

# INSPIRED

22

**10 Best Empty Nest Room Ideas From Designers**

10 Gorgeous Homes That Get Luxe Mountain Living Right

**20 Best Gray Living Room Ideas for Your Design Tastes**

10 Dream Homes That Take City Dwelling to a Whole New Level

**Visually Inspired**





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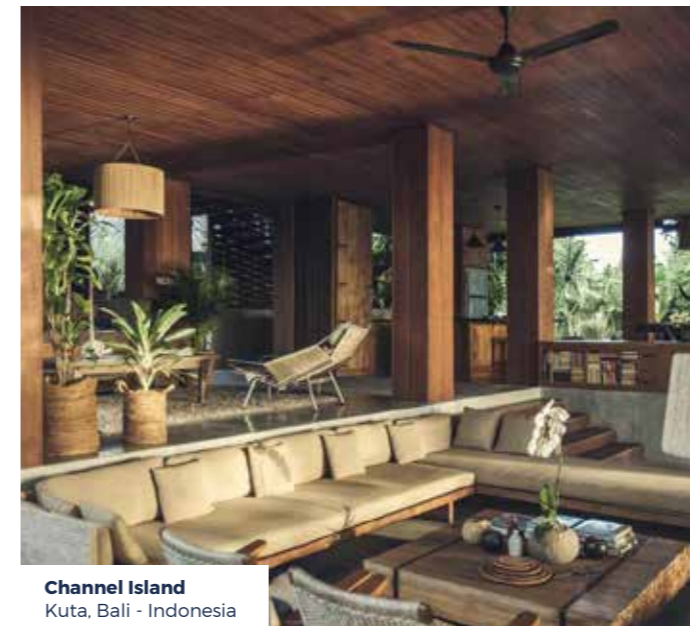
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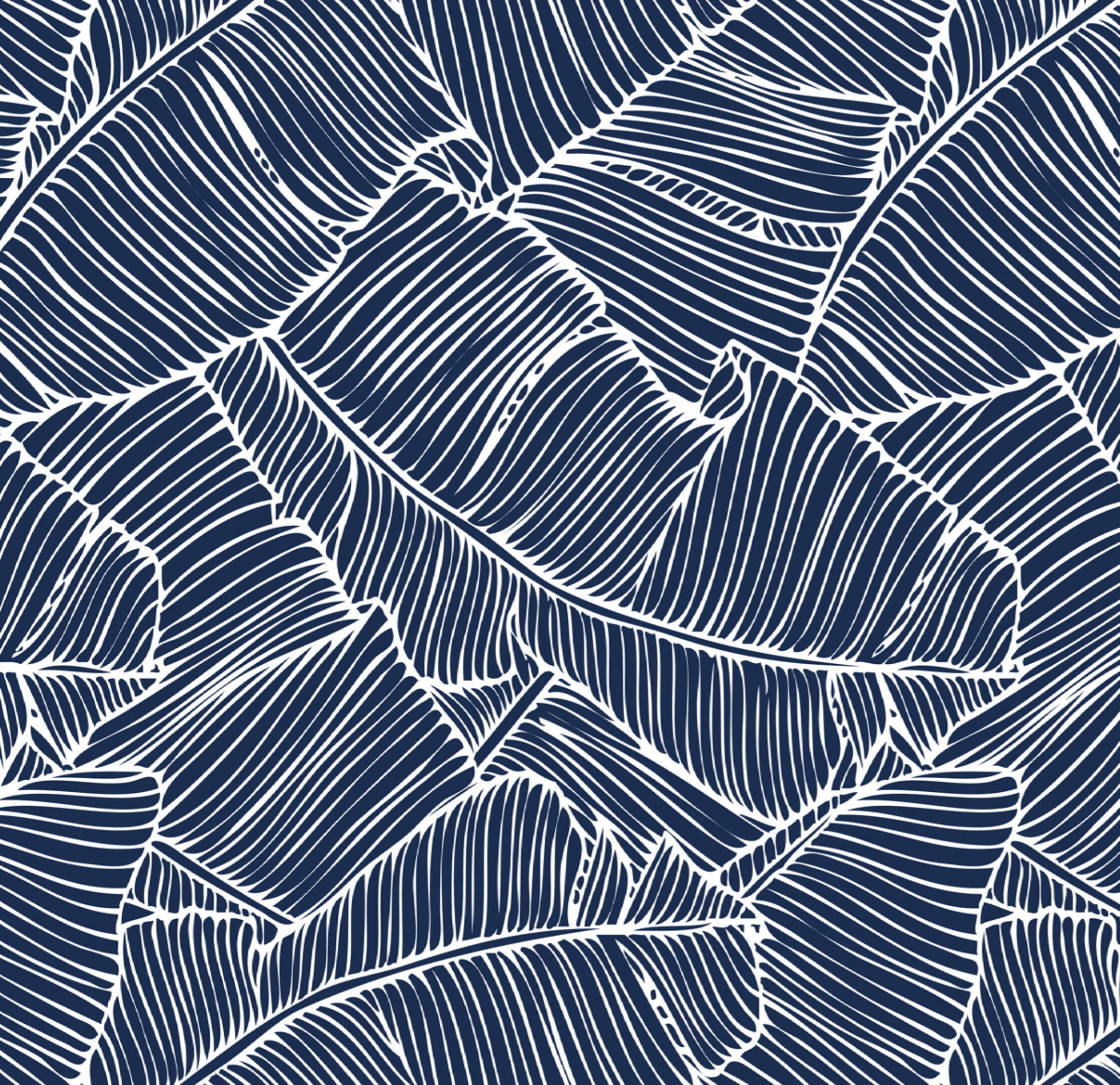


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**WHAT'S  
INSIDE?**

10 Best Empty Nest  
Room Ideas From  
Designers to Make Your  
Space Feel Fresh

10 Gorgeous Homes That  
Get Luxe Mountain  
Living Right

20 Best Gray Living  
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**10 BEST**

# EMPTY NEST

*Room ideas from designers to make your space feel fresh.*

While surveys show that more 24- to 34-year-olds are opting to live at home than ever before, it can be bittersweet for any parent to see their kids leave the nest. But you wouldn't be alone in admitting a twinge of excitement at the potential for redecorating your new empty home.

"For years, as parents, we have sacrificed for our offspring, allowing our design decisions to be driven

largely through the needs and functionality of our children," says Melissa Rufty, an interior designer based in New Orleans.

Now that you have the house to yourself, however, it's time to rethink those design choices. We got designers to weigh in with their best decorating tips to transform your empty nest into the stylish abode you've been dreaming of.



## 01 GET ON THAT CLUTTER

"Having the house back to yourself is an opportunity to go through your space with a discerning eye and to purge what no longer gives you pleasure," says designer Emma Lesser of Homepolish.

As tough as it may be to get rid of your kids' old toys or clothes, the decision will help give your space

a fresher look in the long-run. Pay special attention to spaces known to build up clutter, like mud rooms, closets and kitchen pantries. "It is always important to really focus on organizing these key areas, only keeping what is absolutely necessary," adds Suzanne Kasler, an Atlanta-based interior designer.

