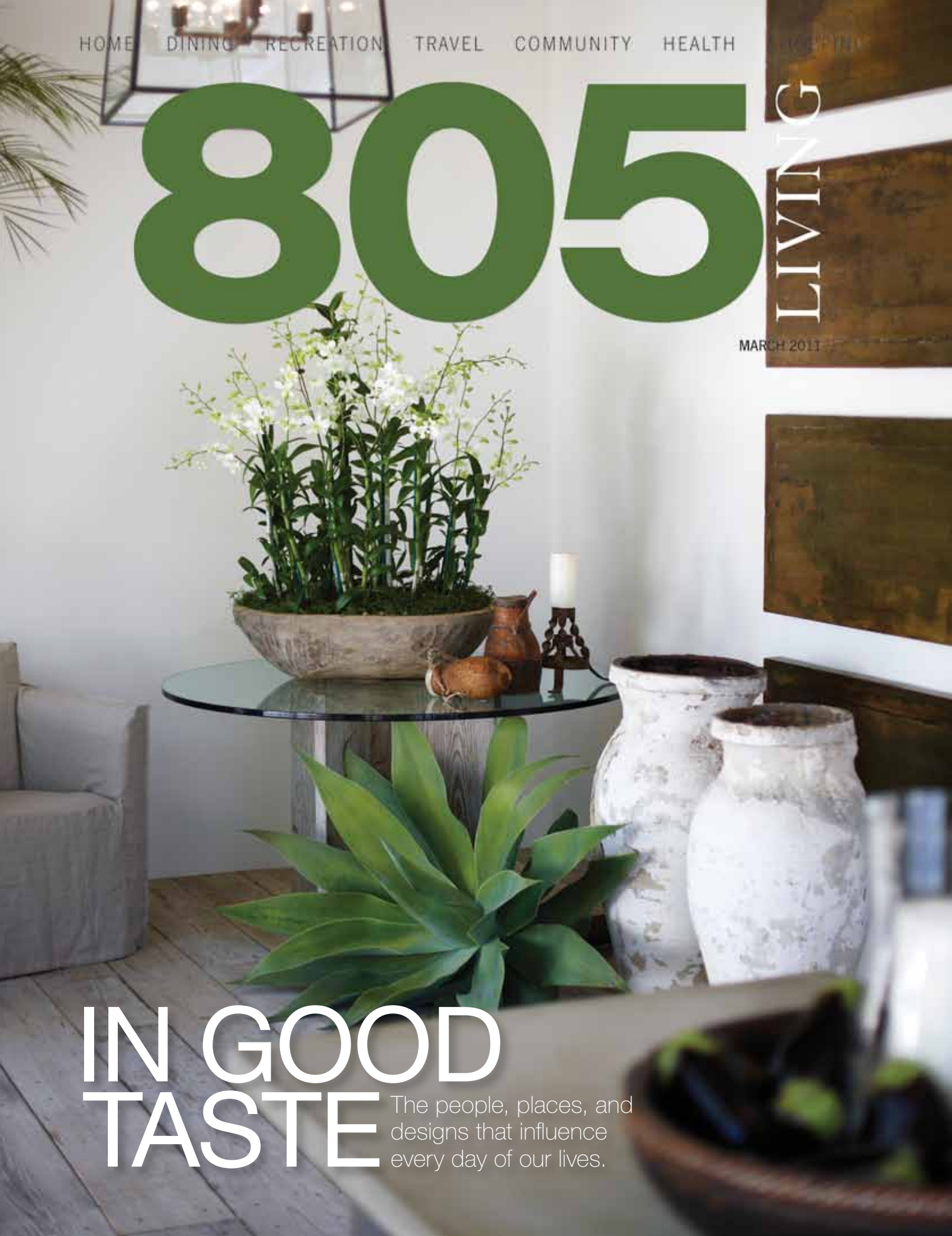


HOME DINING RECREATION TRAVEL COMMUNITY HEALTH

# 805

LIVING

MARCH 2011



## IN GOOD TASTE

The people, places, and designs that influence every day of our lives.

# Upgrades

By Mallory McCreary



Janette Mallory mixes vintage finds with natural elements in this Malibu home (at left). “I like how the vintage blue and white, the French bamboo chinoiserie console, and the tortoise shells all mix together nicely for a fresh look that’s clean but interesting,” Mallory says.

## Pro Tips

**JANETTE MALLORY: LEARN WHAT WORKS WHEN REDESIGNING A ROOM.**

You want your eye to travel around the room and not get stopped in one place. If something is out of balance your eye automatically goes to that.

