot between 100-105°. Pour milk mixture over flour; mix on low to form dough.

Mix 7-10 minutes, adding a tablespoon of flour, if dough appears sticky (no more than two tablespoons).

Remove dough from stand mixer and knead two turns to bring together.

Place in oiled bowl and cover. Allow dough to rise for 2-3 hours.

Punch down dough (split in half for two small focaccia or keep as one).

Grease two 8" cake pans or one rimmed bake sheet.

Press dough with fingers into pans and gently spread to edges.

Make indentations in the dough with your fingers and fill with olive oil, approximately 2-3 tablespoons.

Cover and rest dough 40-60 minutes to rise again.

Preheat oven to 415°.

Bake 25 minutes or lightly golden.

Remove and cool in pan 15 minutes before moving to a wire rack.



Recipes: Seasonal Picks for Spring



Basil Ricotta

1 cup part skim ricotta 1 tablespoon olive oil

> 1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar 3 tablespoons basil pesto 2 tablespoons fresh basil chopped Salt to taste

> > Mix ingredients in a bowl; refrigerate until ready to serve.

Balsamic Strawberries and Radishes

12 strawberries washed, hulled;

cut into quarters

6 radishes sliced thinly

4 tablespoons chopped fresh basil

5 tablespoons balsamic vinegar

1 tablespoon honey

1 tablespoon olive oil

Salt to taste

Preheat oven to 425°.

Mix ingredients in a bowl and place in a small dish or ramekin. Roast 18-22 minutes until strawberries are dark and fragrant. Cool (mixture should thicken).

Sangria Sponge Cake



Mascarpone Cream

8 oz. mascarpone 8 oz. cream cheese 3 1/2 cups sifted powdered sugar 1/2 teaspoon orange oil 1 teaspoon rum

Beat mascarpone and cream cheese until smooth. Add sugar, oil and rum, beat on low to combine. Then, whip for 30 seconds on high. Refrigerate until ready to use.

3/4 cup + 2 tablespoonscake flour sifted twice 4 eggs, separated 3 tablespoons milk 1 tablespoon rum 1 teaspoon pure orange oil or extract 1/4 cup oil 1/2 cup + 1/4 cup sugar

Preheat oven to 325°. Place a water bath in oven with hot water on bottom rack. Grease and line the bottom of an 8"x3" cake pan. (Don't grease the

Cream 1/2 cup sugar and 4 egg yolks in a stand mixer; add oil, milk,

rum and orange oil, whisk for 3-5 minutes until thick. Add sifted flour in 3 additions and fold with a spatula.

Whisk egg whites with remaining 1/4 cup sugar until stiff peaks form.

Fold whites into batter and pour into prepared pan.

Bake 25-30 minutes until golden and toothpick inserted comes clean. Cool cake in pan until it separates from the sides and then cool on rack.

Fruit

1 orange sliced into 1/4" quarters (peel on)

10 strawberries sliced 3/4 cup blueberries

1 apple sliced (or fruit of choice)

1 cup Rioja wine 1/2 cup orange juice 1/4 cup brown sugar drizzle syrup over to cover. Spread or pipe

remaining syrup over cake and serve with extra fruit.

Level the top of sponge cake with a knife,

mascarpone cream on top of cake and layer with fruit. Pour

Assembly:

Mix ingredients in a bowl and make sure liquid covers fruit. Refrigerate overnight.

Drain fruit and place liquid in a small pot with 1/2 cup sugar. Simmer until liquid reduces to a syrup consistency. Cool.

Recipes: Seasonal Picks for Spring



Empanada Flowers

1 1/2 cups sweet peas blanched 1/2 small Vidalia onion diced 1 tablespoon olive oil 3/4 cup Fontina cheese grated 1/2 cup crumbled Gorgonzola cheese 1 tablespoon fresh parsley 1 cup Béchamel sauce 6 mini tartlet pans (or freestyle) 12 Goya Empanada dough rounds

Place blanched peas in a large bowl with cheeses. Heat a sauté pan to medium with 1 tablespoon of olive oil. Add onion and sauté until slightly caramelized, 4 minutes. Remove and add parsley and Béchamel sauce to pea mixture along with salt, pepper and garlic powder to taste.

Cover bowl and place in refrigerator overnight or for 4 hours.

When ready to assemble, preheat oven to 425°. Thoroughly grease mini tartlet pans or line a bake sheet with parchment if doing them as freestyle empanadas.

Mix 1 egg with 1 tablespoon water for an egg wash.

Freestyle Empanadas (makes 12):

Take one round and brush with egg wash. Place 1 tablespoon of filling in center and folder over edges to seal. Crimp edges with a fork or pull and twist method to seal. Place on parchment-lined bake sheet and bake 22-24 minutes until golden.

Remove and cool on racks. Eat at room temperature.

Béchamel Sauce

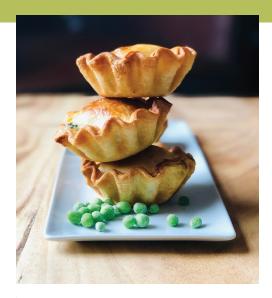
1 tablespoon unsalted butter 1 tablespoon flour 1 cup milk Salt, pepper, nutmeg



Melt butter in a small pot on low heat. Add flour and whisk with butter until combined.

Slowly add milk in a drizzle while continuously whisking.

