

Design books

By Alison Ashton
Copley News Service

Sometimes a beautiful, lushly photographed design book is all the motivation you need to finally redo that avocado green kitchen or pep up a sleepy living room.

This year's crop of design books is enough to make the laziest home owner drool.

If style is what you're after, flip through the pages of "Caribbean Style" by Suzanne Slesin (Clarkson N. Potter Inc.). Photographer Gilles de Chabaneix captures the languid, colorful appeal of the French and British West Indies.

The spartan luxury of Greece is covered in "Greek Style" by Suzanne Slesin, Stafford Cliff and Daniel Rozensztroch (Clarkson N. Potter Inc.). "Italian Country," from the same publisher, offers that country's lush country charms.

"Pierre Deux's Normandy" by Linda Dannenberg, Pierre Levac and Pierre Moulin (Clarkson N. Potter Inc.) is a beautiful and useful tribute to country life in France.

For something closer to home, read "Fifties Style, Then and Now" by Richard Horn (William Morrow & Co.). It covers everything from the '50s, from huge cars to Marilyn Monroe's dresses. It also features '50s design influ-

ences, such as Memphis furniture.

Look for more American design history in "Colonial Design in the New World," by David Larkin, June Sprigg and James Johnson (Steward, Tabori & Chang) and "The History of American Ceramics" by Elaine Levin (Harry N. Abrams Inc.).

Find solid decorating tips in two books from Little, Brown & Co.: "The Mary Gilliatt Book of Color" and "Mary Gilliatt's New Guide to Decorating." Gilliatt offers excellent tips on using color and other design details.

The avid do-it-yourselfer will find valuable help in books and videos.

"Do-It-Yourself Windows" by Carol Boyle (Tab Books) offers tips in how to make and install a myriad of window treatments.

Those who want to restore a Victorian property to its former splendor will find an indispensable reference in "Mott's Illustrated Catalog of Victorian Plumbing and Fixtures for Bathrooms and Kitchens" (Dover Publications).

Videos are especially helpful to the do-it-yourselfer because they allow the viewer to see how things are done (printed diagrams can be really confusing for the novice).

Better Homes and Gardens Home Video Library has a number of instructional videos, including "Making Your Kitchen Store More," "Building a Deck," "Refinishing Furniture" and "Wallpaper Like a Pro."

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