It doesn’t have to be expensive. Everyone thinks good taste means expensive, and that’s not necessarily true.

Don’t buy one piece of furniture at a time without thinking about the other pieces and how they go together. Do [a room] all together and put thought into it.

Learn how to work with color and pattern. A large pattern on a large piece of furniture like a sofa is completely wrong because your eye is going to go to it every time you walk into the room. You’re going to get tired of it.

Look at magazines; go to showrooms and see how rooms are set up. If you do the research and take the time you can [design a room] without making too many mistakes.

## IN GOOD TASTE

Honing a discerning eye on design.

**IS GOOD TASTE LIKE A SENSE OF HUMOR?** Does everyone think they have it? We asked two local designers (with exquisite taste) for their takes on this very subjective issue, and for tips on how to fake it till you make it.

“Everyone thinks they have the best taste,” says Janette Mallory of **Janette Mallory Interior Design** (janettemallory.com) in Calabasas. “I heard a designer once say that only 10 percent of the population has good taste, and it’s true! There’s so much bad work out there—I see it all the time. People are really off with scale most of the time.”

“A lot of it is appropriateness,” says Ann James of **Ann James Interior Design** (annjamesinteriors.com) in Santa Barbara. “What is appropriate to the room, appropriate to your lifestyle. It either is or it isn’t.”

“If you have good taste you can put anything together and make it look really fabulous,” Mallory says. “It’s a knack.”

James agrees: “I have a friend who has great taste, and she automatically recognizes when something is right and not right. I don’t know where that comes from. It’s obviously a more experienced eye that has come to recognize [what works].”

Mallory cites her signature style as a mix of elegance, class, and comfort, such as “a beautiful

antique mixed with a comfy, cozy sofa mixed with a flea market find—some amazing little trinket for \$50.” But the end result is the real test: “If it looks beautiful, it works,” she says. “I achieved my goal.”

For James, design is about creating not just decorated rooms, but *homes*. “I want warmth, I want comfort, I want appropriateness in the styles and appropriateness toward my client. I want personalized environments. I want a home that reflects individual tastes and lifestyles,” she says.

*In addition to custom residential work, both Janette Mallory and Ann James have designed commercial spaces in our area. See Mallory’s work at The Sunset Restaurant in Malibu and James’ work at Hotel Cheval in Paso Robles.*



PRO PICK (ABOVE)  
**VINTAGE IRON URNS** (\$300–\$600) and **SEASHELL SHADOW BOXES** (\$600 for a set of three); Janette Mallory Interior Design, Calabasas, janettemallory.com.

OUR PICK (BELOW)  
Clean lines in the **COLONIAL SLEIGH BENCH** (\$1,313) from Noir speak to good taste, while the whimsy of an oversize bench adds an unusual element to any room; Pure Life and Home, Ventura, purelifeandhome.com.



# »» Upgrades



## PRO PICK (AT LEFT)

On chairs: Lee Jofa **GRAND CENTRAL STRIPE FABRIC** in Terracotta (price available on request); Ann James Interior Design, Santa Barbara, [annjamesinteriors.com](http://annjamesinteriors.com).

*"[The client] was from Seattle and loved Dale Chihuly's work," says Ann James. (Chihuly, a glass sculptor, hails from Washington.) "At first we were going to go with a Chihuly chandelier, but I kept looking at that blank walnut wall over the fireplace." This custom piece was commissioned from a student of Chihuly's.*



## OUR PICKS MACKIE PILLOWS

(16x16 inches: \$200; 24x24 inches: \$265) from Jamie Young add international flair and a pop of interest; Room at the Beach, Malibu, [roomatthebeachmalibu.com](http://roomatthebeachmalibu.com).

The Platt Collections' **RECLAIMED TEXTILE BLOCKS** (\$131-\$451) used to print on fabric, but now they freshen up blank walls as a unique art statement; Pacific Rim Home, Westlake Village, [pacificrimhome.com](http://pacificrimhome.com).



## Pro Tips

### ANN JAMES: HOW TO REFINE YOUR TASTE.

I never get caught up in trends. I want things that are much more timeless.

In fabrics, I always look for natural fibers. In furniture, whether traditional or contemporary, good style lines and good finishes.

Antiques, always.

Comfortable rooms are the ones that succeed.

Keep looking. Keep your eyes open and look at all the new products. Look and eventually certain things will pop up over and over again that you love.



A nod to the past is always in style, as in this Victoriana **BONNET CHAIR** (\$2,498) from Global Views; Cabana Home, Santa Barbara, [cabanahome.com](http://cabanahome.com).