

Western Interiors

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2006

AND DESIGN

10 SECRETS OF
LUXURY BEDDING

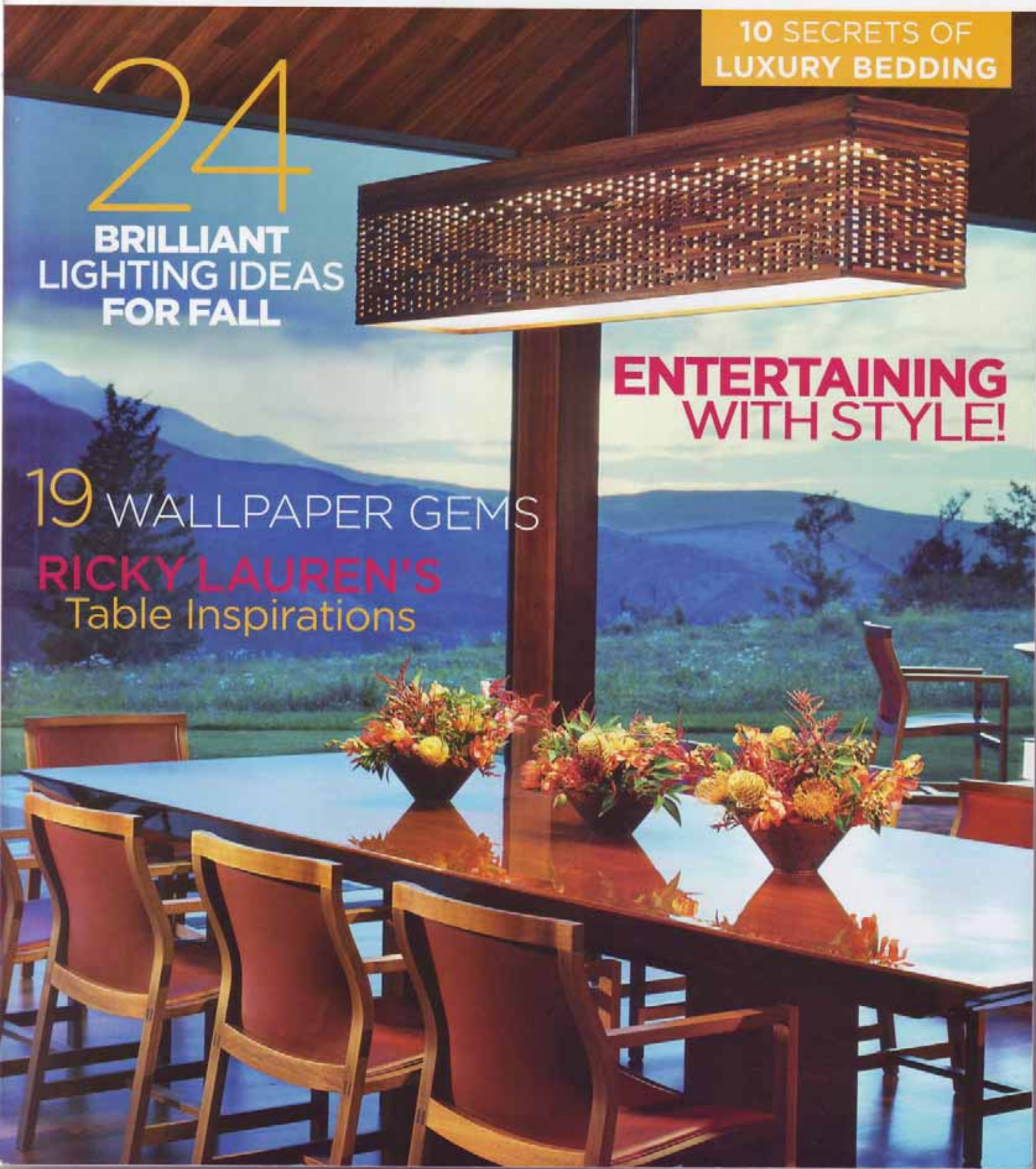
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BRILLIANT
LIGHTING IDEAS
FOR FALL

19 WALLPAPER GEMS

RICKY LAUREN'S
Table Inspirations

ENTERTAINING
WITH STYLE!



CHAZ STEVENS'S TEN THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE DESIGNING YOUR BED

1. Start early.

Don't wait! Every bedroom has a bed, so when you're planning the space, do the linens as well. At the end of a two-year design process, people are tired of writing checks. The bedding then becomes an afterthought. It doesn't get done properly, and correcting it can end up costing even more.

2. Thread count is a myth.

This is a huge, confusing mystery to people. Americans have come to equate thread count with quality, but the reality is that it's not at all important. The finish and the yarn are what matter. A thousand-thread-count sheet can feel like sandpaper because of the way it was woven and finished. So don't choose by thread count. Choose by what you like.

3. Understand the language of bedding.

It's important to make sure everyone is on the same page so that you don't think you're ordering one thing but in actuality getting another. How big is a California king versus an eastern king? One person's coverlet is another person's duvet, so be sure to do your research.

4. Know how things fit.

Take into account the drops and the relationship of the headboard to the pillows as well as the scale of the bedframe and the linens. A pillow-top mattress can gobble up the headboard if it's not measured properly.

5. Down isn't pretty.

With down, it's important to know what you're getting, because it's a horrible, smelly product. If the down shows up to the store even a little dirty or if it hasn't been washed properly before going into that pillow, then the dust mites have already been breeding in it for some time. Our down is thoroughly cleaned. Ask questions about the down so that you know what you're putting your head onto eight hours a night.