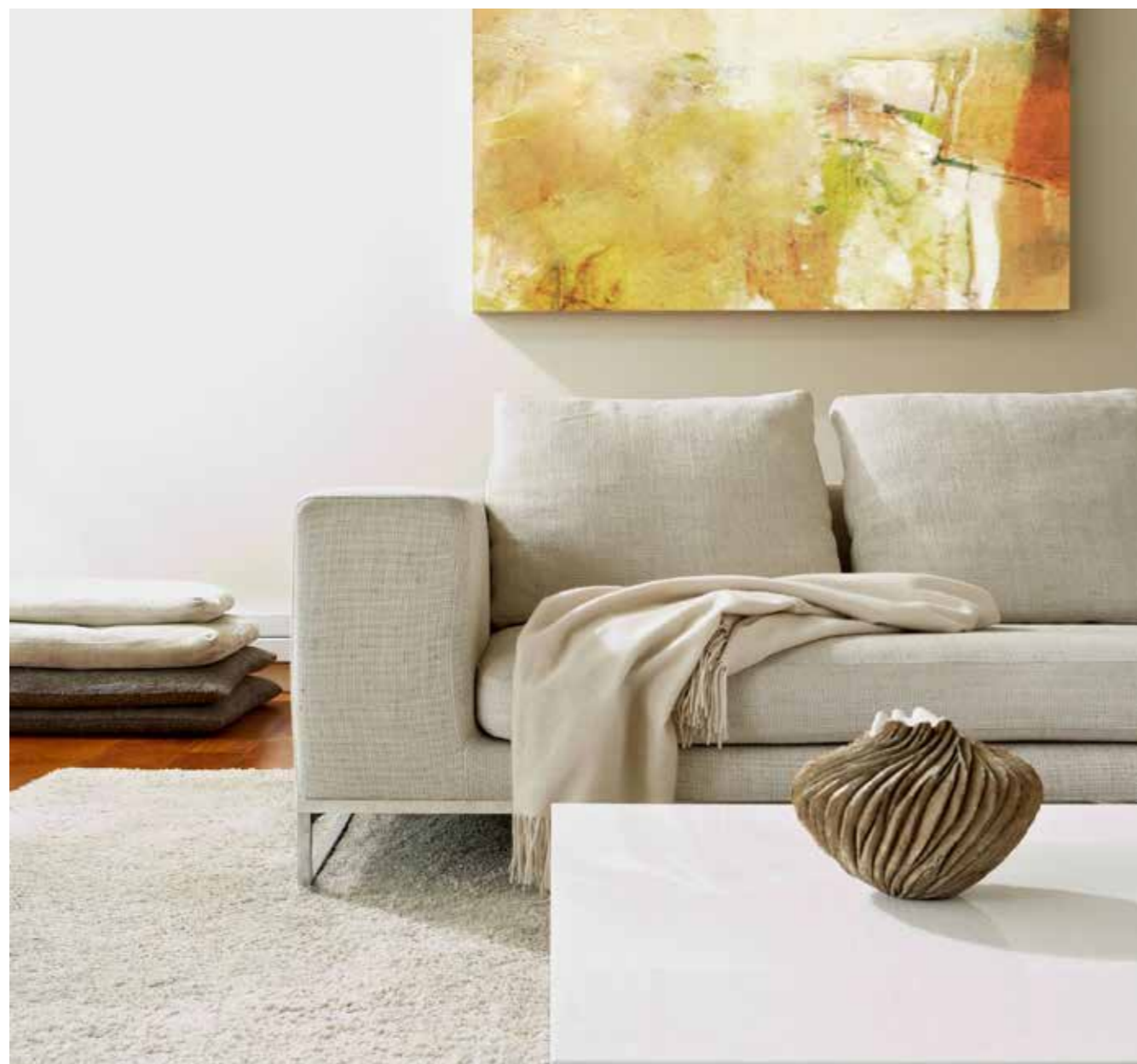


## 02 BUT DON'T GET RID OF EVERYTHING

Sure, it may not be an issue if your kids are grown and moved out, but for a child heading off to college, a total overhaul could be a bit jarring on their next visit home.

"The room should still feel welcoming to your offspring," says designer Orlando Soria of Homepolish. Rather than redoing their room completely, start small

by adding extra storage or a tiny art studio. "Once they've graduated from college you can go crazy and do whatever you want, but as long as they're in school they still need a place to come home to," Soria adds.



## 03 THINK SMALLER

Now that your kids have moved out, that large scale seating area is starting to look less appealing. "I always suggest that clients rethink their large family room sofa sectionals," says Emilie Munroe, an interior designer based in San Francisco. "It was wonderful when there was an entire kid's soccer

team or a posse getting ready for high school prom, but now it's time to look at a more customized and cozy seating area." Consider revising to one smaller sofa and two chic and comfy lounge chairs, Munroe suggests — a perfect combination for more intimate conversation.



## 04 ADD MORE PLANTS

From plants that boost your mood to ones that help you sleep better, there are tons of benefits to having more greenery around the house. "From an aesthetic standpoint adding plants into your home is a wonderful way to add a pop of color

and a beautiful burst of life," Lesser says. But don't worry if your green thumb is lacking. There are plants out there, like bromeliads and calathea, known to survive even the darkest corners.



## 05 TAKE ON THAT RENOVATION

You've been saying for years how much you want to replace that tile in the bathroom. With the kids all moved out, there couldn't be a more perfect time to start tackling your running list of home projects. "Now is the time to have that facelift

you've been putting off," Ruffy says. "Not only will you directly benefit from these improvements, but you will add resale value to your house for if and when you downsize."



## 06 ADD YOUR OWN GROWN-UP TOUCHES

Whether it's a fresh coat of paint or simply updating your linens, small changes can go a long way in giving your space a fresh look (without breaking the bank on new furniture). Eve Robinson, an interior designer based in New York City, suggests

reupholstering a sofa, adding new pillows or even replacing your kids' artwork with more "grown-up" pieces. Another fun idea? "Outfit your cabinet as a bar, so that you can enjoy entertaining friends," Robinson says. Cheers to that!



## 07 CARVE OUT A SPACE FOR GUESTS...

If you're not quite ready to completely overhaul your child's bedroom, why not have some fun sprucing it up? "Substitute their old twin bed for a queen, so that your grown-up child feels more comfortable when at home," Robinson says. Another option:

Substitute a sofa bed for your kid's old bed and turn their bedroom into an office/den area. While they're away, you could also utilize the space as a snazzy guest room for visiting family and friends (or if you're daring, rent out on Airbnb). It's a win-win!



## 08 ...OR FOR A NEW HOBBY

Always wanted a library or home gym? No need to let your kids' bedrooms or playrooms sit empty. Converting them into the space you've always dreamed of could

be a good way to help ease your transition into empty nest mode. "When you fill your vacancy with hobbies and new life, your home won't feel so empty," Ruffy says.





## 09 LIGHTEN UP

Less is more sometimes. In fact, a coat of white paint could be just the change to help reinvigorate your space. "Painting a room white immediately creates a more modern look," Kasler says. "The room becomes like a canvas and when you layer pieces in they have

a stronger impact." You could also opt for white furniture. "While a white sofa or light colored rug may have been way too risky in the past, this is the time to go for it," Lesser adds.



## 10 STOP THINKING SO PRACTICAL

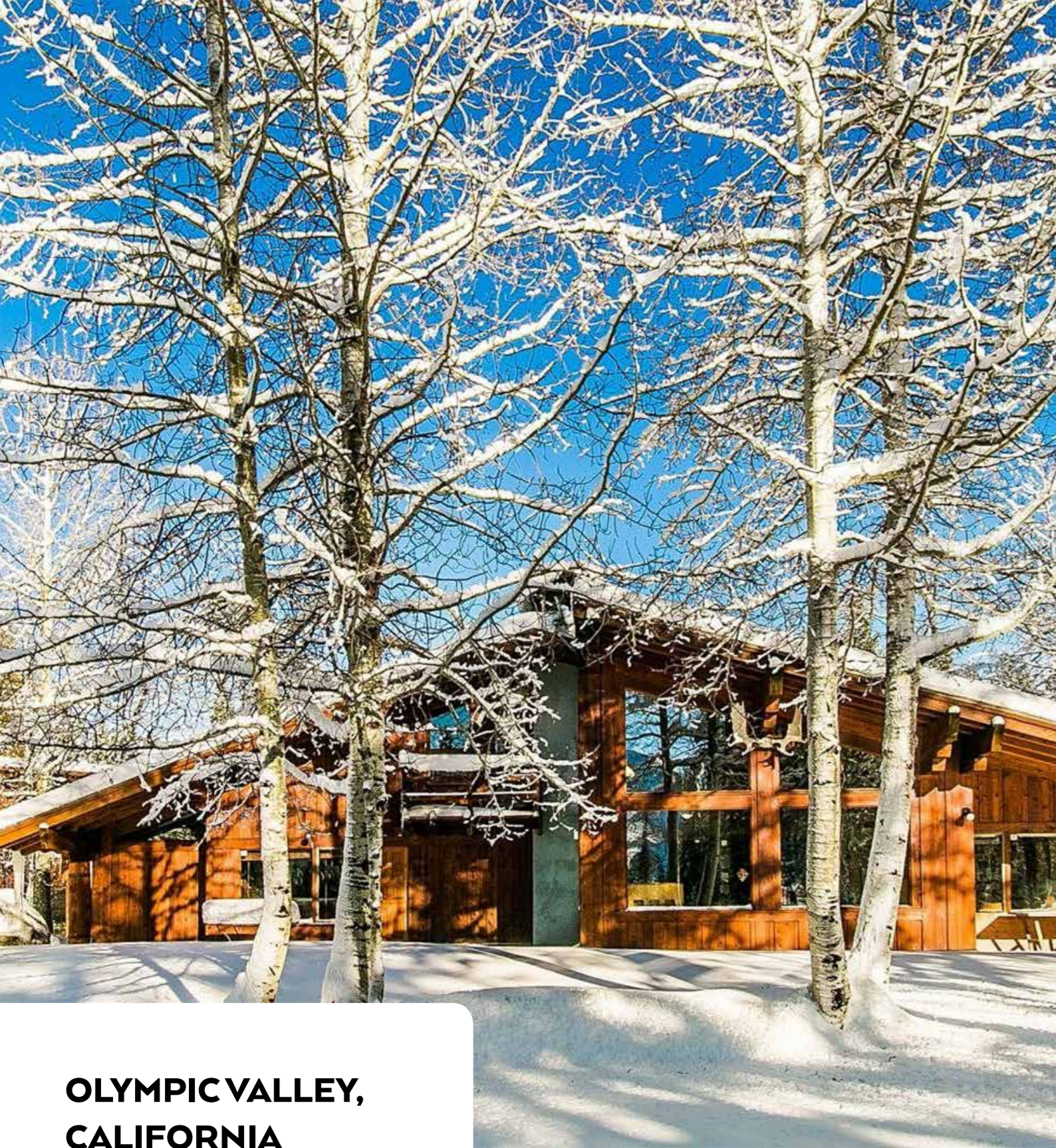
With kids at home, it's understandable you would value function over style for fear of spills or everyday wear and tear. But consider your empty nest an excuse to invest in that statement piece you've always wanted. "Splurge on those long coveted fabrics or rugs that you've

shied away from in the name of practicality," Ruffy says. "Live a little... you've earned it! Another upside: You can unload your old furniture pieces on your kids, who may be looking for inexpensive items to fill out their own starter apartment.



