

The Precious Quality of Light

Winter sunshine has its own mirth. Out of doors it is a spirit as buoyant as a roaring fire; inside, a mood as cheering as a summer afternoon. Now, in the heart of winter, we revel in this precious quality of light, beginning with a garden of white—a vision of things to come. Here, a well-lit place to savor, part of our "Picture Portfolio," page 58.



Interior Studies

"I paint with my camera," says Wendi Schneider, who shows her fine art training in ethereal pictures like the rose opposite. Here we asked her to turn her painterly eye to a second love—the colors and textures of the textiles and furnishings that have intrigued her since childhood.

Tufted slipper chair, upholstered in fine English linen, Pearson; painted French cherry ottoman with rush seat, Grange.

Inset opposite: reproduction English Regency armchair with handpainted laurel garlands, LaBarge; hand-made "Renaissance" needle-point rug, S. Chappell.







Wicker table and chairs, adapted from vintage English garden furniture, above, by Mark Hampton for Hickory Chair. Table runner and napkins, Anichini.

Below: Camelback sofa upholstered with burgundy and teal tapestry, Drexel Heritage. Handpainted "Chelsea" rug, Emery Design; lamp, Joyce Ames; table, Zona.

Wendi inherited both her love of furniture and her artistic sensibility from the women in her family. "As soon as I could walk, my mother, a painter and designer, took me antiquing in and around Memphis, where I grew up," she recalls. "My grandmother, whom I adored, painted in oils, so the aroma of paint for me has the appeal of a loaf of fresh bread or a rose."

Opposite: wicker chaise lounge, by Henry Link for Lexington; throw pillows and fringed floral pillows, Sweet Nellie; handpainted pillow, Charlotte Moss.

