



GRANDDESIGNS

MAGAZINE

TV TOUR

Way-out waterworks and organic deluxe

ROOMS IN THE GARDEN

Why inside out makes perfect sense

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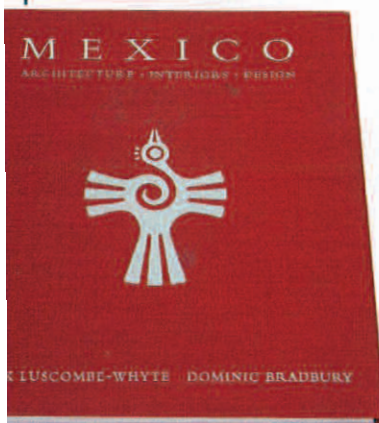
Kevin McCloud's fairy tale castle



PLUS FUNKY FOLK, FRESHER FLORALS AND BEST BATHS

Reviews

BOOKS



Mexico: Architecture, Interiors, Design

by Mark Luscombe-Whyte and Dominic Bradbury

Mexican architecture is too big, too diverse and too complex to cover in one book, but this publication gives it a good crack. After a wee history lesson, it moves through various types of architecture, beginning with the grand and ostentatious buildings of colonial times, moving on to look at traditional building methods, Mexican coastal buildings, Mexican architectural 20th-century heroes and ending with a glance at the modern.

It's an overview with great pictures – glossy interiors and stunning views. It gives you a flavour of the place: the colour, the diversity, the importance of religion. For readers who want more than this, and are interested in the nitty-gritty of built projects, a few technical devices wouldn't go amiss at the top of the page – the architect's name, the date, floor plans, information that allows you to dip in and out at speed. But I guess it's a book you leave out on the table, as a starting point for conversation about that trip last year. It's a taster, and as a taster it delivers. (Conran Octopus, £30)

EXHIBITION

Flock'n'Roll, London

Flowery flock wallpaper is back with a vengeance, only this time it's designer. High time for an exhibition to examine this phenomenon (see Events, page 134). Flock'n'Roll is a small but perfectly formed overview of where wallpaper's at today. It



Photograph by Julian Dunn

shows work by 25 designers, and through them identifies current trends in wallpaper, from Cole and Son's classic flock stripes to Clare Cole's embroidered vintage papers, sewn together to create one-off pieces to be hung as panels. Fluffy and pretty obviously doesn't cut it any more –

Showroom Dummies choose startling subject matter (Erupting Volcano is shown here), while Sharon Elphick overprints her stripes with images of post-war prefabs. Wallpaper's making a comeback: just don't overdo it. Use in small doses. ■

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