**TEN  
GORGEOUS  
HOMES**

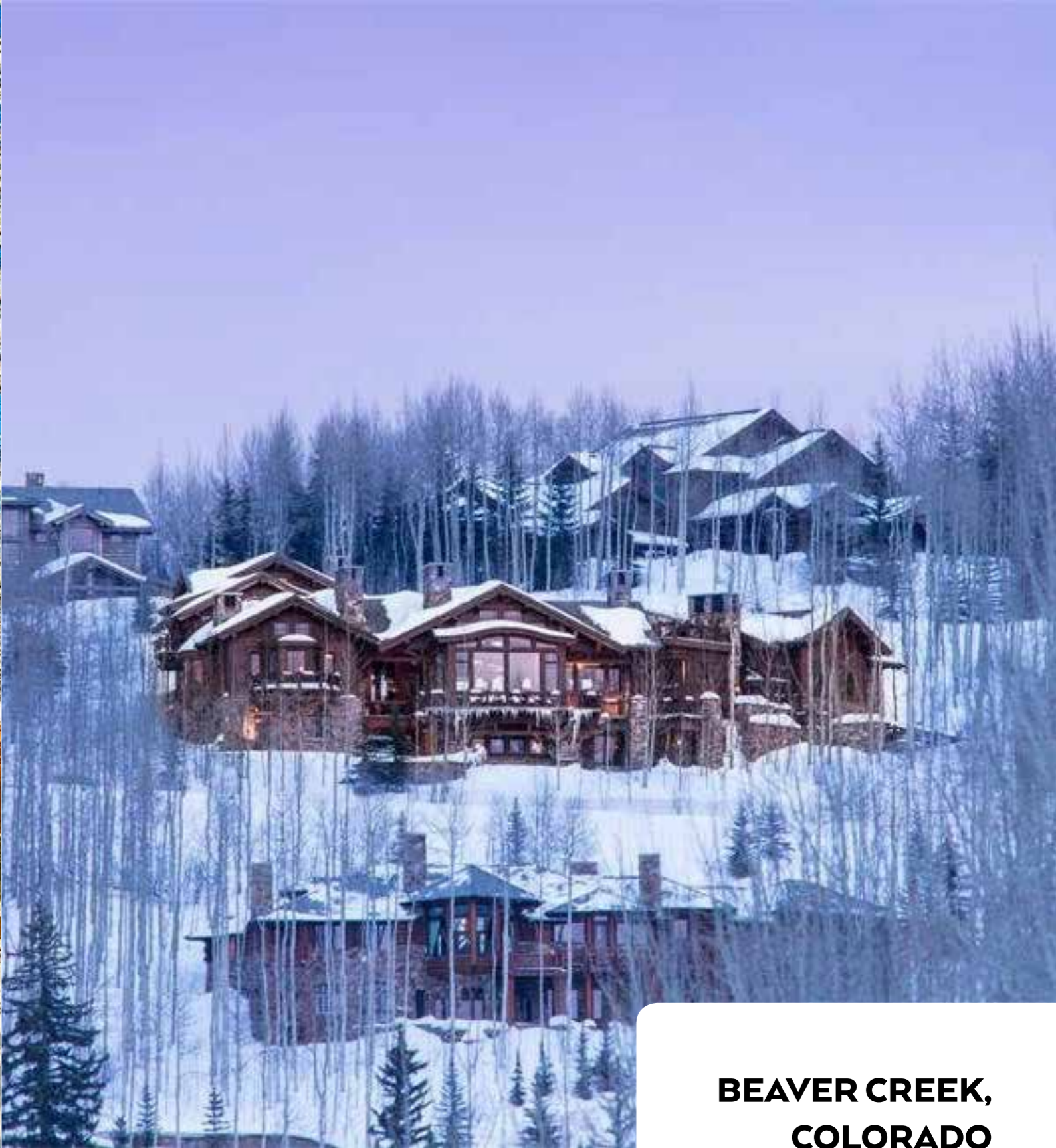
That Get Luxe  
Mountain Living Right



## OLYMPIC VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

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Held and safeguarded for decades by the Valley's founding family, this extraordinary land embodies all of the elements which reflect the early mountaineering spirit of life in the Sierra Nevada.



## BEAVER CREEK, COLORADO

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An unrivaled European estate within the gates of Bachelor Gulch. Rich with antiques dating back to the 17th century, the 7-bedroom, 10-bath architectural masterpiece is turn-key for the discriminating buyer.



## ASPEN, COLORADO

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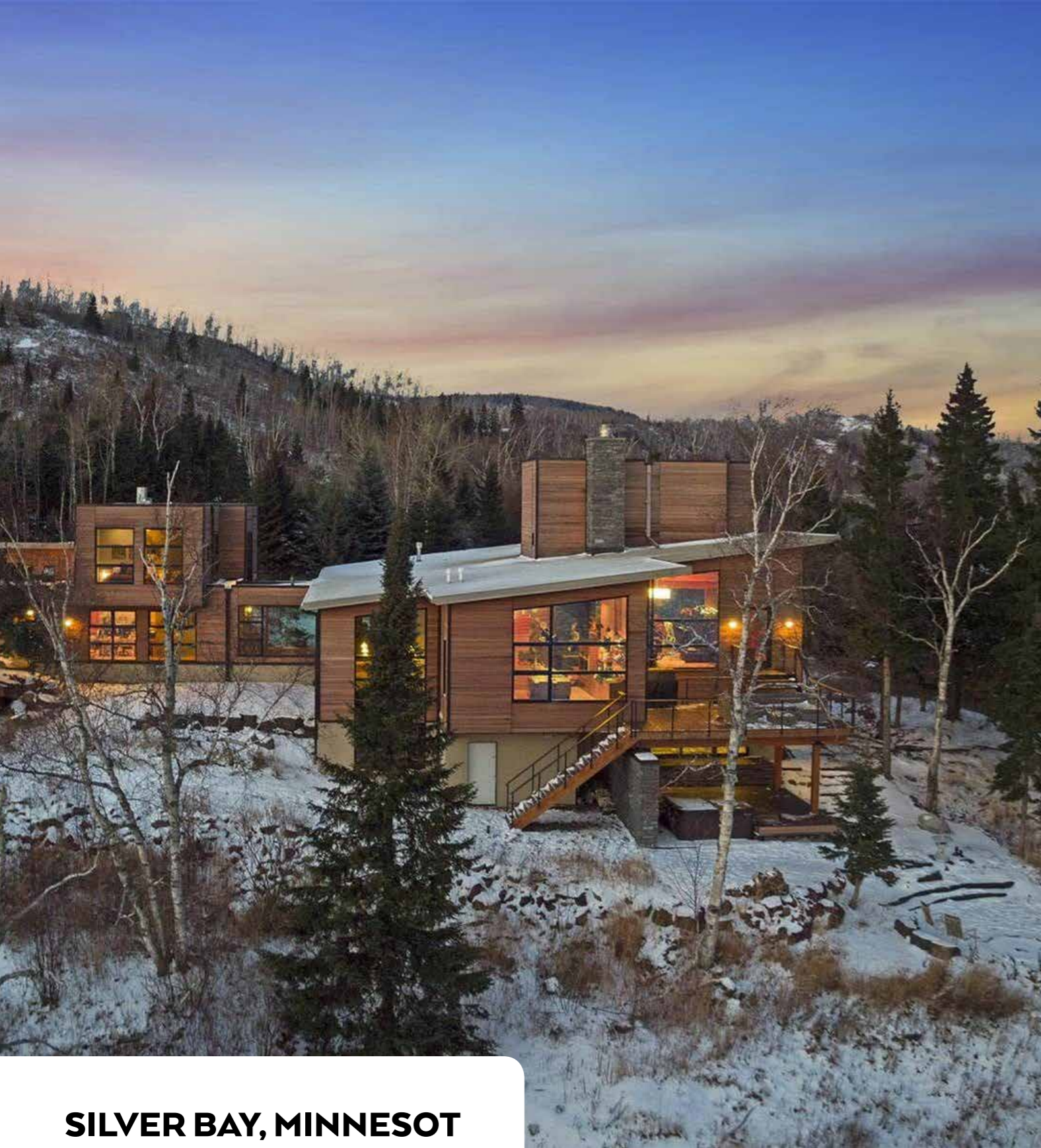
Overlooking the serene setting on the North Star preserve with views of the Roaring Fork River and Aspen Mountain, this one of a kind home is what you dream of finding in Aspen, but never do.