6. Don't shop by price.

When it comes to bedding and even the mattress, higher prices don't make things nicer. But you also shouldn't skimp. Your bed should be the one place in the house where you always buy what you like and what feels good to you, no matter the price.

7. Do your research.

The information and the technology are all there. You can't always count on people in stores to give you the information you need.

8. Know how to care for your bedding.

Don't use traditional soaps and detergents on your bedding, or it won't last. Detergent is a heavy cleaning agent. I always suggest spending a little more on noncommercial detergents, which are available at places like Williams-Sonoma or at linen shops.

9. Be aware that retailers often discontinue products.

Upscale linen shops sometimes operate as design houses, so they tend to stop producing their collections. If you decide in another six months that you need an extra set of sheets, love the duvet and want more towels, chances are they'll be gone. Find out if the linens will be available later on.

10. Thicker doesn't always mean better.

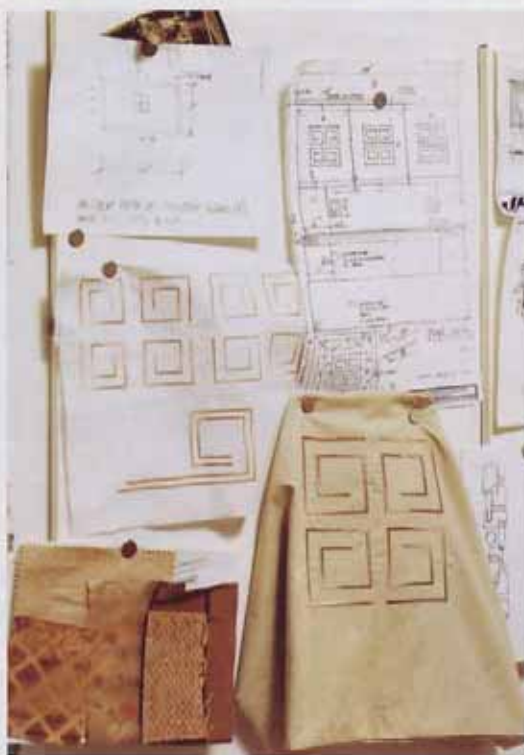
Again, go by the feel and what you like. For example, the best cashmere is very thin. A thick cashmere blanket shouldn't cost you more. I carry many different grades of cashmere at different prices. We even do a lovely cashmere-and-silk blend for shams. +



"I take pride in our diverse selection," says Stevens. **top:** A stack of Italian cashmere throws and crocheted wool blankets are above an array of shams. **center:** A king-size bed is swathed in sateen bedcoverings. **bottom:** A group of towels and Euro shams is embellished with embroidery.



"It's so easy for people to get overwhelmed when designing the bed," says Stevens (above). "But we strip away all the complexities." **top right:** Delicate embroideries from Italy are one of Stevens's specialties. **right:** In some cases, Stevens replicates his clients' ideas by working from their technical drawings and fabric swatches. **below:** Selections of rare and complex lace, produced in Switzerland, undergo seven processes before the sheets are hand-finished.



"To really do the bed and bath right requires an enormous amount of time," says **Chaz Stevens.** "So what we have done is take the mystery out of every element."



a designer like David Kleinberg in New York, who simply sent us a picture of the bed frame, the upholstery material and some other swatches for each room, and asked me to design the bed. It can be that easy.

What do you see happening in the bed-and-bath market?

The industry has changed dramatically in the past four years. Baths have become these institutions. People really want their bath to be a spa. And they want their bedroom to be more of a sanctuary. The trend is toward more luxurious goods. We see people understanding that the bedroom is a special place that they're going to spend a lot of time in. As a result, bedrooms are bigger now—they have living areas and sitting rooms. They're not just a place to sleep anymore. The bed should be a personalized experience. And once you get into this level of quality, there's really no turning back.

MAKING THE BED

Bedding and bath maven **Chaz Stevens** shares his expertise on navigating the world of luxury linens

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOHN ELLIS

WHETHER HE'S CALLED A CASHMERE guru, an embroidery genius or a lifesaver, clients coast-to-coast look to Chaz Stevens for everything bed and bath. His showroom is filled with samples of quilts, jacquards, mattelassés, patterns, colors and every kind of sham, throw pillow, towel and bath mat you can imagine. Contributing writer **Nina Baker** recently sat down with Stevens while he spilled his trade secrets.

How did Chaz Stevens Design begin?

One day I was looking for bedding in Los Angeles, and I realized that everything was either terribly expensive and fancy-looking or poor quality in very few colors. I had just finished a degree in clothing design, so I began combining what I knew of the fabric market and the void that I saw, and came up with the company I have today.



How does your company work?

We're an old-fashioned by-appointment-to-the-trade service. We work only with designers. We take them through a hands-on process of designing the bed and bath, from sheets and duvets to towels, robes, bath mats and even slippers. We do a lot of custom work, but we stock designs as well, so the options are endless. To really do the bed and bath right requires an enormous amount of time. So what we have done is take the mystery out of every element.

What are some of your recent projects?

I worked with Luis Ortega on a house in Aspen. He sent me a very technical drawing of the sheet, the way he wanted it turned back, where he wanted the seam and where everything had to be laid out. Then he drew circles representing different-sized snowflakes that he wanted embroidered onto the shams. So I sat down with him, and we went online and found contemporary snowflake drawings that I then modified, pulling out some of the detail to make them even more modern. But then we'll work with

At Chaz Stevens Design: Bed and Bath in Los Angeles, beds are dressed with custom creations. top: A white sateen design, adorned by wide black banding, is available in ten colors. left: A fitted jacquard sheet is paired with an Italian cotton-knit blanket.