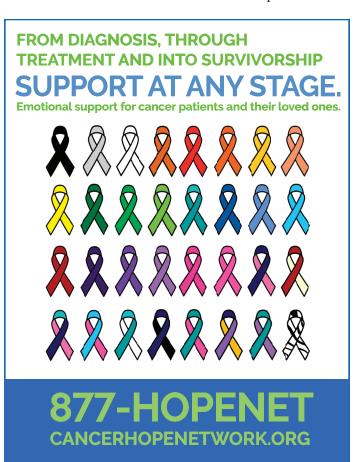
Raise heat to medium and whisk until milk becomes a thick cream, 10-12 minutes. Add seasoning, pouring over mixture a little at a time. Stir all ingredients together in bowl to combine and refrigerate until ready to assemble Empanada Flowers.



Tartlets (makes 6):

Line each tartlet bottom with one round of dough. Brush with egg wash. Fill center with 3 full tablespoons of filling. Take another round and trim 1/4 inch around with a cutter or knife and use smaller round to press on top of pie and pinch around the fluted edges to seal. Brush tops with egg wash and bake for 20-22 minutes until golden and sizzling.

Remove and cool on racks. Eat at room temperature.



Decks by Kiefer



Thave been in the deck business for 40 years. I have always strived to be the best and use only quality products. In the beginning it was cedar and redwood. Thirty years ago I was introduced to a new product "Ipe". I found it to be the best product I had ever seen. The only challenge is that it comes from the rain forest.

In my efforts to find a suitable replacement I looked at hundreds of products but none met my standards.

Recently I was presented with a bamboo product, very skeptical! I resisted, as usual, but for the sake of finding a more sustainable product I went to Germany to meet the man who developed the product. I learned that there are over 1,000 species of bamboo. Just as lumber, there are many levels of quality.

They selected a high elevation species with the characteristics required.

Trunks are harvested every 5 years and they regrow without even replanting. Material is cut into 8' lengths. It is then crushed to form 8' strands of fiber about 1/8" in diameter. The strands are thermally modified (heated) to remove all sugar content. Now the bugs and



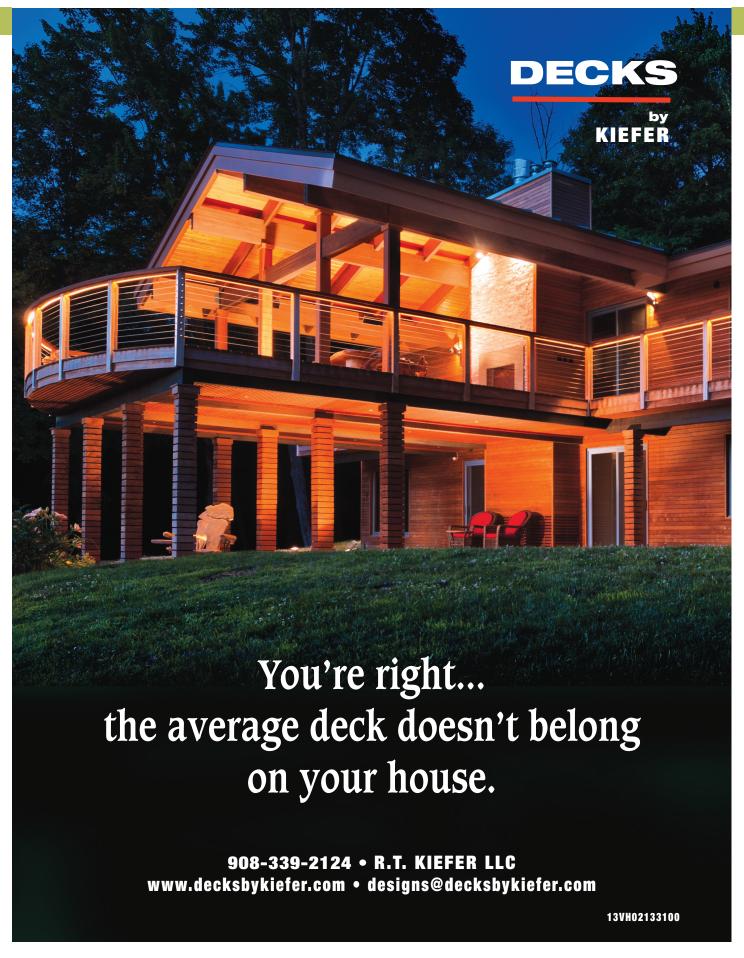
molds, etc. have no interest. Then the strands are saturated with epoxy and compressed into 8' sheets. The sheets are then milled like lumber into decking products and prefinished with oil. I saw the finished product on many installations that were exposed to weather for

8 years, and I was very impressed with how it held up. It looked better than Ipe. I was very happy to come home with a sustainable decking product with the same quality or better than Ipe.

Maintenance is simple. Clean with their diamond bristle brush and water every few years and apply the oil finish. No sanding or powerwashing is required.

For more information about about this sustainable decking product, contact: Travis Despres All Green Building Products East (908) 303-3587 Travis@allgreenbp.com www.allgreenBP.com





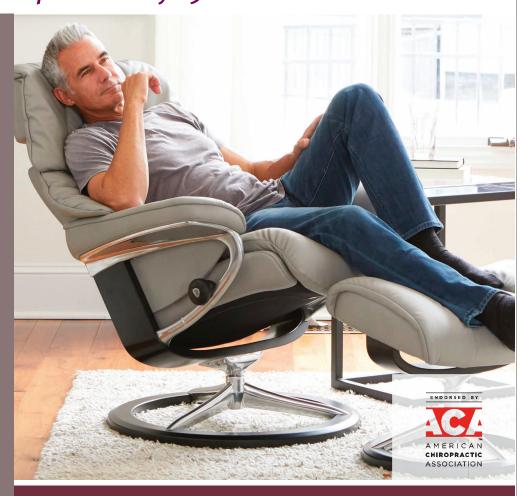
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