## WILSON, WYOMING

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This property is just over 35 acres with water everywhere you look. Five bodies of water that cover over 10 acres. You cross water as you enter the property, drive past water along the way to the main house and overlook Stone Fly Lakes from most of the home.



## SILVER BAY, MINNESOTA

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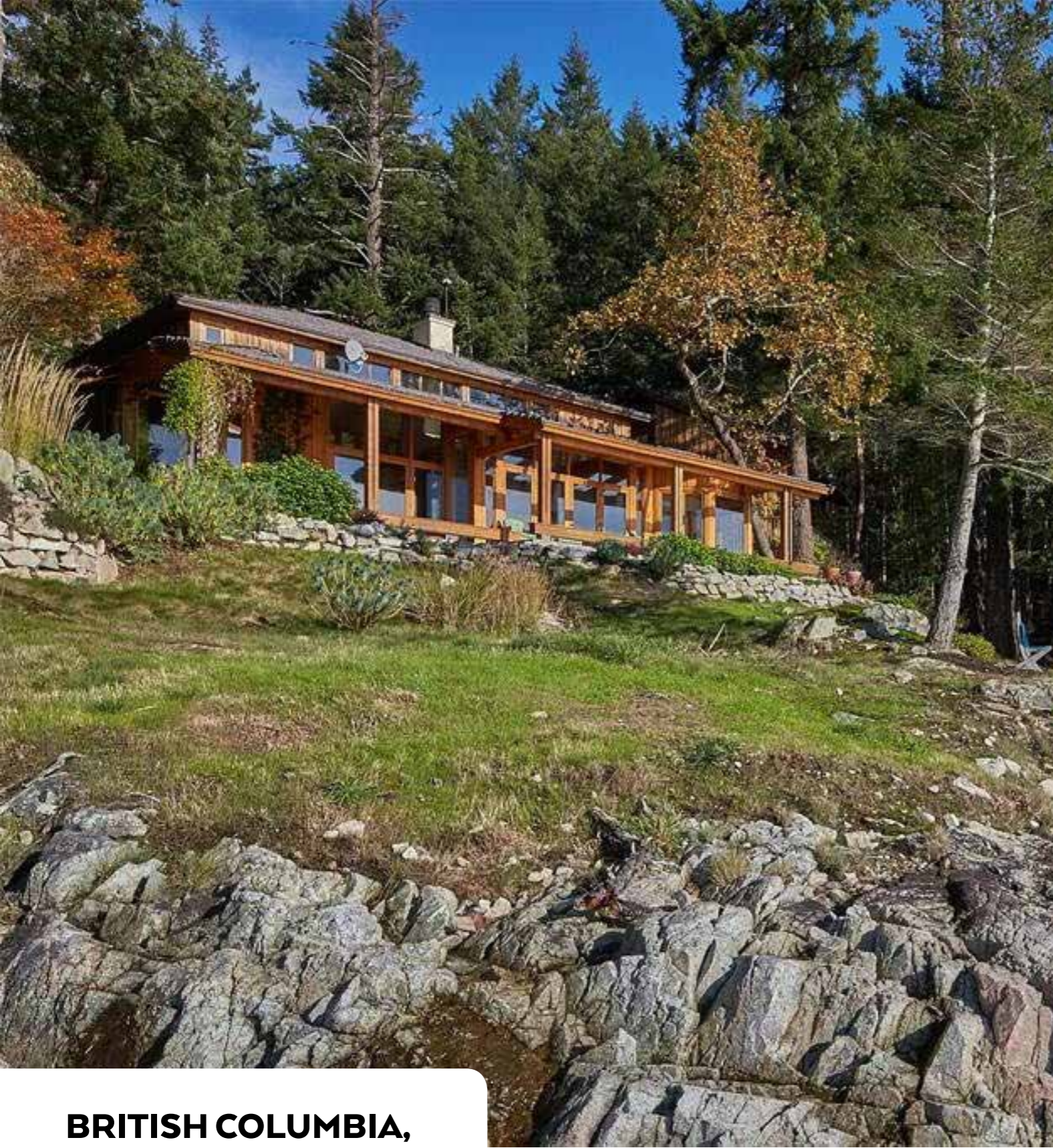
Sited three hours North of Minneapolis, Palisade Retreat boasts 7.5 acres and 1,480 feet of linear shoreline along Lake Superior. This private compound includes an ultra modern architect-designed home, a treetop art studio, and guesthouse featuring a private beach.



## VAUD, SWITZERLAND

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This new construction project has turned into a dream achievement, leaving the luxury of large spaces and the warm atmosphere of the Swiss mountains.



## BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

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The south end of Salt Spring is where homeowners who are drawn to natural beauty without bustle tend to gravitate. Here, less than a half hour from town, a palpable sense of calm prevails most every occasion.



## ONTARIO, CANADA

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A rare Shim-Sutcliffe architectural masterpiece on Lake of Bays, Muskoka. Carved into the granite of the Canadian Shield, this one-of-a-kind lakefront home has an open concept living, dining and kitchen area encased in floor to ceiling glass walls that reveal breathtaking lake views and stunning western exposure sunsets.



## PARK CITY, UTAH

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This incredible, multi-generational, Finnish, Honka log, Michael Upwell designed home is beautifully situated on a double lot of 9.8 Acres in the Sandstone Cove subdivision.



## HONOLULU, HAWAII

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In the illustrious Kahala neighborhood, within short distance from the historic Waialae Country Club and beaches, this privately-gated, 5-bed, 5.2-bath home affords comfort and style.



**20 BEST  
GRAY LIVING  
ROOM IDEAS  
FOR YOUR  
DESIGN  
TASTES**

- ❑ **Sophisticated, playful or relaxed – this hue can conform to the personality of any space.**

Too often, gray is dismissed as an unemotional color – one that's impartial or bland when placed in a home setting. However, this hue can be a chameleon of sorts, blending with warm hues for a laid-back space, playing with

patterns and pops of color for a playful abode, or perhaps taking over the entire room for a cool, sophisticated aesthetic. When used appropriately, gray can have a breathtaking impact. Scroll on to see proof.





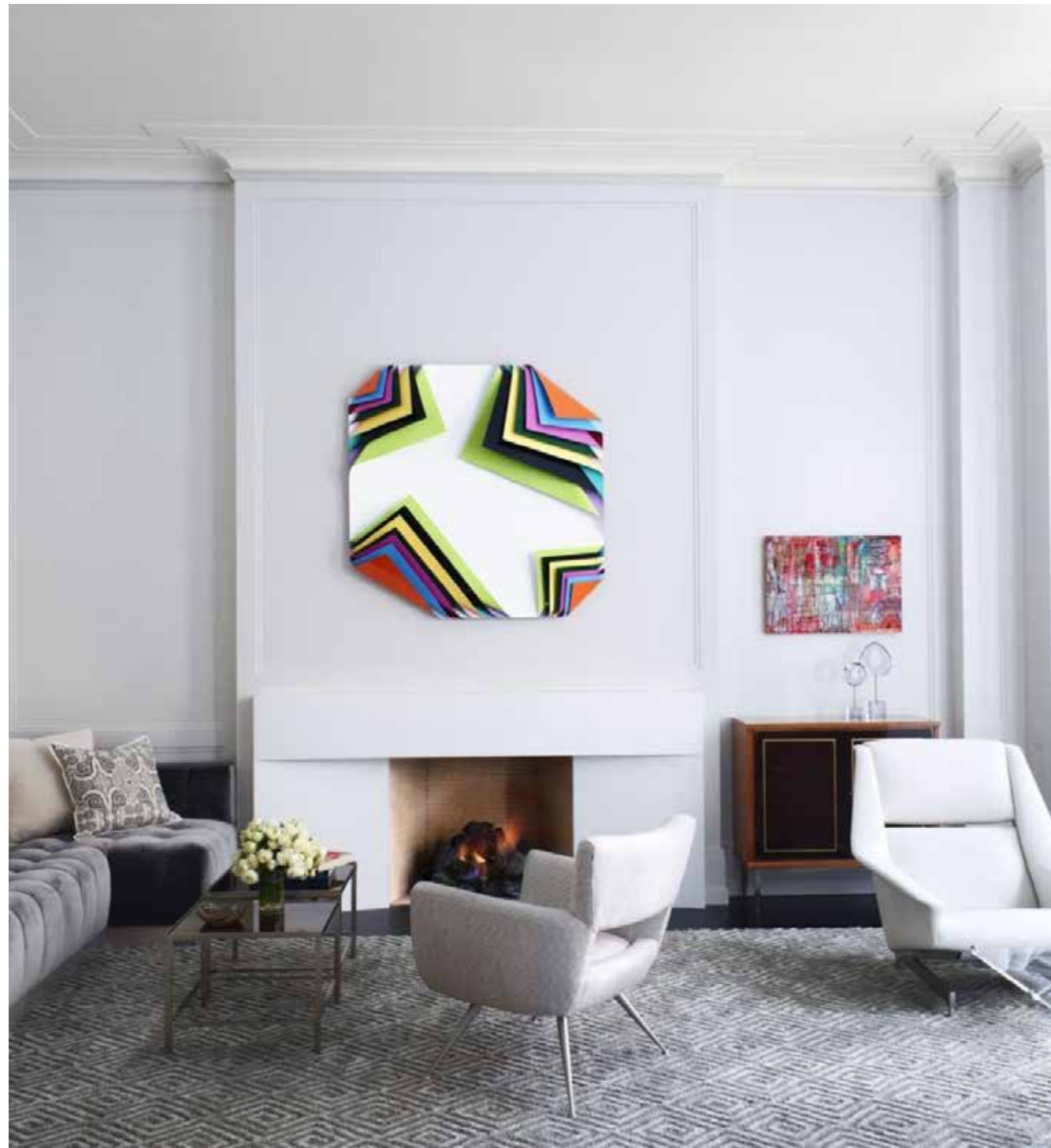
## Cozy Gray Living Room

A fireplace and a basket of firewood lend warmth to this living room in a northern New Jersey mansion. Framed 19th-century English pressed plants line the walls, and the gray wallcovering is by Phillip Jeffries.



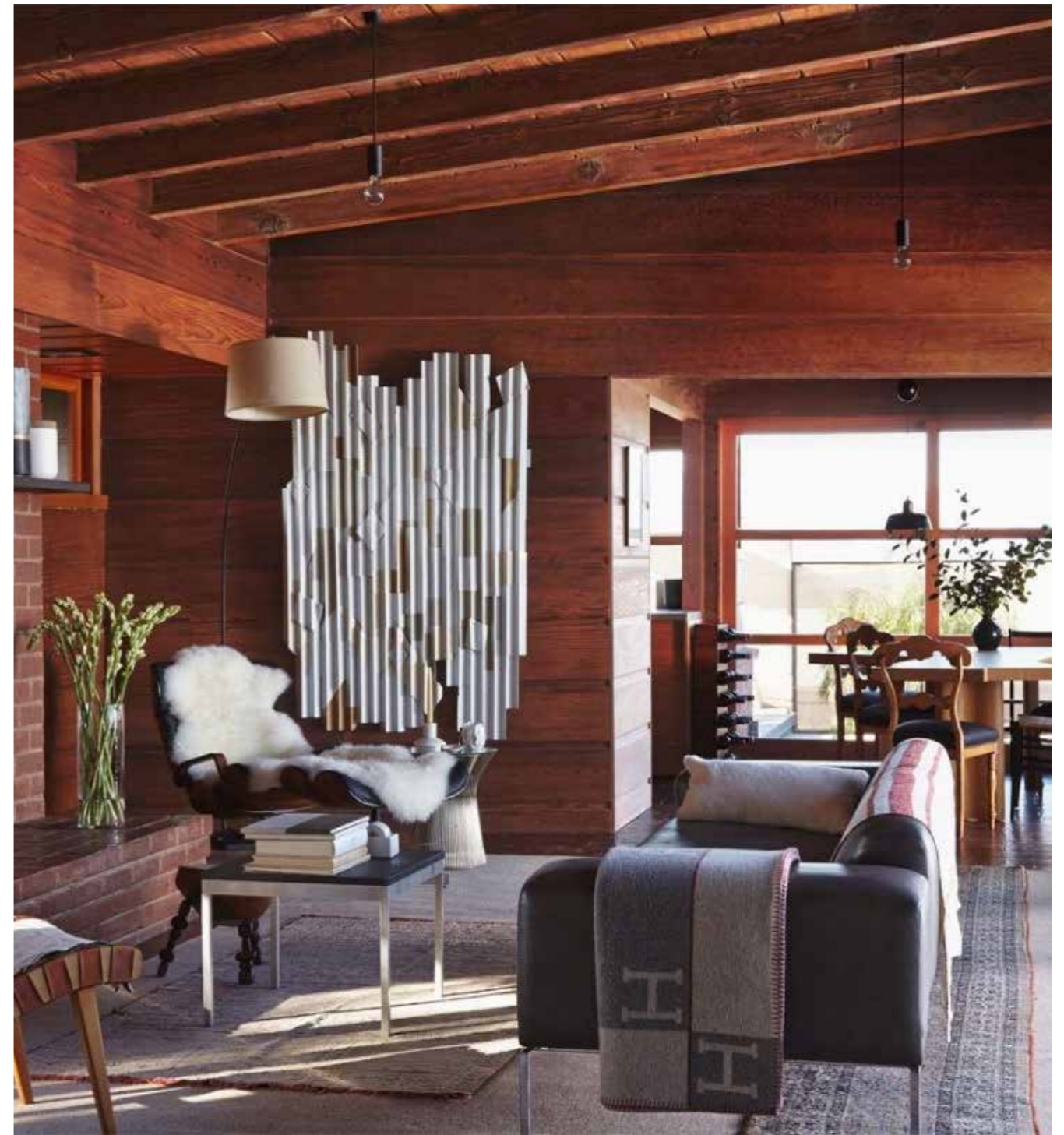
## Georgian-style Gray Living Room

In 1stdibs founder Michael Bruno's Tuxedo Park, New York manse, gray steals the spotlight as the living room's sophisticated hue of choice. The sofa is slipcovered in an Osborne & Little chenille, the armchairs are by Jean-Michel Frank, the 1970s cocktail table and 1940s René Prou nesting tables were found in Paris, and the Regency-style mirror is 19th-century. The rug is by Mansour Modern.



## Artsy Gray Living Room

In an Upper East Side home, the living room's gray proves to be a soothing canvas for the room's pops of art. The rug is by Beauvais Carpets, the custom-made sofa is upholstered in a Larsen silk velvet and the walls are painted in Benjamin Moore's Classic Gray.



Cool gray contrasts with a backdrop of warm wood and brick in this Los Angeles house. The Jens Risom lounge chair and Florence Knoll slate-and-steel cocktail table are both vintage. The sofa is Swedish, the wall sculpture is by Jason Meadows and a rug bought at a Marrakesh souk is over a Persian runner discovered at the Rose Bowl Flea Market.

## Relaxed Gray Room



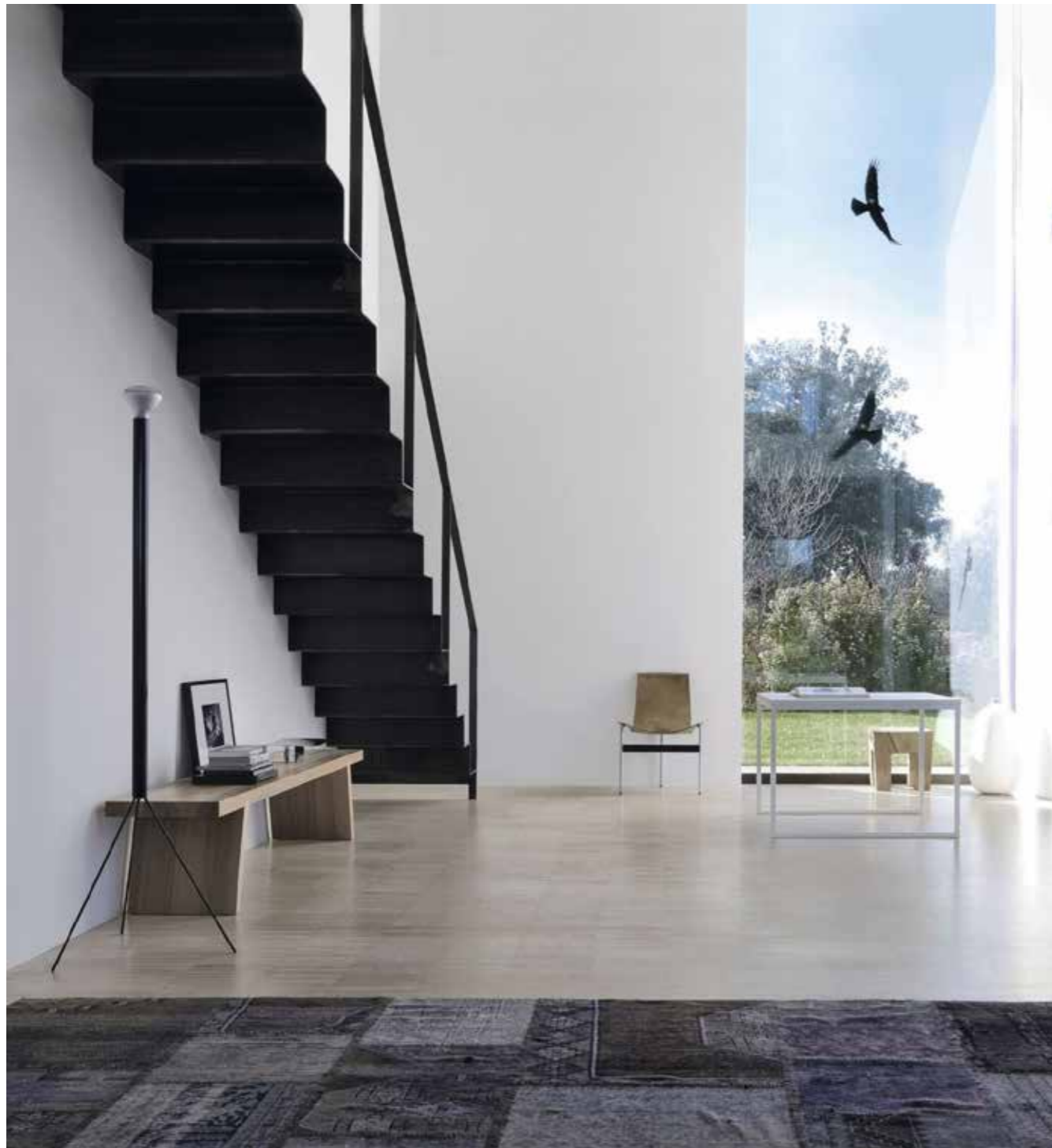
## Gray Living Room With Brown and Yellow

When a once-abandoned farmhouse on Sweden's Bjare Peninsula got a design-forward makeover, the living room embraced an all-gray theme — save for a few pops of playful yellow and warming brown. The gray sofas are by Claesson Koivisto Rune, the cocktail table and console are custom made, the pouf is Egyptian and the floor is lined with Douglas pine by Dinesen.



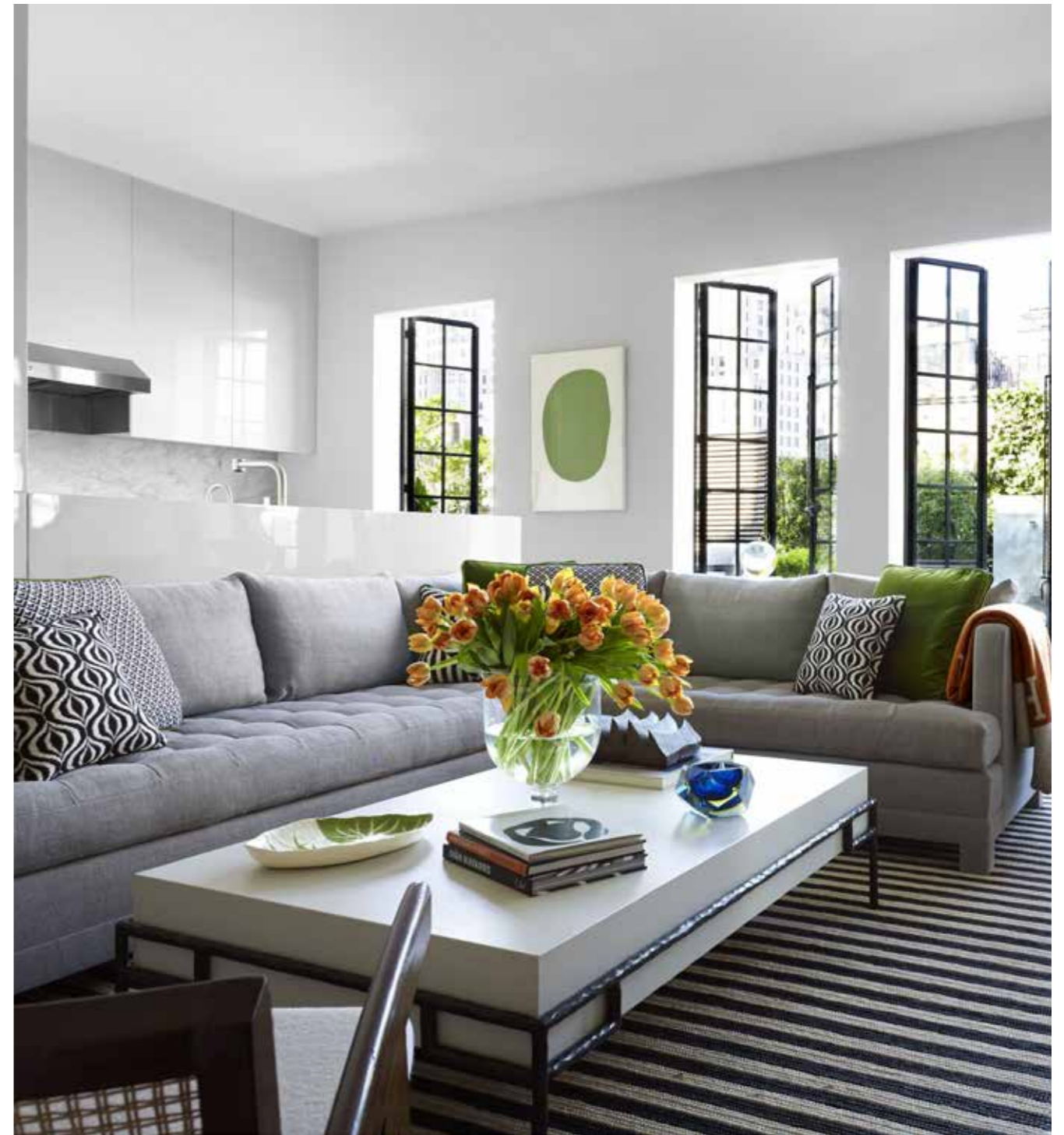
Gray and pink come together in a playful banter of patterns in this Manhattan apartment designed by Steven Gambrel. The gray rug is custom-made by Beauvais Carpets, a pair of Art Deco Swedish chairs is covered in a fabric by Mulberry Home and the cocktail table is custom-made. The paintings, from left, are by Philip Guston and Kenneth Noland.

## Gray and Pink Living Room



## Minimalist Gray Living Room

The wide-open living area of this understated Tuscan home is anchored by a gray Golran patchwork rug. The midcentury T chair is by William Katavolos, Douglas Kelley and Ross Littell for Laverne International, and the flooring is bleached oak.



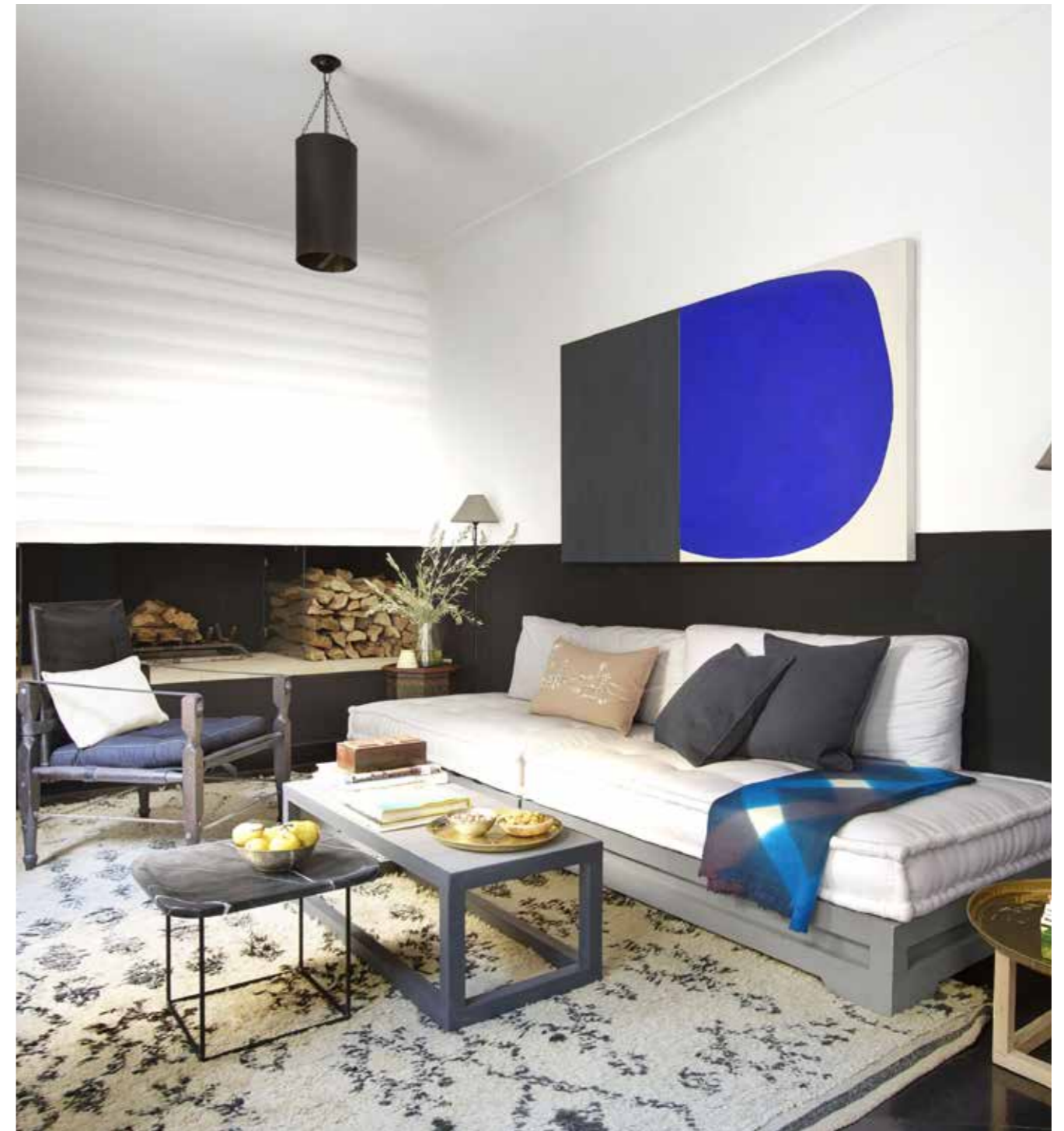
## Casual Gray Living Room

A gray abaca rug by Merida lends this New York City apartment a laid-back, playful atmosphere, and echoes the gray of the sofa covered in a linen by Christopher Farr Cloth, chevron-patterned oak floors and the steel doors and windows by Crittall.



## Family-friendly Gray Living Room

When a modern bachelor pad is transformed to accommodate family life, gray takes center stage. The ottoman is covered in a Kyle Bunting hair-on-hide leather, the photograph is by Darren Almond, the rug is alpaca and the floor lamp is vintage.



## Accented Gray Living Room

A Marrakech retreat juxtaposes vibrant colors with a foundation of gray. In the living room, the cocktail tables and pendant are by maisonLAB, the plaster fireplace surround is custom made, the vintage rug is Moroccan and the painting is by Raffone.



## Sultry Gray Living Room

Gray finds its place between modern and mysterious in this sultry Truckee, California home. The curved club chair by Marmol Radziner is upholstered in a cowhide by Townsend Leather. The cocktail table, dining table, and sofa and armchairs, all covered in a Zinc Textile velvet, are custom designs. A custom-made silk rug tops a polished black concrete floor.



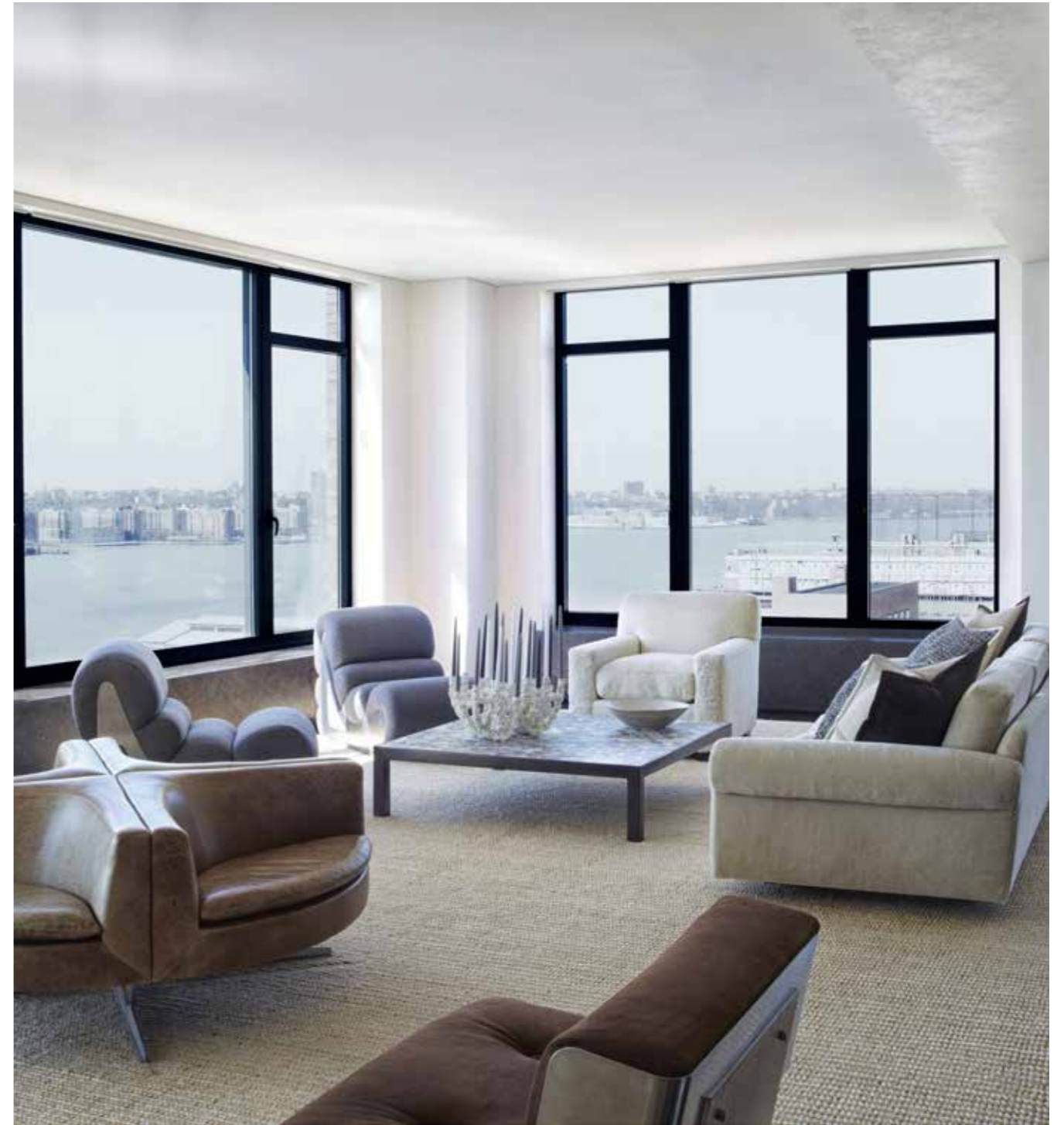
## Rustic Gray Living Room

An 1870s carriage house in Bedford, New York exudes historic charm with rustic touches — just take this living room as proof. The gray wool rug is a custom design, the sofa from Matter has cushions from Les Indiennes and Nathan Turner, and the pendant light is by Roost.



## Laid-back Gray Living Room

This Greenwich Village pied-à-terre pulls off a laid-back personality by blending charcoal gray with warm, earthy accents. The living room features a daybed by Rick Owens, armchairs by Émile-Jacques Ruhlmann upholstered in an alpaca by Perrine Rousse, and a dhurrie and striped kilim from Lawrence of La Brea.



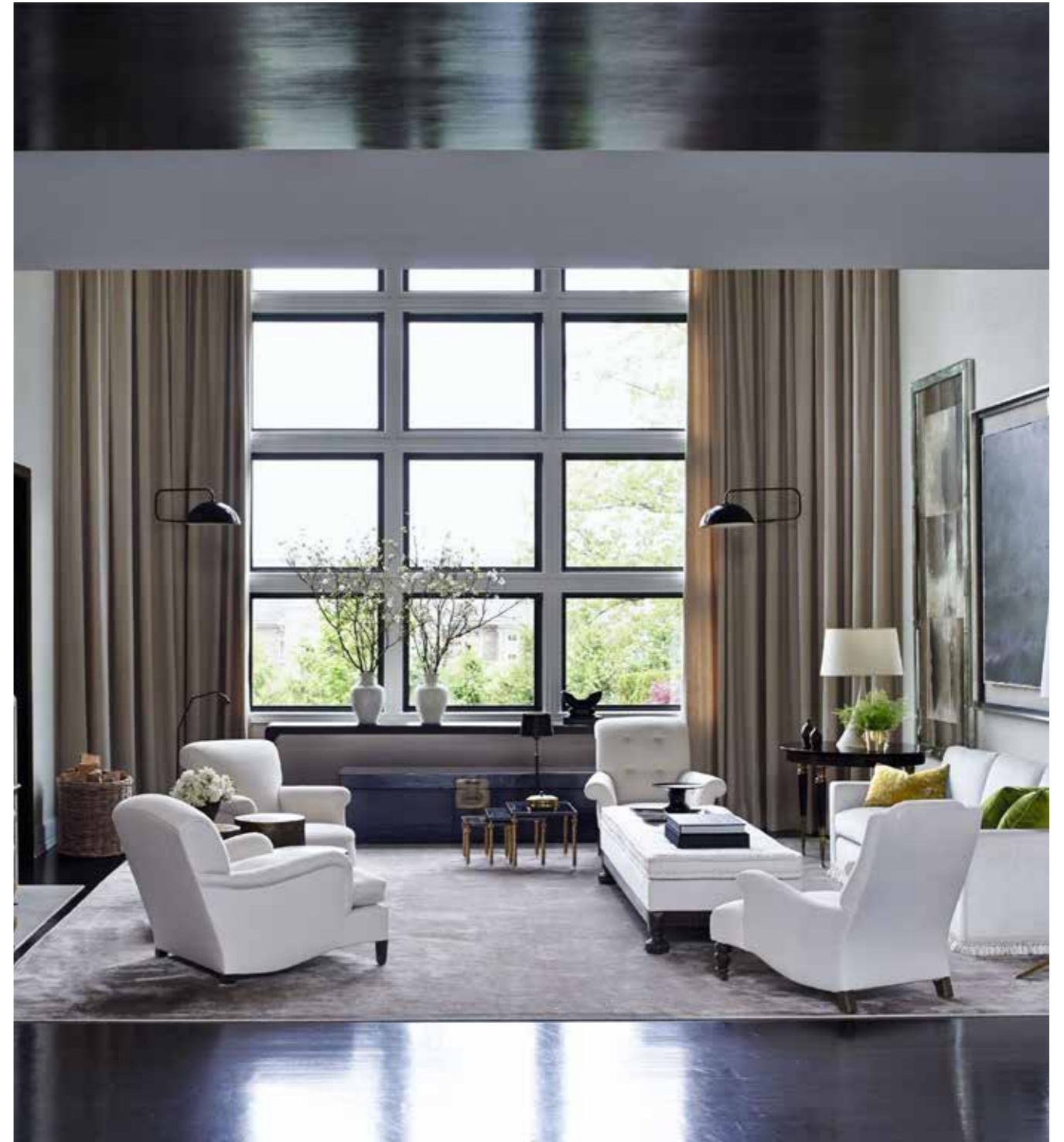
In a glamorous West Village loft that's made for entertaining, the chic and sleek living room boasts a gray-and-brown color scheme. The 1940s club chair is by Jean-Michel Frank and, along with the 1970s Maison Jansen circular banquette, is upholstered in shearling and leather. The artwork is by Julian Opie.

## Brown and Gray Living Room



## Coastal Gray Living Room

This apartment in Palm Beach celebrates gray that's reminiscent of sand and sea foam on a cool day. The curtains are of a Holland & Sherry fabric, the Pierre Paulin swivel chairs are covered in a Maharam fabric and the table is by Maria Pergay.



## Calm Gray Living Room

A New Jersey mansion trades expected grandeur for cool and sleek with a gray rug by Doris Leslie Blau, a dark drawing over the sofa by Catherine Jansens, and a custom-made sofa covered in a Rogers & Goffigan fabric.





## Sculptural Gray Living Room

In a San Francisco home that's designed akin to a fashionable gallery, the gray living room boasts a chalky sculpture on the floor called "Odalisque I" by Manuel Neri. The floors are polished concrete and the bookcase is a custom design.



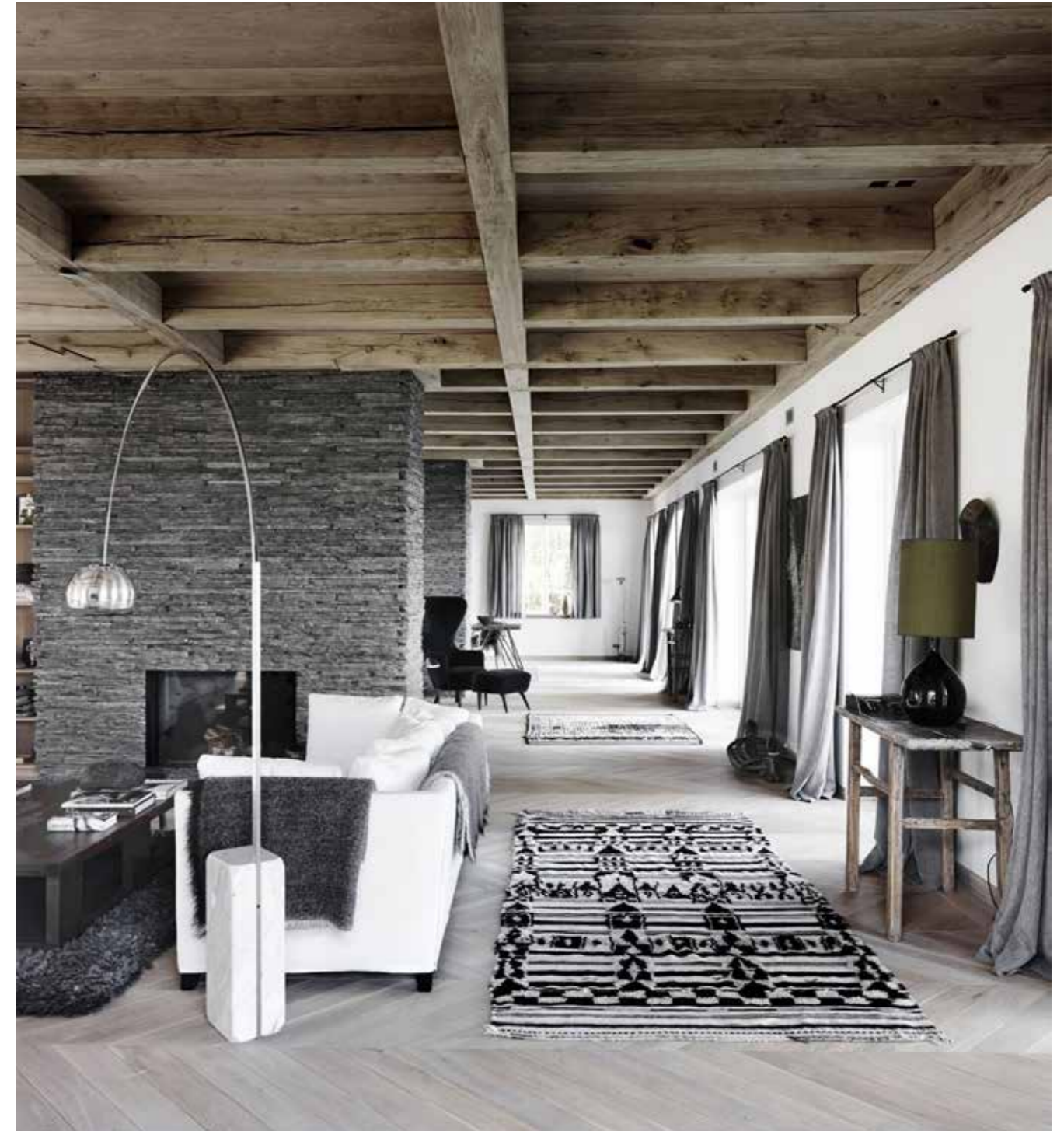
## Bohemian Gray Living Room

Typically moody, modern gray takes on a bohemian personality in this New York apartment's living room. The gray Iranian rug is from Double Knot and the similarly-hued midcentury furnishings include a pair of Nanna Ditzel chairs and a Hans Wegner armchair. The sofa by Wyeth is covered in a Rogers & Goffigan cashmere.



## Gray Living Room With a Pop of Yellow

Room and room again proves that gray and yellow is the unexpected color scheme that consistently delivers charm. In Todd Alexander Romano's home, the charcoal vintage sofa is upholstered in a Clarence House velvet, and provides a moody contrast to the burst of yellow in the curtains, which are of a silk taffeta from Brunschwig & Fils.



Gray is the cohesive force in a living room that celebrates Scandinavian aesthetic. The patterned rug is by Caravane and the floor lamp is Achille and Pier Castiglioni's Arco for Flos.

## Danish Gray Living Room



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### TRIBECA, NEW YORK

Combining the best of both loft and townhouse living, this sprawling approx. 4,600-square-foot TriBeCa penthouse triplex features three outdoor spaces, including a private rooftop terrace with views of Downtown Manhattan in every direction.



### VIENNA, AUSTRIA

This Palais Residence on Vienna's Ringstrasse is one of the city's most prestigious addresses and is also known as the former Palais Henckel Donnersmark built in 1871.

### DUBAI

This ultra-chic penthouse branded the "Fendi Flat" can only be found in Dubai's famed tower, Le Rêve. With ceilings soaring up to 13 feet, this grandiose two bedroom has over 6,100 sq. ft. of jaw-dropping interior space.



### CANNES, FRANCE

Sumptuous three bedroomed penthouse, on the 5th and 6th floors of a Belle Epoque building. It features a fully equipped kitchen, a dining room, a living room with balcony, three bedrooms and en suite.





### GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

State-of-the-art home electronics. Highest environmental standards respected fully. Top-of-the-range building fit out and equipment plus 24/7 security. The single-floor apartments in this five-star building offer spacious and comfortable living spaces.



### SOHO, NEW YORK

Welcome to Residence 15A at the prized 10 Sullivan, a highly-desired luxury condominium located in the heart of Manhattan's finest neighborhood.

### GEORGETOWN, W. DC

Rarely available, two story, corner penthouse located in one of D.C.'s premier full service buildings in the heart of Georgetown. This newly renovated unit was designed by award-winning architect, Richard Williams.



### PARK CITY, UTAH

This spacious 5,377 square-foot unfurnished home features four bedrooms, five bathrooms, two living rooms, private dining room, library nook, a large den for additional sleeping or living space, and seven balconies.






## RIGAS COUNTY, LATVIA

A spacious and unique apartment in the resort city Jurmala, the apartment is located in one of the most sophisticated new developments.

## TRIBECA, NEW YORK

Originally commissioned by retail magnate F.W. Woolworth, architect Cass Gilbert's 792-foot tall neo-Gothic masterpiece continues to capture the imagination and grace the world's most famous skyline.



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